

COMPLINE

Compline is the office that “completes” the day. It has been called the “bedtime prayer of the Church.” It opens with a significant time of silence. The mood of the entire office is one of peace and tranquility. Both speaking and singing are done quietly. The community remains seated throughout. The beginning and ending of times of silence may be marked by the sound of a bell or meditation bowl. The service ends in silence.

SILENCE*

Be still, aware of God’s presence within and around.

CALL TO PRAYER

O God, come to our assistance.

O Lord, hasten to help us.

The Holy One grant us a restful night, (Or “The Lord” or “God”)
and peace at the last.

Amen.

NIGHT HYMN

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

O most Holy and Beloved,
our Companion, our Guide upon the way,
our bright evening star:

We repent the wrongs we have done.

We have wounded your love.

O God, heal us.

We stumble in the darkness.

Light of the world transfigure us.

We forget that we are your home.

Spirit of God, dwell in us.

Eternal Spirit, living God,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
all that we are, have been, and shall be
is known to you,
to the very secrets of our hearts
and all that rises to trouble us.

**Living flame, burn into us,
cleansing wind, blow through us,
fountain of water, well up within us,**

that we may love and praise in deed and in truth.

[JIM COTTER, PRAYER AT NIGHT;
CAIRNS PUBLICATIONS, 1991. USED BY PERMISSION.]

a time of silence

We are a forgiven people!

Thanks be to God!

NIGHT HYMN

PSALTER AND GLORIA

Our help is in the name of the Lord;

who made heaven and earth.

(One or more of the following psalms followed by the Gloria.).

PSALM 4

(May be spoken quietly by one voice or sung softly and prayerfully in unison)

Answer me when I call, O God,

defender of my *cause*;^{*}

you set me free when I am hard-pressed;

have mercy on me and hear my *prayer*.

You mortals, how long will you dis-honor my *glory*;^{*}

how long will you worship dumb idols

and run after false *gods*?

Know that God does wonders for the *faithful*;^{*}

when I call, God will *hear me*.

Tremble, then, and do not *sin*;^{*}

speak to your heart in silence up-on your *bed*.

Offer the ap-poin-ted *sacrifices*;^{*}

and put your trust in the Most *High*.

Many are saying,

“Oh, that we might see better *times!*”^{*}

Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O *God*.

You have put gladness in my *heart*,^{*}

more than when grain and wine and oil in-crease.

I lie down in peace; at once I fall a-*sleep*;^{*}

for only you, God, make me dwell in *safety*.

[OSH PSALTER]

PSALM 134

(May be chanted or spoken softly and prayerfully in unison)

Behold now, bless God, all you servants of *God*;^{*}

you that stand by night in the house of *God*.

Lift up your hands in the holy place and bless *God*;^{*}

God who made heaven and earth bless you from *Zion*.

[OSH PSALTER]

PSALM 139:1-11

(May be chanted or spoken softly and prayerfully in unison)

O God, you have searched me out and known *me*;^{*}
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from a-*far*.
You trace my journeys and my rest-ing *places*,^{*}
and are acquainted with all my *ways*.
Indeed, there is not a word on my *lips*,^{*}
But you, O God, know it al-to-*gether*.
You press upon me behind and be-*fore*,^{*}
and lay your hand up-*on me*.
Such knowledge is too wonder-ful for *me*;^{*}
it is so high that I can-not at-*tain it*.
Where can I go then from your *Spirit*,^{*}
Where can I flee from your *presence*?
If I climb up to heaven, you are *there*;^{*}
if I make the grave my bed, you are there *also*.
If I take the wings of the *morning*^{*}
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the *sea*,
even there your hand will *lead me*,^{*}
and your right hand hold me *fast*.
If I say, “Surely the darkness will co-ver *me*,^{*}
and the light around me turn to *night*,”
darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the *day*,^{*}
darkness and light to you are both a-*like*.

[OSH PSALTER]

Glory to the holy and bless-ed *Trinity*,
one God, now and for-ever. A-*men*.

