

**An Order for Night Prayer (Compline)**  
**Wednesday, 2nd April 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.**

## 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 58

1. Do you indeed decree righteousness, you rulers? \*  
do you judge the peoples with equity?
2. **No; you devise evil in your hearts, \*  
and your hands deal out violence in the land.**
3. The wicked are perverse from the womb; \*  
liars go astray from their birth.
4. **They are as venomous as a serpent, \*  
they are like the deaf adder which stops its ears.**
5. Which does not heed the voice of the charmer, \*  
no matter how skilful his charming.

6. **O God, break their teeth in their mouths; \*  
pull the fangs of the young lions, O Lord.**
7. Let them vanish like water that runs off; \*  
let them wither like trodden grass.
8. **Let them be like the snail that melts away, \*  
like a stillborn child that never sees the sun.**
9. Before they bear fruit, let them be cut down like a brier; \*  
like thorns and thistles let them be swept away.
10. **The righteous will be glad when they see the vengeance;  
\*  
they will bathe their feet in the blood of the wicked.**
11. And they will say,  
“Surely, there is a reward for the righteous; \*  
surely, there is a God who rules in the earth.”

### **Let Us Pray**

God of justice, sweep away all tyranny and violence that  
righteousness and equity may prevail among your people.  
We ask in the name of Jesus Christ.

### **Scripture Reading**

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's  
sake I will not rest.

*Isaiah 62.1*

*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 Cantic**

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

All: **Christ died for us,  
so that, whether we wake or sleep,  
we might live with him.**  
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: **Christ died for us,  
so that, whether we wake or sleep,  
we might live with him.**

## **A Reading from the Gospel of Luke (10:1-9)**

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you."

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:**

Creator of light,  
you called your servant Henry Budd  
to labour as a father in the Spirit  
among the people who gave him birth.  
Make your Church, we pray,  
a place of justice and dignity for all peoples,  
that around the fire of your gospel  
we may raise true songs of praise  
in the communion of your 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.*

**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 God bless us,  
that in us may be found love and humility,  
obedience and thanksgiving,  
discipline, gentleness and peace.  
**All: Amen.**

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