

An Order for Night Prayer (Compline)
Wednesday, 25th June 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.

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 85:7-13

7. Show us your mercy, O Lord, *
and grant us your salvation.
8. **I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.**
9. Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.
10. **Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**
11. Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

**12. The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.**

13. Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

Let Us Pray

God of grace, you loved the world so much that you gave your only Son to be our Saviour. Help us to rejoice in our salvation by showing mercy and truth, and by walking in the way of righteousness and peace. We ask this in his name and for his sake.

Scripture Reading

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way.

Luke 1.76

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.

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.
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: Save us, O Lord, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep may rest in peace.**

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: Save us, O Lord, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep may rest in peace.**

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (3:14b-26)

but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. After the reading of the law and the prophets, the officials of the synagogue sent them a message, saying, 'Brothers, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, give it.' So Paul stood up and with a gesture began to speak:

'You Israelites,* and others who fear God, listen. The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. For about forty years he put up with* them in the wilderness. After he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance for about four hundred and fifty years. After that he gave them judges until the time of the prophet Samuel. Then they asked for a king; and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, who reigned for forty years. When he had removed him, he made David their king. In his testimony about him he said, "I have found David, son of Jesse, to be a man after my heart, who will carry out all my wishes." Of this man's posterity God has brought to Israel a Saviour, Jesus, as he promised; before his coming John had already proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. And as John was finishing his work, he said, "What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but one is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of the sandals* on his feet."

'My brothers, you descendants of Abraham's family, and others who fear God, to us* the message of this salvation has been sent.

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: Lord, have mercy

The Collect:

Almighty God,
you called John the Baptist
to give witness to the coming of your Son
and to prepare his way.
Give your people the wisdom to see your purpose,
and the openness to hear your will,
that we to may witness to Christ's coming
and so prepare his way;
through your Son 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: And now 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: The Lord bless us and watch over us;
the Lord make his face shine upon us and be
gracious to us; the Lord look kindly on us
and give us peace.

All: Amen.

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