

Compline

The ancient office of Compline derives its name from a Latin word meaning 'completion' (completorium). It is above all a service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day. It is most effective when the ending is indeed an ending, without additions, conversation or noise. If there is an address, or business to be done, it should come first. If the service is in church, those present depart in silence; if at home, they go quietly to bed.

One or more of the following collects is said

O Lord Jesus Christ, son of the living God,
who at this evening hour didst rest in the sepulchre,
and didst thereby sanctify the grave
to be a bed of hope to thy people:
make us so to abound in sorrow for our sins,
which were the cause of thy passion,
that when our bodies lie in the dust,
our souls may live with thee;
who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost,
one God, world without end.

All **Amen.**

Look down, O Lord, from thy heavenly throne,
illuminate the darkness of this night with thy celestial brightness,
and from the sons of light banish the deeds of darkness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Be present, O merciful God,
and protect us through the silent hours of this night,
so that we who are wearied
by the changes and chances of this fleeting world,
may repose upon thy eternal changelessness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Conclusion

We will lay us down in peace and take our rest.

All **For it is thou, Lord, only that makest us dwell in safety.**

The Lord be with you;

All **and with thy spirit.**

Let us bless the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The Almighty and merciful Lord,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost,
bless us and preserve us.

All **Amen.**

Wilt thou not turn again and quicken us;
All **that thy people may rejoice in thee?**

O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;
All **and grant us thy salvation.**

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin;
All **O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.**

O Lord, hear our prayer;
All **and let our cry come unto thee.**

The Collect of the Day

The collect may be said, and all respond

All **Amen.**

The Collect for Protection

Visit, we beseech thee, O Lord, this place,
and drive from it all the snares of the enemy;
let thy holy angels dwell herein to preserve us in peace;
and may thy blessing be upon us evermore;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

or

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord;
and by thy great mercy defend us
from all perils and dangers of this night;
for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

¶ Compline

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.
All **Amen.**

O God, make speed to save us.
All **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
All **as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

Praise ye the Lord.
All **The Lord's Name be praised.**

Psalmody

One or more of the following psalms may be used

Psalm 4 Cum invocarem



- 1 HEAR ME when I call, O God of my **righ**-teous-ness :
thou hast set me at liberty when I was in trouble;
have mercy upon me, and hearken un-**to** my prayer.
 - 2 O ye sons of men, how long will ye blaspheme mine **hon**-our :
and have such pleasure in vanity, and seek af-**ter** false-hood?
 - 3 Know this also, that the Lord hath chosen to himself
the man that is **god**-ly :
when I call upon the Lord, he **will** hear me.
 - 4 Stand in awe, and **sin** not :
commune with your own heart, and in your cham-**ber**, and be still.
 - 5 Offer the sacrifice of **righ**-teous-ness :
and put your trust **in** the Lord.
 - 6 There be many that say, 'Who will show us any **good**?' :
Lord, lift thou up the light of thy countenance **up**-on us.
 - 7 Thou hast put gladness in my **heart** :
more than men have when their grain **and** wine in-crease.
 - 8 I will lay me down in peace, and take my **rest** :
for it is thou, Lord, only, that makest me dwell **in** safe-ty.
- Glory be to the Father, and to the **Son** :
and to **the** Ho-ly Ghost;
- As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever **shall** be :
world without **end**. A-men.

Blessed art thou, Lord God of our fathers:
All **to be praised and glorified above all for ever.**

Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost:
All **let us praise him and magnify him for ever.**

Blessed art thou, O Lord, in the firmament of heaven:
All **to be praised and glorified above all for ever.**

The Almighty and most merciful Lord
guard us and give us his blessing.
All **Amen.**

A period of silence for reflection on the past day may follow.

Confession and Prayer for Forgiveness

All **We confess to God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost,
that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed,
through our own grievous fault.
Wherefore we pray God to have mercy upon us.**

**Almighty God, have mercy upon us,
forgive us all our sins and deliver us from all evil,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and bring us to life everlasting;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

A priest, if present, may say

May the Almighty and merciful Lord
grant unto you pardon and remission of all your sins,
time for amendment of life,
and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Apostles' Creed

All I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Prayers

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
All Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

All Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Psalm 31.1-6 In te, Domine, speravi



- 1 IN THEE, O Lord, **have** I put my trust :
let me never be put to confusion; deliver me in **thy** righ_teous_nëss.
 - 2 Bow **down** thine_ear to me :
make haste to **de**-liv_er më.
 - 3 And be thou my strong rock, and **house** of de-fence :
that thou may-**est** save më.
 - 4 For thou art my strong rock, **and** my cas-tle :
be thou also my guide, and lead me for **thy** Name's säke.
 - 5 Draw me out of the net that they have **hid**-den for me :
for thou **art** my strëngth.
 - 6 Into thy hands I com-**mend** my spi-rit :
for thou hast redeemèd me, O Lord, **thou** God_of trüth.
- Glory be to the Father, **and** to the Son :
and to **the** Ho-ly Ghöst;
- As it was in the beginning, is now, and **ev**-er shall be :
world without **end**. A-mën.

Psalm 91 Qui habitat



- 1 WHO-SO dwelleth under the defence of the Most **High** :
shall abide under the shadow of **the** Al-migh-ty.
- 2 I will say unto the Lord, 'Thou art my refuge and my **strong**-hold :
my God in **whom** I will trust.'
- 3 For he shall deliver thee from the snare of the **hun**-ter :
and from the **noi**-some pes-ti-ence.
- 4 He shall defend thee under his wings,
and thou shalt be safe under his **fea**-thers :
his faithfulness is a **shield** and buck-ler.



5 Thou shalt not be afraid for any terror by **night** :
nor for the arrow that **fli**-eth by day;

6 For the pestilence that walketh in **dark**-ness :
nor for the sickness that destroyeth **in** the noonday.

7 A thousand shall fall beside thee,
and ten thousand at thy right **hand** :
but it shall **not** come nigh thee.

8 Yea, with thine eyes shalt thou be-**hold** :
and see the reward of **the** un-god-ly.

9 Because thou hast said, 'The Lord is my **re**-fuge' :
and hast made the Most High thy **hab**-i-ta-tion,

10 There shall no evil happen unto **thee** :
neither shall any plague come **nigh** thy dwell-ing.

11 For he shall give his angels charge over **thee** :
to keep **thee** in all thy ways.

12 They shall bear thee in their **hands** :
that thou hurt not thy **foot** a-gainst a stone.

13 Thou shalt go upon the lion and **ad**-der :
the young lion and the dragon shalt thou tread **un**-der thy feet.

14 Because he hath set his love upon me,
therefore will I de-**liv**-er him :
I will set him up, because **he** hath known my Name.

15 He shall call upon me, and I will **hear** him :
yea, I am with him in trouble;
I will deliver him, and bring **him** to hon-our.

16 With long life will I satisfy **him** :
and show him **my** sal-va-tion.

Glory be to the Father, and to the **Son** :
and **to** the Ho-ly Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever **shall** be :
world with-**out** end. A-men.

[Nunc dimittis during Easter]



Al-le-lu-ia, Al - le-lu-ia, - Al-le - lu - ia.



VI.

1 LORD, NOW lettest thou thy servant depart **in** peace :
accord-**ing** to thy word.

2 FOR MINE eyes have seen thy sal-**va**-tion :
which thou hast preparèd before the face **of** all peo-ple;

3 TO BE a light to lighten the **Gen**-tiles :
and to be the glory of thy **peo**-plè Is-ra-el. *Luke 2.29-32*

GLO-RY be to the Father, and to **the** Son :
and **to** the Ho-ly Ghost;

AS IT was in the beginning, is now, and ever **shall** be :
world with-**out** end. A-men.

repeat 'Alleluia'

Nunc dimittis



Pre-serve us, O Lord, while waking, and guard



us while sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep



we may rest in peace.



- 1 LORD, NOW lettest thou thy ser-vant de-part in peace :
according **to** thy wörd.
- 2 FOR MINE eyes have seen **thy** sal-vä-tion :
which thou hast preparèd before the face of **all** peo-ple;
- 3 TO BE a light to light-**en** the Gën-tiles :
and to be the glory of thy peo-**ple** Is-ra-ël. *Luke 2.29-32*

GLO-RY be to the Father, **and** to thë Son :
and to **the** Ho-ly Ghöst;

AS IT was in the beginning, is now, and **ev**-er shall be :
world without **end**. A-mën.

repeat 'Preserve us'

Psalm 134 Ecce nunc



- 1 BE-HOLD now, praise **the** Lord :
all ye ser-vants öf the Lord;
- 2 Ye that by night stand in the house of **the** Lord :
even in the courts of the **house** of öur God.
- 3 Lift up your hands in the sanctu-a-ry :
(-) and präise the Lord.

- 4 The Lord that made heaven **and** earth :
give thee blessing **out** of Si-on.

Glory be to the Father, and to **the** Son :
and **to** the Hö-ly Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever **shall** be :
world with-**out** end. Ä-men.

Scripture Reading

One of the following short lessons or another suitable passage is read

Thou, O LORD, art in the midst of us, and we are called by thy name.
Leave us not, O LORD our God. *Jeremiah 14.9*

or

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. *Matthew 11.28-30*

or

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 13.20,21

All **Thanks be to God.**

The following responsory may be used



Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

All Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.



For thou hast redeemed me, O Lord, thou God of truth.



All I commend my spirit.



Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.



All Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

This or another hymn may be sung

Te lucis ante terminum



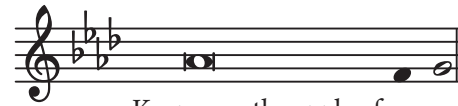
Before the ending of the day, Cre-a-tor of the world, we pray, That



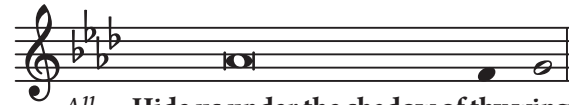
with thy wonted favour thou Wouldst be our guard and keep-er now. A - men.

From all ill dreams defend our eyes,
From nightly fears and fantasies;
Tread underfoot our ghostly foe,
That no pollution we may know.

O Father, that we ask be done,
Through Jesus Christ, thine only Son;
Who, with the Holy Ghost and thee,
Doth live and reign eternally. Amen.



Keep us as the apple of an eye.



All Hide us under the shadow of thy wings.