

Compline in Holy Week

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.

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.

The following or other suitable words of penitence may be used

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.

The following or another suitable hymn may be said

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.

The Word of God

Monday - 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.

Tuesday - Psalm 143

- 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, for I lift up my soul to you.
- 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.

Wednesday - Psalm 31:1-5

- 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.

At the end of the psalmody, the following is said or sung

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.

Scripture Reading

Monday

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.

Isaiah 30.15

Tuesday

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.'

Matthew 11.28-end

Wednesday

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.

1 Peter 5.6,7

The following responsory may be 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 (The Song of Simeon) is said

All Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

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 Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

Prayers

Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.

The Collect

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.

The Lord's Prayer may be said.

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;
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.

May God bless us,
that in us may be found love and humility,
obedience and thanksgiving,
discipline, gentleness and peace.
All Amen.