

# An Order for Night Prayer (Compline)

## *Introduction*

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.**

**Alleluia.**

*Psalm 104: 1, 21-33*

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul. ◆

O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!

21 You appointed the moon to mark the seasons, ◆  
and the sun knows the time for its setting.

22 You make darkness that it may be night, ◆  
in which all the beasts of the forest creep forth.

23 The lions roar for their prey ◆  
and seek their food from God.

24 The sun rises and they are gone ◆  
to lay themselves down in their dens.

25 People go forth to their work ◆  
and to their labour until the evening. [R]

26 O Lord, how manifold are your works! ◆  
In wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.

27 There is the sea, spread far and wide, ◆  
and there move creatures beyond number, both small and great.

- 28 There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan ♦  
which you have made to play in the deep.
- 29 All of these look to you ♦  
to give them their food in due season.
- 30 When you give it them, they gather it; ♦  
you open your hand and they are filled with good.
- 31 When you hide your face they are troubled; ♦  
when you take away their breath,  
they die and return again to the dust.
- 32 When you send forth your spirit, they are created, ♦  
and you renew the face of the earth. [R]
- 33 May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; ♦  
may the Lord rejoice in his works;

**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*

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 following responsory may be said in Easter*

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

Alleluia, alleluia.

**All Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.

**All Alleluia, alleluia.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit.

**All Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

Keep me as the apple of your eye.

**All Hide me under the shadow of your wings.**

*Gospel Canticle*

*The Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon) is said or sung*

**All Alleluia. The Lord is risen alleluia,**

**As he promised to you. Alleluia, alleluia.**

- 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* Alleluia. The Lord is risen alleluia,  
As he promised to you. Alleluia, alleluia.

## Prayers

*Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.*

Loving, ever-living and compassionate God,

You understand the pain of loss, the heartache of bereavement,

**May we hold in our hearts all those whose families or friends have died.**

You are a light that shines in the darkest times,

**Guide us and heal us in our sickness and sorrow.**

You comfort us in times of fear,

**May we comfort each other, even as we keep apart.**

You console and lead us in times of doubt and confusion,

**May we follow the light of your love and spread hope.**

You move our hearts to acts of generosity,

**May we be led to share what we have with those in need.**

God of life,

We thank you for the signs of your light in the midst of our darkness,

**May we be signs of your compassion in the heart of your world.**

Amen.

*Prayer: Linda Jones/CAFOD*

### *The Collect*

Almighty God,  
By triumphing over the powers of darkness  
Christ has prepared a place for us in the new Jerusalem:  
may we, who have this day given thanks for his resurrection,  
praise him in the eternal city  
of which he is the light;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

*The Lord's Prayer ([here](#)) may be said.*

### **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 the risen Lord Jesus bless us.  
May he watch over us and renew us  
as he renews the whole of creation.  
May our hearts and lives echo his love.  
**All Amen.**

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/daily-prayer/night-prayer-compline#block-cofe-content>

Seasonal Variations for Night Prayer, *Common Worship*, (London: Church House Publishing, 2005)