

An Order for Night Prayer (Compline)
Wednesday, 11th Dec 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.

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 103:6-14

6. The Lord executes righteousness *
and judgement for all who are oppressed.
- 7. He made his ways known to Moses *
and his works to the children of Israel.**
8. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9. He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.**
10. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- 11. For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.**

12. As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.

**13. As a father cares for his children, *
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.**

14. For he himself knows whereof we are made; *
he remembers that we are but dust.

Let Us Pray

God of infinite mercy and forgiveness, by the cross and resurrection of Jesus your Son, wash away our sins and deliver us from our infirmities of body and spirit, that we may live with him his risen life, to the praise and glory of your holy name.

Scripture Reading

I will stand at my watch post and station myself on the rampart, I will keep watch to see what the Lord God will say to me.
Habakkuk 2.1

The following responsories are said:

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

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

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

All: I commend my spirit.

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

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

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: Come O Lord, and visit us in peace,
that we may rejoice before you
with a perfect heart.**

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: Come O Lord, and visit us in peace,
that we may rejoice before you
with a perfect heart.**

A Reading from the Prophet Hosea (14:1-7)

Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God,
for you have stumbled because of your iniquity.
Take words with you
and return to the Lord;
say to him,
‘Take away all guilt;
accept that which is good,
and we will offer
the fruit of our lips.
Assyria shall not save us;
we will not ride upon horses;
we will say no more, “Our God”,
to the work of our hands.
In you the orphan finds mercy.’

I will heal their disloyalty;
I will love them freely,
for my anger has turned from them.
I will be like the dew to Israel;
he shall blossom like the lily,
he shall strike root like the forests of Lebanon.
His shoots shall spread out;
his beauty shall be like the olive tree,
and his fragrance like that of Lebanon.
They shall again live beneath my shadow,
they shall flourish as a garden;
they shall blossom like the vine,
their fragrance shall be like the wine of Lebanon.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God**

Prayers

Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.

Officiant: Lord Jesus

All: Come soon.

Officiant: Let us pray.

The Collect:

Almighty God,
who raised up your servants the prophets
to recall the children of Israel
to faithfulness in the way of your covenant,
grant us your Spirit, we pray,
that we may hear their witness
and offer to you the oblations of compassion and mercy;
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.

**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: Restore us again, O God of hosts;
show us the light of your countenance
and we shall be saved.
Bless and keep us, this night and always.
All: Amen

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