

## An Order for Night Prayer (Compline)

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. Some people find it helpful to have a lit candle in front of them.

Ordinarily, where there are responses, the words in normal type would be said by a service leader with everyone joining in the words in bold. If you are alone, you might want to say all of the words and you might find it helpful to say them out loud.

### ***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.*

**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.  
Alleluia.**

*One of the following may be read, sung or listened to*

**1.**

It Is Well With My Soul - Audrey Assad

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zY5o9mP22V0>

**2.**

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.

3.  
I lift my eyes to the quiet hills <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HjErk4XKFFA>

4.  
I lift my eyes – Keith & Kristin Getty <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RxtMjBsN2FE>

5.  
Be Thou my vision – Audrey Assad [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dXDhCEnM-bQ&list=RDdXDhCEnM-bQ&start\\_radio=1&t=196](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dXDhCEnM-bQ&list=RDdXDhCEnM-bQ&start_radio=1&t=196)

### **The Word of God**

*One of the following psalms is read.*

*Either 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.**

*Or Psalm 134*

- 1 Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord,  
you that by night stand in the house of the Lord.
- 2 **Lift up your hands towards the sanctuary  
and bless the Lord.**
- 3 The Lord who made heaven and earth  
give you blessing out of Zion.

**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.**

*Bible reading*

*One of the following short lessons or another suitable passage is read*

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

*Jeremiah 14.9*

*(or)*

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.

*1 Peter 5.8, 9*

*(or)*

The servants of the Lamb shall see the face of God, whose name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night: they will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

*Revelation 22.4, 5*

*The 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.**

*The Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon) is said together*

**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

*Personal prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered.*

**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.**

*One or more of the following prayers may be said*

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.**

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.**

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.**

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.**

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 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.**