



The Diocese of
Southwark



The Order for Compline

*‘Look down, O Lord, from thy heavenly throne,
and illuminate the darkness of this night...’*

Compline is derived from the Latin *completorium*, denoting the 'completion' of the waking day. From at least the sixth century, it was the last of the monastic hours of prayer by which each day was sanctified and consecrated to the purpose of divine praise and godly life.

The recovery of Compline in the Anglican tradition has opened the treasures of this ancient office to Christians who live 'in the world'. For many people, Compline offers a memorable form of daily prayer and reflection amidst the busyness of daily life, most especially when a regular pattern of Morning and Evening Prayer is difficult to sustain.

Observing Compline as part of a regular discipline of prayer provides a spiritual anchor. It invites us to hear our Lord Jesus Christ speaking to us through psalmody and scripture, enfolding us in love, through all the 'perils and dangers' we may sense in the night ahead, or in our lives more generally. Quietening ourselves at the end of each day, and waiting patiently upon the Lord, we are invited to sense that same Lord accompanying and sustaining us always, as we sleep, wake, and seek to follow his way.

Please stand.

PREPARATION

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

Brethren, be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil,
as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:
whom resist, steadfast in the faith.

1 Peter 5.8-9

But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.
All Thanks be to God.

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

Please sit or kneel.

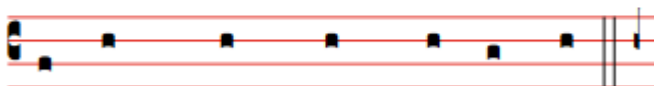
*A period of silence for reflection on the past day may follow.
The following or other suitable words of penitence may be used.*

**All We confess to God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost,
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed,
through our own grievous fault.
Wherefore we pray God to have mercy upon us.**

Almighty God, have mercy upon us,
forgive us all our sins and deliver us from all evil,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and bring us to life everlasting;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



O God, make speed to save us.



O Lord, make haste to help us.

Please stand.



Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;



As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,



world without end. Amen.

THE OFFICE HYMN

The following or another suitable hymn may be sung



Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world we pray,
That with thy wonted favour thou
Wouldst be our guard and keeper now.

From all ill dreams defend our eyes,
From nightly fears and fantasies;
Tread underfoot our ghostly foe,
That no pollution we may know.

O Father, that we ask be done,
Through Jesus Christ, thine only Son;
Who, with the Holy Ghost and thee,
Doth live and reign eternally. Amen.

Please sit.

PSALM 139

The Psalm following is said antiphonally.

O lord, thou hast searched me, and known me.

**Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising,
thou understandest my thought afar off.**

Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways.

For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether.

Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.

Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?

If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.

If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;

Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.

If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me.

Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.

For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.

I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.

How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them!

If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee.

Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:

And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

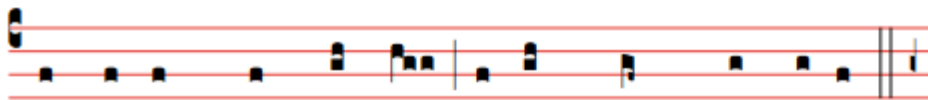
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : World without end. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Matthew 11.28-29

All Thanks be to God.



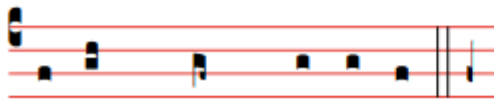
In-to thy hands, O Lord , I com-mend my spi-rit.



In-to thy hands, O Lord , I com-mend my spi-rit.



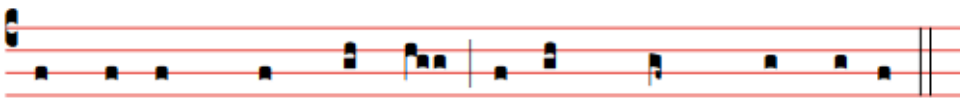
For thou hast re-deem-ed me , O Lord, thou God of truth.



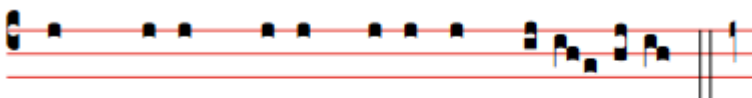
I commend my spirit.



