

Night Prayer (Compline)
in Contemporary Language



Benefice of Grimshoe

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. If there is an address, or business to be done, it should come first. If the service is in church, those present depart in silence; if at home, they go quietly to bed.

**Into his joy the Lord has received you,
Virgin God bearer, Mother of Christ.
You have beheld the King in his beauty,
Mary daughter of Israel.
You have made answer for the creation
to the redeeming will of God
Light, fire and life, divine and immortal,
joined to our nature you have brought forth,
that to the glory of God the Father
heaven and earth might be restored.**

The Salve Regina

**Salve Regina, Mater misericordiæ,
vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra, salve.
Ad te clamamus exsules filii Hevæ,
Ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes
in hac lacrimarum valle.
Eia, ergo, advocata nostra, illos tuos
misericordes oculos ad nos converte;
Et Jesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui,
nobis post hoc exsilium ostende.
O clemens, O pia, O dulcis Virgo Maria.**

*Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,
hail our life, our sweetness and our hope.
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve;
to thee do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.
Turn then, most gracious advocate,
thine eyes of mercy toward us;
and after this our exile,
show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.*

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.

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.**

✠ 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.
[Alleluia.]**

This or another suitable hymn may be sung.

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.

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 – Sunday

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.

On Saturdays and in Eastertide

Come to visit us, Lord, this night, so that by your strength we may rise at daybreak to rejoice in the resurrection of Christ your Son; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

On Sundays and from All Saints Day until Advent

Grant us, Lord, the light of love which never fails, that it may burn in us and shed its light on those around us, and that by its brightness we may have a vision of that holy city where dwells the true and never-failing Light, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

On any occasion

Our Father...

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.

[If Holy Communion is celebrated the next morning

Come with the dawning of the day
and make yourself known in the breaking of the bread.]

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us bless the Lord [Alleluia, Alleluia].
Thanks be to God [Alleluia, Alleluia].

The almighty and merciful Lord, the ✠ Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us.
Amen.

Prayers

Let us pray

*Silence is kept. Then one or two of the following are said.
Personal intercessions may also be offered.*

Lighten our darkness, Lord, we pray; and in your mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray, and drive far from it 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.**

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 rest in your eternal changelessness. **Amen.**

Look down, O Lord, that while we rest in your peace this night, our labour of the day may take root and grow in your mercy towards an eternal harvest. **Amen.**

Come, O Spirit of God, and make within us your dwelling place and home. May our darkness be dispelled by your light, and our troubles calmed by your peace; may all evil be redeemed by your love, all pain transformed through the suffering of Christ, and all dying glorified in his risen life. **Amen.**

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, sustain the dying, calm the suffering, and pity the distressed; all for your love's sake, O Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

On Fridays and in Passiontide

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, who at this evening hour rested in the sepulchre, and so sanctified the grave to be a bed of hope for your people: make us so to abound in sorrow for our sins, which were the cause of your passion, that, when our bodies lie in the dust, our souls may live with you, who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, world without end. **Amen.**

- 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.

**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
Jeremiah 14.9*

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

Thanks be to God

Turn to page 16

The Word of God – Monday

Psalm 86

- 1 Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me, •
for I am poor and in misery.
- 2 Preserve my soul, for I am faithful; •
save your servant, for I put my trust in you.
- 3 Be merciful to me, O Lord, for you are my God; •
I call upon you all the day long.
- 4 Gladden the soul of your servant, •
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
- 5 For you, Lord, are good and forgiving, •
abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.
- 6 Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer •
and listen to the voice of my supplication.
- 7 In the day of my distress I will call upon you, •
for you will answer me.
- 8 Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord, •
nor any works like yours.
- 9 All nations you have made shall come and worship you,
O Lord, •
and shall glorify your name.
- 10 For you are great and do wonderful things; •
you alone are God.
- 11 Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; •
knit my heart to you, that I may fear your name.
- 12 I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, •
and glorify your name for evermore;
- 13 For great is your steadfast love towards me, •
for you have delivered my soul from the depths of the grave.

Gospel Cantic

The Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon) is said.

**Save us, O Lord, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep may rest in peace. [Alleluia.]**

- 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.**

**Save us, O Lord, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep may rest in peace. [Alleluia.]**

The responsory

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.

or in Eastertide

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
Alleluia, alleluia.
Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
Alleluia, alleluia.

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.
Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
Alleluia, alleluia.

