

# An Order for Night Prayer (Compline)

## Introduction

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.

## Preparation

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

*All* Amen.

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.*

*The following or other suitable words of penitence may be used*

*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.

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.**

*The following or another suitable hymn may be sung*

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.

## **The Word of God**

*Psalmody*

*One or more of the following psalms may be used.*

### *Psalm 4*

- 1 Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness;  
you set me at liberty when I was in trouble;  
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- 2 How long will you nobles dishonour my glory;  
how long will you love vain things and seek after falsehood?
- 3 But know that the Lord has shown me his marvellous kindness;  
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.
- 4 Stand in awe, and sin not;  
commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.
- 5 Offer the sacrifices of righteousness  
and put your trust in the Lord.
- 6 There are many that say, 'Who will show us any good?'  
Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon us.
- 7 You have put gladness in my heart  
more than when their corn and wine and oil increase.
- 8 In peace I will lie down and sleep,  
for it is you Lord, only, who make me dwell in safety.

### *Psalm 134*

- 1 Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord,  
you that by night stand in the house of the Lord.
- 2 Lift up your hands towards the sanctuary  
and bless the Lord.
- 3 The Lord who made heaven and earth +  
give you blessing out of Zion.

*At the end of the psalmody, the following is said or sung*

**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.

### *Scripture Reading*

### *Gospel Canticle*

*The Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon) is said or sung*

**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.

- 1 Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:  
your word has been fulfilled.
- 2 My own eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;
- 3 A light to reveal you to the nations  
and the glory of your people Israel.

*Luke 2.29-32*

**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.

## Prayers

*Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.*

### *The Collect*

*Silence may be kept.*

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray,  
and drive far from it the snares of the enemy;  
may your holy angels dwell with us and guard us in peace,  
and may your blessing be always upon us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

## The Conclusion

In peace we will lie down and sleep;

**All for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.**

Abide with us, Lord Jesus,

**All for the night is at hand and the day is now past.**

As the night watch looks for the morning,

**All so do we look for you, O Christ.**

Come with the dawning of the day

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.**

*Closing prayer*

***All* Lighten our darkness,  
Lord, we pray,  
and in your great mercy  
defend us from all perils and dangers of this night,  
for the love of your only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen**