

*Spiritual resource for
praying alone, praying
together at home*

Compline



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Welcome

The ancient office of Compline derives its name from a Latin word meaning ‘completion’ (*completorium*). It is an ancient rite of the Church that crosses many traditions and still resonates with many people today. In Compline we continue a tradition of worship that began around A.D. 535, when St. Benedict, the father of western Christian monasticism, established the cycle of daily prayer known as the divine offices.



This booklet is being provided to guide you in the peaceful practice of Compline in your own home, maybe alongside other Christian friends in a safe way. Our online service is an opportunity to join together in prayer at this time when many are not able to visit their regular place of worship. We come together at 8.30pm every Wednesday evening on Facebook to offer prayer and praise and receive the words of scripture. It is above all a service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day.

The service uses the same liturgy every week with different Psalms, scripture and collect as indicated.

Compline

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

**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.**

○ God, make speed to save us.
○ 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.**

The following or another suitable hymn may be said or 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.**

**○ 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.**

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.

***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 –Isaiah 30.15

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



- 1 Hear my prayer, O Lord,
and in your faithfulness give ear to my supplications; *
answer me in your righteousness.
- 2 Enter not into judgement with your servant, *
for in your sight shall no one living be justified.
- 3 For the enemy has pursued me,
crushing my life to the ground, *
making me sit in darkness like those long dead.
- 4 My spirit faints within me; *
my heart within me is desolate.
- 5 I remember the time past; I muse upon all your deeds; *
I consider the works of your hands.
- 6 I stretch out my hands to you; *
my soul gasps for you like a thirsty land.
- 7 O Lord, make haste to answer me; my spirit fails me; *
hide not your face from me lest I be like those who go down to the Pit.
- 8 Let me hear of your loving-kindness in the morning, for in you I put my trust; *
show me the way I should walk in,
- 9 Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies, *
for I flee to you for refuge.
- 10 Teach me to do what pleases you, for you are my God; *
let your kindly spirit lead me on a level path.
- 11 Revive me, O Lord, for your name's sake; *
for your righteousness' sake, bring me out of trouble.
- 12 In your faithfulness, slay my enemies ,and destroy all the adversaries of my soul, *
for truly I am your servant.

***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 –Matthew 11.28-end

Jesus said, 'Come to me, all you that 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.'

Week 3 - Psalm 31.1-5,19-end

1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me in your righteousness.

2 Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.

3 Be my strong rock, a fortress to save me,
for you are my rock and my stronghold; *
guide me, and lead me for your name's sake.

4 Take me out of the net
that they have laid secretly for me, *
for you are my strength.

5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
for you have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.

19 How abundant is your goodness, O Lord,
which you have laid up for those who fear you; *
which you have prepared in the sight of all
for those who put their trust in you.

20 You hide them in the shelter of your presence
from those who slander them; *
you keep them safe in your refuge from the strife of tongues.

21 Blessed be the Lord! *
For he has shown me his steadfast love
when I was as a city besieged.

22 I had said in my alarm,
'I have been cut off from the sight of your eyes.' *
Nevertheless, you heard the voice of my prayer
when I cried out to you.

23 Love the Lord, all you his servants; *
for the Lord protects the faithful,
but repays to the full the proud.

24 Be strong and let your heart take courage, *
all you who wait in hope for the Lord. *

**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 – I Peter 5.6,7

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.



Week 4 - 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.*

**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 – *1 Peter 5.8-9*

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.



Week 5 - Psalm 139.1-11

1 O Lord, you have searched me out and known me; *
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

2 You mark out my journeys and my resting place *
and are acquainted with all my ways.

3 For there is not a word on my tongue, *
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

4 You encompass me behind and before *
and lay your hand upon me.

5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, *
so high that I cannot attain it.

6 Where can I go then from your spirit? *
Or where can I flee from your presence?

7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; *
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
8 If I take the wings of the morning *
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
9 Even there your hand shall lead me, *
your right hand hold me fast.
10 If I say, 'Surely the darkness will cover me *
and the light around me turn to night,'
11 Even darkness is no darkness with you;
the night is as clear as the day; *
darkness and light to you are both alike.

**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 – I Thessalonians 5.9-10

God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.



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.

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 – Week 1

Be present, O merciful God,

and protect us through the silent hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world, may rest upon your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Collect – Week 2

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 Saviour

Amen.

The Collect – Week 3

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.

The Collect – Week 4

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.

The Collect – Week 5

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,
who at this evening hour lay in the tomb
and so hallowed the grave
to be a bed of hope for all who put their trust in you:
give us such sorrow for our sins,
which were the cause of your passion,
that when our bodies lie in the dust,
our souls may live with you for ever. **Amen.**

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.

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

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.

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.

