

An order for the office of Compline (Night Prayer)

The office of Compline (Night prayer) comes from an ancient practice of daily prayers by Christian monastic communities. It is a good way to end the day in quiet contemplation and reflection upon the past day before commending oneself to God and a peaceful night's sleep. The office should be said before going to bed in a quiet and calm way; a candle may be lit and you might like to sing a simple hymn.

Leader

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 Opening Prayer

Leader

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.

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

Leader

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.

Leader: 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.

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 Short Reading for Friday evening in Ordinary Time is 1 Thessalonians Chapter 5, verses 9 and 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.

Prayers

Leader

Heavenly Father we bring before you tonight our prayers for the Church and the world knowing that you will hear us and help us. Father we ask for your encouragement and inspiration in all areas of ministry in the Church, pour out your blessings on all who work for the spreading of your kingdom. Father bless the family of the church, may we accept one another as brothers and sisters finding strength and joy in our life together, may we be a family open to all families of mankind that in the Church they may overcome all the hostilities and prejudices that might otherwise drive them apart. Help each of us to be glad of your presence, give to us the help we need to be loyal and faithful servants knowing that with your loving power nothing need make us afraid.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY

Hear our prayer

Leader

Mighty God we pray for the worldwide Christian Church in all its wonderful diversity. We pray especially for those churches who meet together in difficult and dangerous circumstances and at this time of the Pandemic for all those churches who cannot meet in person but only online. May they still feel your abiding presence to uphold their courage and strengthen their faith. As we pray for our Rector Keith in our diocese we bring before you all those who lead and inspire our worship and especially our reader Lynne.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY

Hear our prayer

Leader

Father we ask for your guidance and protection in all areas of conflict and confusion, pour out your wisdom on all who bear the burden of leadership in the world. When nations have lost their way, their sense of human worth or their integrity we pray that you would nourish them with your love and guide them with your wisdom. We pray for peace in the world where there is war, for places where there is hatred between races. By your spirit among us, may bitterness and hatred be cast aside and may goodwill, peace and love which is your will for us find a place in the hearts of all people.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY. *Hear our prayer*

Leader

Father we ask for your reassurance and comfort wherever people are hurting or crying, for those who are ill, for the lonely, the disillusioned and disheartened, for the refugee and the homeless, for the hungry and poor. Father wherever people are suffering whether physically or emotionally pour out your welcoming love, may they know your comfort and your strength and give them the peace they seek. Tonight we think and pray especially for those across the globe whose lives and health is being affected and upturned by the Coronavirus, may we your people using all our energy, skills and imagination and trusting in your steadfast love be united with one another and work together in conquering this disease and the fear surrounding it. **Lord you are in the midst of us help us in our time of trouble.**

LORD IN YOUR MERCY

Hear our prayer

Leader

Creator God we struggle to understand the reasons behind things like the coronavirus and yet we know that in the midst of such events your love is shown in acts of bravery, selflessness and compassion which follow. We pray for key workers, for all medical staff and hospital workers, who go to work knowing the risks they face ; for medical researchers ; seeking ways to prevent and cure; for social workers, protecting the vulnerable; for care workers, providing contact and support to those who have no other help; for teachers, and all staff in schools, worrying about their charges; for farmers; for delivery and shop workers, keeping the nation provisioned; for cleaners, fighting the spread of infections; for our armed services, police officers and firefighters. **Lord you are our shelter and strength and always ready to help in times of trouble.**

LORD IN YOUR MERCY.

Hear our prayer

Leader

Father in heaven we pray for our communities, for the elderly, confined to their homes and separated from family, friends, and support ; for those who have lost their source of income; for those who fear for their home; for those who have no home; for children unable to go to school, for parents with home-school learning, for those anxious about examinations, a place at university or employment; for those worried about loved ones and friends concerned about their own health and for those offering extraordinary everyday kindness; **Lord you are our refuge and strength let us not be afraid, even though the world is changing.**

LORD IN YOUR MERCY.

Hear our prayer

Leader

Loving God we pray for those in our own community, the sick and the dying, the elderly, the housebound and those in care homes, hospitals and hospices and for the work and devotion of those who care for them. We thank you for carers whose love and compassion bring both

material and spiritual comfort at times of need.

And now we name quietly in our hearts before you our God, those known to us individually, in need of your healing touch.

A short silence ...

LORD IN YOUR MERCY

Hear our prayer

Leader

Eternal God, we pray for and give thanks for those who have departed this life and ask, through Your loving kindness, to have mercy on their souls.

We pray for those nearing death, have compassion on their anxious sighs, give those caring for them in their final moments, the words to sooth and comfort, and send Your dear Son to meet them on their way to calm their soul, and give them the peace and assurance of life eternal with You.

Merciful God be close to those who feel the pain of grief at the loss of a loved one whether recent or as each anniversary passes. Help us to support all those who mourn with our prayers, with words of comfort and with practical help as they struggle to come to terms with their loss.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY

Hear our prayer

Leader

Lord help us in the week that lies before us, that we may we reflect your love in our families, our church and our community, and in doing so show everyone we meet or are in contact with that we are true followers of Christ with a true desire to draw them into our Christian faith.

Merciful Father accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
AMEN.

Leader: Responsory

The Responsory

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.

Leader (a) and Leader (b)

The Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon)

Leader (a)

Save us, O Lord, while waking, and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep may rest in peace.

Leader (b)

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:
your word has been fulfilled.

Leader (a)

My own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;

Leader (b)

A light to reveal you to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.

Leader (a)

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.

Leader (b)

Save us, O Lord, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep may rest in peace.

Leader: Collect for Night Prayer

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.

The Lord's Prayer

Leader

At the ending of the day, a leader will say the prayer our Lord taught us to say, as
we all say it quietly in our hearts and minds.

Leader

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.

Leader

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

Leader

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

Leader

As the night watch looks for the morning,
so do we look for you, O Christ.

Leader

Now let us all say The Grace together

All The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

Church of England website for Night Prayer (Compline).