*Compline*

* *Compline is the office that “completes” the day. It has been called the “bedtime prayer of the Church.”*

Setting

* The community gathers in silence around a candle or lamp which is already lighted when the people arrive.

Preparation

* Note that the service in *A Book of Offices and Services for the Order of Saint Luke* is a fuller form with more options than the form which appears in *A Lukan Book of Hours.*
* The service may be led by one person or various parts of the service may be assigned to various persons who speak from where they are seated.
* The leader(s) are seated as a part of the community as it gathers.
* Customarily there is no prelude or postlude.
* Avoid last minute preparations; model sitting in silence.
* If you want a more extended time of silence, check with the chaplain general about scheduling a time of corporate silence before the service.

The Service

* The mood of the entire office is one of peace and tranquility.
* The community remains seated throughout.
* Both speaking and singing are done quietly.
* The service provides for a spoken Kyrie dialog at the beginning of prayer time. Sometimes this has been sung by the community, but turning to a WR# may interrupt the flow of the service. The Kyrie based on Dvorak’s New World Symphony melody (see *The Faith We Sing, 2275* ) has been sung here effectively, without accompaniment. It seems to be in almost everyone’s memory bank whether they know they know it or not!!
* Lived experience leads us to suggest that after the silence in the Commendation, the following invitation may be given: “Let us join together in the next lines of the commendation, concluding “O God of Truth and Love.” (The addition of “and Love” was the addition practiced by Jim Cotter of blessed memory).
* The Concluding Prayer (the “Spirit Prayer”) may be introduced by saying: “As we remember the prayer Jesus taught us, we pray together.”
* The Canticle of Simeon and Gloria may be chanted quietly in unison or sung in the forms provided by Worship Resources 89 and 90 of *A Book of Offices and Services for the Order of Saint Luke.*
* When this is the last office of the day, the abbot’s commendation may be given before the blessing.
* The service begins and ends in silence.
* After a time of silence, one of the leaders may be designated to model leaving quietly while another remains seated for an extended time of prayer and meditation (perhaps until all, or almost all, the other participants have departed.