

An Order for Night Prayer (Compline)
Wednesday, 8th May 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 - A sonnet for John the Evangelist by Malcolm Guite

This is the gospel of the primal light,
The first beginning, and the fruitful end,
The soaring glory of an eagle's flight,
The quiet touch of a beloved friend.
This is the gospel of our transformation,
Water to wine and grain to living bread,
Blindness to sight and sorrow to elation,
And Lazarus himself back from the dead!
This is the gospel of all inner meaning,
The heart of heaven opened to the earth,
A gentle friend on Jesus' bosom leaning,
And Nicodemus offered a new birth.
No need to search the heavens high above,
Come close with John, and feel the pulse of Love.

Psalmody

Psalm 92

1. It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord, *
and to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
2. **To tell of your loving-kindness early in the morning *
and of your faithfulness in the night season;**
3. On the psaltery, and on the lyre, *
and to the melody of the harp.
4. **For you have made me glad by your acts, O Lord; *
and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.**
5. Lord, how great are your works! *
your thoughts are very deep.

6. **The dullard does not know, nor does the fool understand,
*
that though the wicked grow like weeds, and all the
workers of iniquity flourish,**
7. They flourish only to be destroyed for ever; *
but you, O Lord, are exalted for evermore.
8. **For lo, your enemies, O Lord, lo, your enemies
shall perish, *
and all the workers of iniquity shall be scattered.**
9. But my horn you have exalted like the horns of wild bulls; *
I am anointed with fresh oil.
10. **My eyes also gloat over my enemies, *
and my ears rejoice to hear the doom of the wicked who
rise up against me.**
11. The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, *
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.
12. **Those who are planted in the house of the Lord *
shall flourish in the courts of our God;**
13. They shall still bear fruit in old age; *
they shall be green and succulent;
14. **That they may show how upright the Lord is, *
my rock, in whom there is no fault.**

Let Us Pray

O Most High, at all times and in all seasons you are worthy of our grateful praise; grant us the insight to perceive the greatness of your works, the certainty of being founded on you our eternal rock, and the wisdom to sing the praises of your name, in and through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Scripture Reading

The word of the cross is the power of God to us who are being saved.

1 Corinthians 1.18

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 John (1.1-9)

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our* joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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:

Shed upon your Church, O Lord,
the brightness of your light,
that we being illumined by the teaching
of your apostle and evangelist John,
may walk in the light of your truth,
and come at last to the fullness of eternal life; through
Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives 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.*