

Compline - Epiphany



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.

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.

All sit.

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 marvelous 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 16

- 1 Preserve me, O God, for in you have I taken refuge ♦
I have said to the Lord, 'You are my lord, all my good depends
on you'.
- 2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, ♦
upon those who are noble in heart.
- 3 Though the idols are legion that many run after, ♦
their drink offerings of blood I will not offer, neither make
mention of their names upon my lips.
- 4 The Lord himself is my portion and my cup; ♦
in your hands alone is my fortune.

- 5 My share has fallen in a fair land; ♦
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.
- 6 I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel, ♦
and in the night watches he instructs my heart.
- 7 I have set the Lord always before me; ♦
he is at my right hand; I shall not fall.
- 8 Wherefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices; ♦
my flesh also shall rest secure.
- 9 For you will not abandon my soul to Death, ♦
nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.
- 10 You will show me the path of life;
in your presence is the fullness of joy ♦
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

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.

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

Titus 2:11

Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life'.

John 8:12

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Isaiah 60:1

I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.

Isaiah 49:6

'From the rising of the sun to its setting my name is great among the nations,' says the Lord.

Malachi 1:11

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.**

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.**

Look down, O God, from your heavenly throne, illuminate the darkness of this night with your celestial brightness, and from the children of light banish the deeds of darkness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

King of kings and Lord of lords, making the true light to shine: lighten our darkness now and evermore that with our lips and in our lives we may praise you; for you are God now and forever. **Amen.**

We give you thanks, O God, for the gift to the world of our Redeemer as we sing your glory at the close of this day, so may we know his presence in our hearts, who is our Saviour and our Lord, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus, our Master, go with us while we travel to the heavenly country; that, following your Star, we may not wander in the darkness of this world's night, whilst you, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life shine within us to our journey's end. **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 be with you;

All And also with you.

Let us bless the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us.

Amen.

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