

PARISH OF ESHER
Christ Church, Esher with St George's, West End

Night Prayer (Compline)



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

Luke 23.46

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.

An Order for Night Prayer (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 follows.

**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.
O 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 hymn is 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.

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.
Amen.

The Word of God

Psalmody

One of the following psalms is used.

Psalm 143 – Sunday 27 November

Hear my prayer, O Lord;
give ear to my supplications in your faithfulness;
answer me in your righteousness.

**Do not enter into judgement with your servant,
for no one living is righteous before you.**

For the enemy has pursued me,
crushing my life to the ground,
making me sit in darkness like those long dead.

**Therefore my spirit faints within me;
my heart within me is appalled.**

I remember the days of old,
I think about all your deeds,
I meditate on the works of your hands.

**I stretch out my hands to you;
my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.**

Answer me quickly, O Lord; my spirit fails.
Do not hide your face from me,
or I shall be like those who go down to the Pit.

**Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning,
for in you I put my trust.**

Teach me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.

Save me, O Lord, from my enemies;
I have fled to you for refuge.

**Teach me to do your will, for you are my God.
Let your good spirit lead me on a level path.**

For your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life.
In your righteousness bring me out of trouble.

**In your steadfast love cut off my enemies,
and destroy all my adversaries, for 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.

Psalm 4 – Sunday 4 December

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.

**How long will you nobles dishonour my glory;
how long will you love vain things and seek after falsehood?**

But know that the Lord has shown me his marvellous kindness;
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.

**Stand in awe, and sin not;
commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.**

Offer the sacrifices of righteousness
and put your trust in the Lord.

**There are many that say, ‘Who will show us any good?’
Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon us.**

You have put gladness in my heart,
more than when their corn and wine and oil increase.

**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.**

Psalm 91 – Sunday 11 December

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
and abides under the shadow of the Almighty,

**Shall say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my stronghold,
my God, in whom I put my trust.'**

For he shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence.

**He shall cover you with his wings
and you shall be safe under his feathers;
his faithfulness shall be your shield and buckler.**

You shall not be afraid of any terror by night,
nor of the arrow that flies by day;

**Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
nor of the sickness that destroys at noonday.**

Though a thousand fall at your side
and ten thousand at your right hand,
yet it shall not come near you.

**Your eyes have only to behold
to see the reward of the wicked.**

Because you have made the Lord your refuge
and the Most High your stronghold,

**There shall no evil happen to you,
neither shall any plague come near your tent.**

For he shall give his angels charge over you,
to keep you in all your ways.

**They shall bear you in their hands,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.**

You shall tread upon the lion and adder;
the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

**Because they have set their love upon me,
therefore will I deliver them;
I will lift them up, because they know my name.**

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.

**With long life will I satisfy them
and show them my salvation.**

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

One of the following short lessons is read.

Mark 13.35-end – Sunday 27 November

Keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.

Jeremiah 14.9 – Sunday 4 December

You, O Lord, are in the midst of us and we are called by your name; leave us not, O Lord our God.

1 Peter 5.8, 9 – Sunday 11 December

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.

The following responsory is 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.

Keep me as the apple of your eye.

Hide me under the shadow of your wings.

Gospel Canticle

The Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon) is said.

**Come, O Lord, and visit us in peace;
that we may rejoice before you with a perfect heart.**

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

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

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

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.

**Come, O Lord, and visit us in peace;
that we may rejoice before you with a perfect heart.**

Short Address

Prayers

Intercessions and thanksgivings are offered here.

Collects

Stir up your power, O God, and come among us.
Heal our wounds, calm our fears and give us peace;
through Jesus our Redeemer.

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.

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.

Restore us again, O God of hosts;
show us the light of your countenance
and we shall be saved.
Bless and keep us, this night and always.
Amen.