

# An Order for Compline

## Night Prayer



The *Book of Common Prayer* provides in the Daily Office a cycle of daily prayer. Its aim is to hallow time itself as it passes, and to draw the Christian deeper into the life of Christ. We owe the form of the Order of Compline (BCP p. 127) to Saint Benedict of Nursia, the regularizer of western monasticism, who appointed it in the sixth century as the bedtime prayer of monks. Compline focuses on individual thoughts of night, sleep, and death. It is the ideal trusting prayer for a “peaceful night and a perfect end,” for ourselves and for all others, and is a fitting completion of the day’s work and perhaps our life’s.

*The Officiant begins*



*Officiant*

The Lord Almighty grant us a peace - ful night and a

*People*

per - fect end. A - men.

*Officiant* *People*

Our help is in the name of the Lord: The maker of heaven and earth.

*The Officiant then says*



*Officiant* *People*

O God, make speed to save us, O Lord, make haste to help us.

*Officiant and People*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spi - rit:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. A - men.

## **Psalm 11**

- 1 In the LORD have I taken refuge; \*  
how then can you say to me,  
"Fly away like a bird to the hilltop;
- 2 For see how the wicked bend the bow  
and fit their arrows to the string, \*  
to shoot from ambush at the true of heart.
- 3 When the foundations are being destroyed, \*  
what can the righteous do?"
- 4 The LORD is in his holy temple; \*  
the LORD'S throne is in heaven.
- 5 His eyes behold the inhabited world; \*  
his piercing eye weighs our worth.
- 6 The LORD weighs the righteous as well as the wicked, \*  
but those who delight in violence he abhors.
- 7 Upon the wicked he shall rain coals of fire and  
burning sulphur; \*  
a scorching wind shall be their lot.
- 8 For the LORD is righteous; he delights in righteous deeds; \*  
and the just shall see his face.

Psalm 134 *Ecce nunc*



- 1 *Be-hold* now, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lórd. \*  
you that stand by night in the / house of thé Lord.
- 2 Lift up your hands in the holy place and bléss the Lord: \*  
the Lord who made heaven and earth bless you / out of Zíon.

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*At the end of the Psalms is sung*



Glory to the F'ather, and to the Són \*  
and to the / Holy Spirit:

As it was in the beginning, is nów \*  
and will be for / ever. Ámen.

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Motet "Christ, Our Passover"

Healey Willan (1880–1968)

Come to me, all who labor and are hea - vy - la - den,  
 and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and  
 learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart,  
 and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy,  
 and my burden is light.

*People*  
 Thanks be to God.

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May the God of peace, who brought again from the dead  
 our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood  
 of the e - ter - nal cov - e - nant, equip you with  
 everything good that you may do his will, working in you  
 that which is pleasing in his sight; through Je - sus Christ,  
 to whom be glory for ever and ev - er.

*People*  
 Thanks be to God.

“O Lord, Increase My Faith” Orlando Gibbons (1583 - 1625)

*O Lord, increase my faith  
strengthen me  
and confirm me in thy true faith,  
endue me with wisdom,  
charity, chastity and patience  
in all my adversity.  
Sweet Jesus, say Amen.*

# Commendation and Our Lord's Prayer

*Officiant or Cantor*




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

*People*



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

*Officiant or Cantor*



For you have re - deemed me. O Lord, O God of truth.


*People*



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

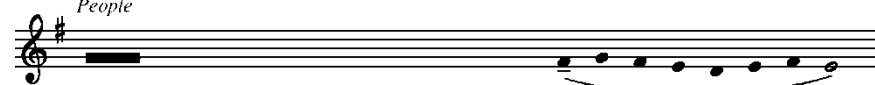
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*Officiant or Cantor*



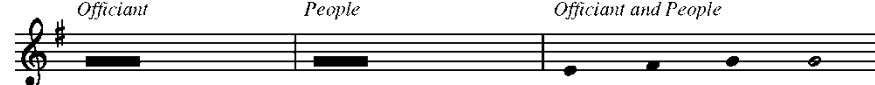
V. Keep us, O Lord, as the apple of your eye;

*People*



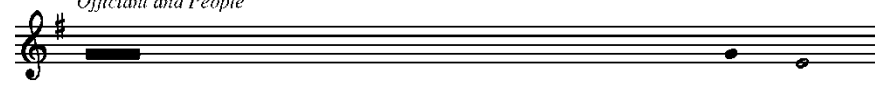
R. Hide us under the shadow of your wings.

*Officiant*                      *People*                      *Officiant and People*



Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mer - cy.

*Officiant and People*



Our Father in heaven . . . deliver us from e - vil.  
Our Father, who art in heaven <sup>of</sup> . . . deliver us from e - vil.

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*Officiant and People*

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.

The musical notation is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The Officiant part is indicated by a solid black bar above the staff for the first four notes. The People part is indicated by a solid black bar above the staff for the first four notes. The lyrics are: "Lord, hear our prayer. And let our cry come to you." Below this, the Officiant part is shown for the phrase "Let us pray." with a solid black bar above the staff.

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**Prayer for Night Keeping**

Look down, O Lord, from your heavenly throne, and  
illumine this night with your celestial brightness; that by  
night as by day your people may glorify your holy Name; through  
Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Song of Simeon: Final Night Prayer**

The musical notation is written on two staves with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (Bb). The first staff is labeled "Antiphon" and "Mode 3". The lyrics are: "Guide us wak - ing, O Lord, and guard us sleep-ing;". The second staff continues the lyrics: "that a-wake we may watch with Christ. and a-sleep we may rest in peace." The notation includes various note values, rests, and phrasing slurs.



1. Lord, you now have set your ser - vant free to go in peace as you  
 have prom-ised; 2. For these eyes of mine have seen the Sav - ior,  
 whom you have prepared for all the world to see: 3. A Light to en-  
 light-en the na - tions, and the glory of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.  
 Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spi-rit:  
 as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for ev-er. A-men. [Ant.]

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*Officiant* *People*  
 Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.

*Officiant*  
 The almighty and mer - ci - ful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spi - rit,

*People*  
 bless us and keep us. A - men.

Compline Setting: adapt. David Hurd (b. 1950).  
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