



Night Prayer (Compline)

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. It is most effective when the ending is indeed an ending, without additions, conversation or noise. If there is an address, or business to be done, it should come first. If the service is in church, those present depart in silence; if at home, they go quietly to bed.

Preparation

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

Amen.

Our help is in the name of the Lord
who made heaven and earth.

A period of silence for reflection on the past day may follow.

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.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

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 read / 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 91

- 1 Whoever dwells in the shelter of
the Most High ♦

- and abides under the shadow of
the Almighty,
- 2 Shall say to the Lord, 'My refuge
and my stronghold, ♦
my God, in whom I put my trust.'
- 3 For he shall deliver you from the
snare of the fowler ♦
and from the deadly pestilence.
- 4 He shall cover you with his wings
and you shall be safe under his
feathers; ♦
his faithfulness shall be your
shield and buckler.
- 5 You shall not be afraid of any
terror by night, ♦
nor of the arrow that flies by day;
- 6 Of the pestilence that stalks in
darkness, ♦
nor of the sickness that destroys
at noonday.

- 7 Though a thousand fall at your
 side
 and ten thousand at your right
 hand, ♦
 yet it shall not come near you.
- 8 Your eyes have only to behold ♦
 to see the reward of the wicked.
- 9 Because you have made the Lord
 your refuge ♦
 and the Most High your
 stronghold,
- 10 There shall no evil happen to
 you, ♦
 neither shall any plague come
 near your tent.
- 11 For he shall give his angels charge
 over you, ♦
 to keep you in all your ways.
- 12 They shall bear you in their
 hands, ♦

lest you dash your foot against a stone.

- 13 You shall tread upon the lion and adder; ♦
the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.
- 14 Because they have set their love upon me,
therefore will I deliver them; ♦
I will lift them up, because they know my name.
- 15 They will call upon me and I will answer them; ♦
I am with them in trouble,
I will deliver them and bring them to honour.
- 16 With long life will I satisfy them ♦
and show them my salvation.

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*

**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

One of the following short lessons or another suitable passage is read

You, O Lord, are in the midst of us and we are called by your name; leave us not, O Lord our God.

Jeremiah 14.9

(or)

Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil is prowling round like a roaring lion, seeking for someone to devour. Resist him, strong in the faith.

1 Peter 5.8, 9

(or)

The servants of the Lamb shall see the face of God, whose name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night: they will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for God will

be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

Revelation 22.4, 5

The following responsory may be said
Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my
spirit.

**Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my
spirit.**

For you have redeemed me, Lord God
of truth.

I commend my spirit.

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.

**Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my
spirit.**

Or, in Easter

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my
spirit.

Alleluia, alleluia.

**Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my
spirit.**

Alleluia, alleluia.

For you have redeemed me, Lord God
of truth.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.

**Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my
spirit.**

Alleluia, alleluia.

Keep me as the apple of your eye.

**Hide me under the shadow of your
wings.**

Gospel Canticle

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

**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

**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.

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.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer may be said.

The Conclusion

In peace we will lie down and sleep;
**for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in
safety.**

Abide with us, Lord Jesus,
**for the night is at hand and the day is
now past.**

As the night watch looks for the
morning,

so do we look for you, O Christ.

[Come with the dawning of the day
**and make yourself known in the
breaking of the bread.]**

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.

Amen.

Rev'd David Hover
*Priest-in-charge, St. Andrew's, Leicester Forest
East
& St. Crispin's, Braunstone Town with Thorpe
Astley*

St. Crispin's Vicarage
36 Woodcote Road
Braunstone Town
LE3 2WD

E-mail: revddavehover@gmail.com

Tel: 0116 289 5372

© The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England, 2000-2004, All of the official *Common Worship* publications are published by Church House Publishing.