

An Order for Night Prayer (Compline)
Wednesday, 24th April 2024
St. Margaret in-the-Pines Anglican Church

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.

Opening

Officiant: The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

All: Amen.

Officiant: Our help is in the name of the Lord

All: who made heaven and earth.

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

All: Most merciful God, we confess to you, before the whole company of heaven and one another, that we have sinned in thought, word and deed and in what we have failed to do. Forgive us our sins, heal us by your Spirit and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.

Officiant: O God, make speed to save us.

All: O Lord, make haste to help us.

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

Alleluia!

Hymn:

Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world, we pray
That you, with steadfast love, would keep
Your watch around us while we sleep.
From evil dreams defend our sight,
From fears and terrors of the night;
Tread underfoot our deadly foe
That we no sinful thought may know.
O Father, that we ask be done
Through Jesus Christ, your only Son;
And Holy Spirit, by whose breath
Our souls are raised to life from death.

Psalmody

Psalm 69:31-38

31. As for me, I am afflicted and in pain; *
your help, O God, will lift me up on high.

**32. I will praise the name of God in song; *
I will proclaim his greatness with thanksgiving.**

33. This will please the Lord more than an offering of oxen, *
more than bullocks with horns and hoofs.

**34. The afflicted shall see and be glad; *
you who seek God, your heart shall live.**

35. For the Lord listens to the needy, *
and his prisoners he does not despise.

**36. Let the heavens and the earth praise him, *
the seas and all that moves in them;**

37. For God will save Zion and rebuild the cities of Judah; *
they shall live there and have it in possession.

**38. The children of his servants will inherit it, *
and those who love his name will dwell therein.**

Let Us Pray

Blessed are you, God of our hope; you restore the fallen
and rebuild the broken walls. Teach us the song of
thanksgiving, for you are the strength of your people;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Scripture Reading

If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed,
because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is
resting on you.

1 Peter 4.14

The following responsories are said:

Officiant: Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
Alleluia, alleluia.

**All: Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
Alleluia, alleluia.**

Officiant: For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.
All: Alleluia, alleluia.

Officiant: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**All: Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
Alleluia, alleluia**

Officiant: Keep me as the apple of your eye.

All: Hide me under the shadow of your wings.

Gospel Canticle

The Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon) is said:

**All: Alleluia. The Lord is risen, alleluia,
as He promised to you. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: ♦
your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation ♦
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;

A light to reveal you to the nations ♦
and the glory of your people Israel.

**All: Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**All: Alleluia. The Lord is risen, alleluia,
as He promised to you. Alleluia, alleluia.**

A Reading from the 1st Letter of Peter (4:12-19)

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice in so far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory,* which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.* But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, a criminal, or even as a mischief-maker.

Yet if any of you suffers as a Christian, do not consider it a disgrace, but glorify God because you bear this name. For the time has come for judgement to begin with the household of God; if it begins with us, what will be the end for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

And

'If it is hard for the righteous to be saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinners?'

Therefore, let those suffering in accordance with God's will entrust themselves to a faithful Creator, while continuing to do good.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Prayers

Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.

Officiant: Let us pray to the Lord

All: Hear us, Lord of Glory!

Officiant: Let us pray.

The Collect:

Almighty God,
who chose what is weak in the world
to shame the strong,
teach us to honour
your Martyrs of the Twentieth Century,
that we may stand fast in your truth,
proclaim your salvation in the world,
and fulfil your commandments in love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

Silence may be kept.

Leader: Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray,

**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.**

Closing

Officiant: In peace we will lie down and sleep;
All: for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.

Officiant: Abide with us, Lord Jesus,
All: for the night is at hand and the day is now past.

Officiant: As the night watch looks for the morning,
All: so do we look for you, O Christ.

Officiant: May the risen Lord Jesus bless us.
May He watch over us and renew us
as He renews the whole of creation.
May our hearts and lives echo His love.
All: Amen. Alleluia!

*From the Church of England Order for Night Prayer, adapted for
online use by St. Margaret in-the-Pines.*