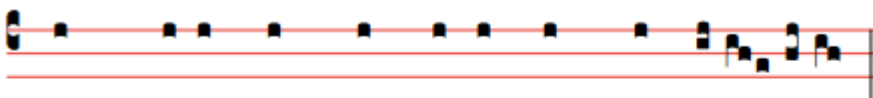
Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son , and to the Ho-ly Ghost.



In-to thy hands, O Lord , I com-mend my spi-rit.



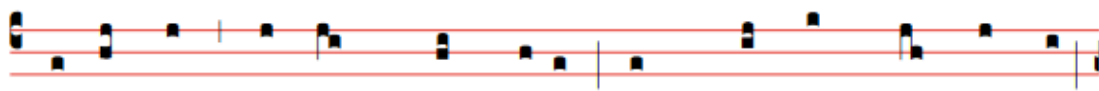
Keep me as the apple of an eye.



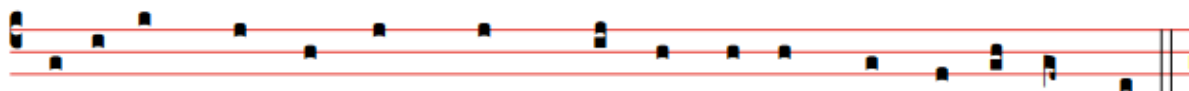
Hide me under the shadow of thy wings.

Please stand.

ANTIPHON AND NUNC DIMITTIS



Preserve us, † O Lord, while waking, and guard us while sleeping,



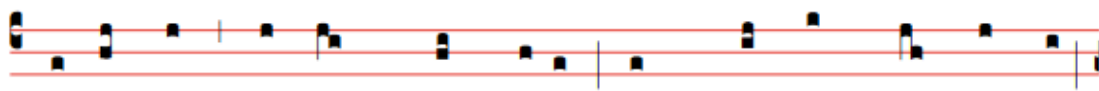
that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace : According to thy word.

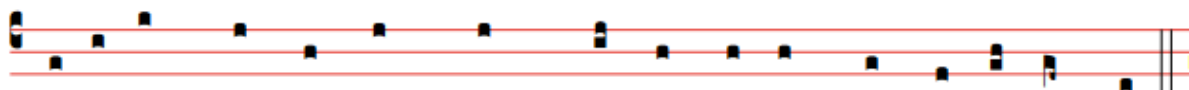
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation; Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles : And to be the glory of thy people Israel.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : World without end.
Amen.**



Preserve us, † O Lord, while waking, and guard us while sleeping,



that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.

Please sit or kneel.

PRAYERS

Lord, have mercy upon us.
All Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

**All Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

Blessed art thou, Lord God of our fathers:
All to be praised and glorified for ever.

Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost:
All let us praise him and magnify him for ever.

Blessed art thou, O Lord, in the firmament of heaven:
All to be praised and glorified above all for ever.

The almighty and most merciful Lord guard us and give us his blessing.
All Amen.

Wilt thou not turn again and quicken us:
All that thy people may rejoice in thee?

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us:
All and grant us thy salvation.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin:
All O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.

O Lord, hear our prayer:
All and let our cry come unto thee.

Let us pray.

One or more of the following Collects is said.

Visit, we beseech thee, O Lord, this place, and drive from it all the snares of the enemy; let thy holy angels dwell herein to preserve us in peace; and may thy blessing be upon us evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Look down, O Lord, from thy heavenly throne, illuminate the darkness of this night with thy celestial brightness, and from the sons of light banish the deeds of darkness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All 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 repose upon thy eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

THE CONCLUSION



We will lay us down in peace and take our rest.



For it is thou, Lord, only that makest us dwell in safety.



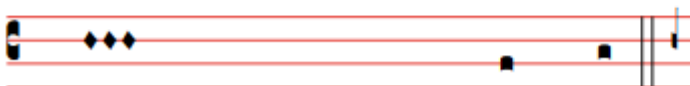
Abide with us, O Lord,



for it is toward evening and the day is far spent.



As the watchmen look for the morning,



so do we look for thee, O Christ.

All The Lord be with you
 and with thy spirit

All Let us bless the Lord
 thanks be to God

 The almighty and merciful Lord,
 the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost,
 bless us and preserve us.
All **Amen.**

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