An Order for Night Prayer (Compline)
Wednesday, 4th Nov 2026
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 an other, 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 37:28-36

28. Turn from evil, and do good, *
and dwell in the land for ever.

**29. For the Lord loves justice; *
he does not forsake his faithful ones.**

30. They shall be kept safe for ever, *
but the offspring of the wicked shall be destroyed.

**31. The righteous shall possess the land *
and dwell in it for ever.**

32. The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, *
and their tongue speaks what is right.

**33. The law of their God is in their heart, *
and their footsteps shall not falter.**

34. The wicked spy on the righteous *
    and seek occasion to kill them.

**35. The Lord will not abandon them to their hand, *
    nor let them be found guilty when brought to trial.**

36. Wait upon the Lord and keep his way; *
    he will raise you up to possess the land,
    and when the wicked are cut off, you will see it.

Let Us Pray

God our strength, give us the humility to trust in your loving care, and the patience to be faithful in seeking your kingdom, that we may come to share in the inheritance of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Scripture Reading

The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is God not of the dead, but of the living. *Matthew 22.32*

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: **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 Letter to the Hebrews (11:1-3, 8, 23-28, 32, 39-12:2)

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going.

By faith Moses was hidden by his parents for three months after his birth, because they saw that the child was beautiful; and they were not afraid of the king's edict.
By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called a son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered abuse suffered for the Christ to be greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to the reward. By faith he left Egypt, unafraid of the king's anger; for he persevered as though he saw him who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.

And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets…

Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

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:

Almighty God,
in the midst of your people Israel
you raised up many saints,
who through faith in your eternal covenant
conquered kingdoms, did justice,
and won strength out of weakness.
Grant us to hold in glad remembrance
their holy lives and fearless witness,
that by your grace we may press on towards the goal
for the prize of our heavenly calling;
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.

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.