

## **An Order for Night Prayer** (Compline) in Traditional Language

### *Note*

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.**

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist, steadfast in the faith. *1 Peter 5.8,9*

But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

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

**We confess to God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost,  
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed,  
through our own grievous fault.  
Wherefore we pray God to have mercy upon us.**

**Almighty God, have mercy upon us,  
forgive us all our sins and deliver us from all evil,  
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,  
and bring us to life everlasting;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

May the almighty and merciful Lord  
grant unto you pardon and remission of all your sins,  
time for amendment of life,  
and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

O God, make speed to save us.  
**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.**

Praise ye the Lord.  
**The Lord's name be praised.**

Hymn:

**Before the ending of the day,  
Creator of the world we pray,  
That with thy wonted favour thou  
Wouldst be our guard and keeper now.**

**From all ill dreams defend our eyes,  
From nightly fears and fantasies;  
Tread underfoot our ghostly foe,  
That no pollution we may know.**

**O Father, that we ask be done,  
Through Jesus Christ, thine only Son;  
Who, with the Holy Ghost and thee,  
Doth live and reign eternally.**

### *The Word of God*

I will pour out a spirit of compassion and supplication on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that, when they look on the one whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. *Zechariah 12.10*

### Psalm 4

1. Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness : thou hast set me at liberty when I was in trouble; have mercy upon me, and hearken unto my prayer.
2. **O ye sons of men, how long will ye blaspheme mine honour : and have such pleasure in vanity, and seek after leasing?**
3. Know this also, that the Lord hath chosen to himself the man that is godly : when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.

4. **Stand in awe, and sin not : commune with your own heart, and in your chamber, and be still.**
5. Offer the sacrifice of righteousness : and put your trust in the Lord.
6. **There be many that say : Who will shew us any good?**
7. Lord, lift thou up : the light of thy countenance upon us.
8. **Thou hast put gladness in my heart : since the time that their corn, and wine, and oil increased.**
9. I will lay me down in peace, and take my rest : for it is thou, Lord, only, that makest me dwell in safety.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end. Amen.**

Thou, O Lord, art in the midst of us, and we are called by thy name; leave us not, O Lord our God. *Jeremiah 14.9*

**Thanks be to God.**

### *Responses*

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

For thou hast redeemed me, O Lord, thou God of truth.  
**I commend my spirit.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
**Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

Keep me as the apple of an eye.  
**Hide me under the shadow of thy wings.**

### *Nunc Dimitis*

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

1. Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace : according to thy word.

2. **For mine eyes have seen : thy salvation;**
3. Which thou hast prepared : before the face of all people;
4. **To be a light to lighten the Gentiles : and to be the glory of thy people Israel.**

*Luke 2.29-32*

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end. Amen.**

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

*Prayers*

Lord, have mercy upon us.  
**Christ, have mercy upon us.**  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Our Father, which art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done,  
in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive them that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

Blessed art thou, Lord God of our fathers:  
**to be praised and glorified above all for ever.**

Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost:  
**let us praise him and magnify him for ever.**

Blessed art thou, O Lord, in the firmament of heaven:  
**to be praised and glorified above all for ever.**

The almighty and most merciful Lord guard us and give us his blessing.  
**Amen.**

Let us pray.

Visit, we beseech thee, O Lord, this place,  
and drive from it all the snares of the enemy;  
let thy holy angels dwell herein to preserve us in peace;  
and may thy blessing be upon us evermore;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Almighty God,  
as we stand at the foot of the cross of your Son,  
help us to see and know your love for us,  
so that in humility, love and joy  
we may place at his feet  
all that we have and all that we are;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**Amen.**

### *The Conclusion*

We will lay us down in peace and take our rest.  
**For it is thou, Lord, only that makest us dwell in safety.**

Abide with us, O Lord,  
**for it is toward evening and the day is far spent.**

As the watchmen look for the morning,  
**so do we look for thee, O Christ.**

Come with the dawning of the day  
**and make thyself known in the breaking of bread.**

The Lord be with you  
**and with thy spirit.**

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

The almighty and merciful Lord,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost,  
bless us and preserve us.  
**Amen.**