

An Order for Night Prayer (Compline)
Wednesday, 19th Feb. 2025
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.

Evening 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 116:10-17

10. How shall I repay the Lord *
for all the good things he has done for me?
- 11. I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the name of the Lord.**
12. I will fulfil my vows to the Lord *
in the presence of all his people.
- 13. Precious in the sight of the Lord *
is the death of his servants.**
14. O Lord, I am your servant; *
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.

**15. I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the name of the Lord.**

16. I will fulfil my vows to the Lord *
in the presence of all his people.

**17. In the courts of the Lord's house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
Hallelujah!**

Let Us Pray

Eternal God, faithful in your tender compassion, you give us hope for our life here and hereafter through the victory of your only Son. When we share his cup of salvation, revive in us the joy of this everlasting gift. We ask his in his name.

Scripture Reading

I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. *Philippians 3.8*

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 Cantic

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

**All: Alleluia. Christ the light of the world, alleluia,
has manifested his glory. 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. Christ the light of the world, alleluia,
has manifested his glory. Alleluia, alleluia.**

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew (20:20-23)

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favour of him. And he said to her, "What do you want?" She said to him, "Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom." But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They said to him, "We are able." He said to them, "You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father."

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God**

Prayers

Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.

Officiant: Lord, hear our prayer;

All: **And let our cry come to you.**

Officiant: Let us pray.

The Collect:

Maker of heaven and earth,
your love blazed so strongly
in the heart of your servant Polycarp
that he won eternal life
out of the devouring flames of persecution.
By this memorial of his courage,
grant us such confidence in your promises,
that we may share in the surpassing joy
of knowing 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: May the living waters of Christ cleanse us,
may the Spirit descend upon us,
and the blessing of God be with 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.*