SILENCE

THE LITTLE CHAPTER *(a brief passage of scripture such as one of the following)*

Advent/Christmas/Epiphany

The God who said: “Let light shine out of darkness” is the God who shines in our hearts with light, bringing us the radiance of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. We have this treasure in common earthenware so that the incomparable power is clearly from God and not from us. II CORINTHIANS 4:6-7, OSL

Lent

Out of the rich treasures of divine glory, may God strengthen you inwardly with power through the Holy Spirit, and may Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, and as you are rooted and

grounded in love, may you, with all the saints, be able to grasp and to know the breadth and length and height and depth of Christ's love that goes beyond all human understanding, so that you might be filled with all the fullness of God. EPHESIANS 3:16-19, OSL

The Great Fifty Days

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead that great shepherd of the sheep, our Lord Jesus, in the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in every good thing so you might do God's will, as God works in you what is well pleasing in God's sight through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory unto ages of ages. Amen. HEBREWS 13:20-21, OSL

Ordinary Time (the following or one of the above)

Come to me, all who labor and carry 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 11:28-30, OSL

Holy wisdom, holy word!

Thanks be to God!

– silence for reflection –

PRAYERS

(When prayed in community:

The Holy One, be with you,

and also with you.

Let us pray:)

THE KYRIE

Lord, have mercy. *or* Kyrie, eleison.

Christ, have mercy. Christe, eleison,

Lord, have mercy. Kyrie, eleison.

SILENT PRAYER

NIGHT PRAYERS

(Selected from among the following)

Day dies away,

yet your light shines on in the darkness.

As we pray at the ending of the day,

bring our work to a close,

and prepare us for rest and peace at the last. **Amen.**

[DTB]

Be present, Spirit of God,

within us, your dwelling place and home,

that here all darkness may be penetrated by your light,

all troubles calmed by your peace,

all evil redeemed by your love,
all pain transformed in your suffering,
and all dying glorified in your risen life. **Amen.**

[ANZPB-HKMOA, ALT.]

Keep watch, dear Lord,
with those who work or watch or weep this night,
and give your angels charge over those who sleep.
Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, bless the dying,
soothe the suffering, comfort the afflicted, shield the joyous,
and all for your love's sake. **Amen.**

[BCP]

O Lord,
support us all the day long of this troublous life,
until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes,
and the busy world is hushed,
and the fever of life is over, and our work is done.
Then in your mercy grant us a safe lodging,
and a holy rest, and peace at the last. **Amen.**

[JOHN HENRY NEWMAN, 1801-1890]

Visit this place, O Lord,
and deliver us from every snare of the enemy.
May your angels be round about us
to guard us in peace,
and let your blessing be upon us always;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

[ADAPTED FROM THE ROMAN BREVIARY]

CONCLUDING PRAYER

(The Lord's Prayer may be said or sung instead of this prayer or in addition to it.)

**Eternal Spirit,
Life Giver, Pain Bearer, LoveMaker,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name
echo through the universe!
The way of your justice
be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.**

**In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever. Amen.**

[JIM COTTER, PRAYER AT NIGHT;
CAIRNS PUBLICATIONS, 1991. USED BY PERMISSION.]

HYMN [84.84.888.4; TUNE: AR HYD Y NOS, UMH 688]
God who made the earth and heaven, darkness and light,
who the day for toil has given, for rest the night.
May thine angel guards defend us,
slumber sweet thy mercy send us,
holy dreams and hopes attend us
this live-long night.
When the constant sun returning unseals our eyes,
may we born anew like morning, to labor rise.
Gird us for the task that calls us,
let not ease and self enthrall us,
strong through thee whate'er befall us,
O God most wise!

[REGINALD HEBER, 1783-1826]

COMMENDATION

In peace we will lie down and sleep.
In the Lord alone we safely rest.
Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping,
**that awake we may watch with Christ,
and asleep we may rest in peace.**
May the divine help remain with us always.
and with those who are absent from us.

silence

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit,
**For you have redeemed me, O Lord,
O God of Truth.**

[SARUM BREVIARY, PS. 4:8 AND 30:5, ADAPTED]

CANTICLE OF SIMEON (*The Nunc Dimittas*)
(Commonly sung in unison to psalm tone one)
Lord, you have now set your ser-vant *free*
to go in peace as you have *promised*;

for these eyes of mine have seen the *Savior*,
whom you have prepared for all the world to *see*:
a Light to en-lighten the *nations*,
and the glory of your peo-ple *Israel*.

[LUKE 2:29-32; ICET]

Glory to you, O Trinity, most holy and *blessed*;
one God, now and for ever. *A-men*.

BLESSING

May the holy and blessed Trinity guard and bless us.
Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

*Members of the community continue in prayer,
and then depart in silence, one by one*