

St Laurence Northfield



An Order for Night Prayer (Compline) during Easter Season and Ordinary Time

¶ *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.

When we are saying Compline in our homes, together via Conference Call, Please join in with the responses **very quietly** 'under' the person who is leading them otherwise the sound becomes distorted.

Conference call is accessible from any phone though landlines best. About 5 minutes before the service is due to begin phone **01902 693302** and when asked enter the code **1139** and then say your name.

It then takes a few moments before you can hear and be heard.

Please do NOT phone this number other than for Compline and Sunday Morning Services as this facility is being loaned to us by a company which needs it during office hours.

Preparation

During the season of Easter the following may be said:

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord,
the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the deep waters of death
you brought your people to new birth
by raising your Son to life in triumph.

Through him dark death has been destroyed
and radiant life is everywhere restored.

As you call us out of darkness into his marvellous light
may our lives reflect his glory
and our lips repeat the endless song.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

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

The following or other suitable words of penitence may be used

**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.**

○ God, make speed to save us.
○ 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.
Alleluia.**

The following may be sung (though omitted when by phone)

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 underfoot our deadly foe
That we no sinful thought may know.

○ 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.

*One or more of the following psalms may be used.
We hold a short pause at the dot*

Psalm 4

1. Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness; •
you set me at liberty when I was in trouble;
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
2. How long will you nobles dishonour my glory; •
how long will you love vain things and seek after falsehood?
3. But know that the Lord has shown me his marvellous kindness; •
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.
4. Stand in awe, and sin not; •
commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.
5. Offer the sacrifices of righteousness •
and put your trust in the Lord.
6. There are many that say, 'Who will show us any good?' •
Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon us.
7. You have put gladness in my heart, •
more than when their corn and wine and oil increase.
8. In peace I will lie down and sleep, •
for it is you Lord, only, who make me dwell in safety.

Psalm 27

1. The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? •
The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?
2. When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes, •
came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.
3. Though a host encamp against me, my heart shall not be afraid, •
and though there rise up war against me, yet will I put my trust in him.
4. One thing have I asked of the Lord and that alone I seek; •
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
5. To behold the fair beauty of the Lord •
and to seek his will in his temple.

6. For in the day of trouble he shall hide me in his shelter; •
in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me and set me high upon a rock.
7. And now shall he lift up my head •
above my enemies round about me;
8. Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation with great gladness; •
I will sing and make music to the Lord.
9. Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call; •
have mercy upon me and answer me.
10. My heart tells of your word, 'Seek my face.' •
Your face, Lord, will I seek.
11. Hide not your face from me, •
nor cast your servant away in displeasure.
12. You have been my helper; •
leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.
13. Though my father and my mother forsake me, •
the Lord will take me up.
14. Teach me your way, O Lord; •
lead me on a level path, because of those who lie in wait for me.
15. Deliver me not into the will of my adversaries, •
for false witnesses have risen up against me, and those who breathe
out violence.
16. I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord •
in the land of the living.
17. Wait for the Lord; be strong and he shall comfort your heart; •
wait patiently for the Lord.

Psalm 91

1. Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High •
and abides under the shadow of the Almighty,
2. Shall say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my stronghold, •
my God, in whom I put my trust.'
3. For he shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler •
and from the deadly pestilence.

4. He shall cover you with his wings and you shall be safe under his feathers; •
his faithfulness shall be your shield and buckler.
5. You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, •
nor of the arrow that flies by day;
6. Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, •
nor of the sickness that destroys at noonday.
7. Though a thousand fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand, •
yet it shall not come near you.
8. Your eyes have only to behold •
to see the reward of the wicked.
9. Because you have made the Lord your refuge •
and the Most High your stronghold,
10. There shall no evil happen to you, •
neither shall any plague come near your tent.
11. For he shall give his angels charge over you, •
to keep you in all your ways.
12. They shall bear you in their hands, •
lest you dash your foot against a stone.
13. You shall tread upon the lion and adder; •
the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.
14. Because they have set their love upon me, therefore will I deliver
them; •
I will lift them up, because they know my name.
15. They will call upon me and I will answer them; •
I am with them in trouble, I will deliver them and bring them to
honour.
16. With long life will I satisfy them •
and show them my salvation.

Psalm 134

1. Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, •
you that by night stand in the house of the Lord.
2. Lift up your hands towards the sanctuary •
and bless the Lord.
3. The Lord who made heaven and earth •
give you blessing out of Zion.

At the end of the psalmody, 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

One or more of the following short lessons or another suitable passage is read.

We tend to have a longer reading on the phone and a short meditation.

You, O Lord, are in the midst of us and we are called by your name;
leave us not, O Lord our God.

Jeremiah 14:9

(or)

Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil is prowling round
like a roaring lion, seeking for someone to devour. Resist him, strong in
the faith.

1 Peter 5:8, 9

(or)

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

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
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.
Hide me under the shadow of your wings.

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

Refrain during Easter Season

**All Alleluia. The Lord is risen, alleluia,
as he promised to you. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Refrain during Ordinary Time

Keep me as the apple of your eye.

All Hide me under the shadow of your wings.

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

**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.**

Refrain during Easter Season

**All Alleluia. The Lord is risen, alleluia,
as he promised to you. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Refrain during Ordinary Time

Keep me as the apple of your eye.

All Hide me under the shadow of your wings.

Prayers

Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.

The Collects

Keep watch, dear Lord,
with those who wake, or watch, or weep this night,
and give your angels charge over those who sleep.
Tend the sick, give rest to the weary and strengthen those working;
sustain the dying, calm the suffering and pity the distressed;
all for your love's sake, O Christ our Redeemer. **Amen**

Visit this place and all our homes, O Lord, we pray,
and drive far from them the snares of the enemy;
may your holy angels dwell with us and guard us in peace,
and may your blessing be always upon us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Conclusion

In peace we will lie down and sleep;
for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.

Blessing

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. **Amen**

The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England: *The Prayer Book as Proposed in 1928*; *The Alternative Service Book 1980*; *The Promise of His Glory* (1991); *Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England*; *Common Worship: Pastoral Services* (2000); *Common Worship: Daily Prayer* (2001), all of which are copyright The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England.