



## **An Order for Compline in Lent** (Night Prayer)

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. After the service please depart in silence.

### **Preparation**

*All* The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.  
**Amen.**

*All* Our help is in the name of the Lord  
**who made heaven and earth.**

*A period of silence for reflection on the past day may follow.*

*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**

*All* 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**

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 under foot our deadly foe  
That we no sinful thoughts 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**

**The Psalm** - Psalm 139: 1-18  
*We say this together*

*At the end of the psalm the following is said*  
**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**

Isaiah 58: 6-7 or one of the readings for the day.

## Responsory:

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.  
**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.**

Keep me as the apple of your eye.  
*All* **Hide me under the shadow of your wings.**

## Nunc Dimittis

**Christ died for us, so that whether we wake or sleep,  
we might live with him.**

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:  
your word has been fulfilled.  
My own eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;  
A light to reveal you to the nations  
and the glory of your people Israel.

*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**

**Christ died for us, so that whether we wake or sleep,  
we might live with him.**

## Prayers

*Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here*

## Collect

Almighty God,  
may we, by the prayer and discipline of Lent,  
enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings;  
that by following in the Way,  
we may come to share in the glory;  
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.**

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

