

# Compline



**St Michael's Church, Wood Green**

*The ancient office of Compline derives its name from a Latin word meaning 'completion' (completorium). It is above all a simple and said service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day.*

## Preparation

*After three knocks, **all stand**. The congregation say the words in **bold**.*

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.*

**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.**

**All sit.**

## Preparation

## 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

*One or more of the following psalms may be used. A slight pause is held at each diamond asterix.*

### *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:*

**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 stand.**

## 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*

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O  
God, you will not despise.

*Psalms 51:18*

Jesus said, 'Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy  
burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn  
from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest  
for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light'.

*Matthew 11:28-30*



Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.

*1 Peter 5:6-7*

The one who endures to the end will be saved. And this good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the world, as a testimony to all the nations.

*Matthew 24:13-14a*

Thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and trust shall be your strength.

*Isaiah 30:15*

*The following responsory is said*

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

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

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.

**All I commend my spirit.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit.

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

## Gospel Canticle

*The Nunc dimittis 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.**

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.

*All sit or kneel.*

## Prayers

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.**

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.**

Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity: give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who wake, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, sustain the dying, calm the suffering, and pity the distressed; all for your love's sake, O Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, bring us to the dwelling which your Son is preparing for all who love you; give us the will each day to live in life eternal; let our citizenship be in heaven with the blessed, with the whole company of the redeemed and with countless angels, praising, worshiping and adoring your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who sits upon the throne for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**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 those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and ever. 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.**

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.**



*Common Worship: Daily Prayer, material from which is included in this service, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2005.*