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

- 14 O God, the proud rise up against me
and a ruthless horde seek after my life; •
they have not set you before their eyes.
- 15 But you, Lord, are gracious and full of compassion, •
slow to anger and full of kindness and truth.
- 16 Turn to me and have mercy upon me; •
give your strength to your servant
and save the child of your handmaid.
- 17 Show me a token of your favour,
that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed; •
because you, O Lord, have helped and comforted me.

**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 30.15, 18

In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and trust shall
be your strength. The Lord waits to be gracious to you; blessed are
those who wait for him.

Thanks be to God

Turn to page 16

The Word of God – Tuesday

Scripture Reading
Hebrews 4.9-11a

Psalm 143

- 1 Hear my prayer, O Lord,
and in your faithfulness give ear to my supplications; •
answer me in your righteousness.
- 2 Enter not into judgement with your servant, •
for in your sight shall no one living be justified.
- 3 For the enemy has pursued me,
crushing my life to the ground, •
making me sit in darkness like those long dead.
- 4 My spirit faints within me; •
my heart within me is desolate.
- 5 I remember the time past; I muse upon all your deeds; •
I consider the works of your hands.
- 6 I stretch out my hands to you; •
my soul gasps for you like a thirsty land.
- 7 O Lord, make haste to answer me; my spirit fails me; •
hide not your face from me
lest I be like those who go down to the Pit.
- 8 Let me hear of your loving-kindness in the morning,
for in you I put my trust; •
show me the way I should walk in,
for I lift up my soul to you.
- 9 Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies, •
for I flee to you for refuge.
- 10 Teach me to do what pleases you, for you are my God; •
let your kindly spirit lead me on a level path.
- 11 Revive me, O Lord, for your name's sake; •
for your righteousness' sake, bring me out of trouble.

A Sabbath rest still remains for the people of God; for those who enter God's rest also cease from their labours as God did from his. Let us therefore make every effort to enter that rest.

Thanks be to God

Turn to page 16

The Word of God – Saturday

Psalm 16

- 1 Preserve me, O God, for in you have I taken refuge; •
I have said to the Lord, 'You are my lord,
all my good depends on you.'
- 2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, •
upon those who are noble in heart.
- 3 Though the idols are legion that many run after, •
their drink offerings of blood I will not offer,
neither make mention of their names upon my lips.
- 4 The Lord himself is my portion and my cup; •
in your hands alone is my fortune.
- 5 My share has fallen in a fair land; •
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.
- 6 I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel, •
and in the night watches he instructs my heart.
- 7 I have set the Lord always before me; •
he is at my right hand; I shall not fall.
- 8 Wherefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices; •
my flesh also shall rest secure.
- 9 For you will not abandon my soul to Death, •
nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.
- 10 You will show me the path of life;
in your presence is the fullness of joy •
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

**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.**

- 12 In your faithfulness, slay my enemies,
and destroy all the adversaries of my soul, •
for truly I am your servant.

**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
1 Peter 5.8-9

Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith.

Thanks be to God

Turn to page 16

The Word of God – Wednesday

Psalms 31.1-5 & 130

- 1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; •
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 Incline your ear to me; •
make haste to deliver me.
- 3 Be my strong rock, a fortress to save me,
for you are my rock and my stronghold; •
guide me, and lead me for your name's sake.
- 4 Take me out of the net
that they have laid secretly for me, •
for you are my strength.
- 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, •
for you have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.

**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.**

- 1 Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord;
Lord, hear my voice; •
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
- 2 If you, Lord, were to mark what is done amiss, •
O Lord, who could stand?
- 3 But there is forgiveness with you, •
so that you shall be feared.
- 4 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; •
in his word is my hope.

- 13 I thank you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; •
marvellous are your works, my soul knows well.
- 14 My frame was not hidden from you, •
when I was made in secret
and woven in the depths of the earth.
- 15 Your eyes beheld my form, as yet unfinished; •
already in your book were all my members written,
- 16 As day by day they were fashioned •
when as yet there was none of them.
- 17 How deep are your counsels to me, O God! •
How great is the sum of them!
- 18 If I count them, they are more in number than the sand, •
and at the end, I am still in your presence.
- 23 Search me out, O God, and know my heart; •
try me and examine my thoughts.
- 24 See if there is any way of wickedness in me •
and lead me in the way everlasting.

**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
1 Thessalonians 5.9-10

God destined us not for wrath, but obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we wake or sleep, we might live with him.

Thanks be to God

Turn to page 16

The Word of God – Friday

Psalm 139.1-18, 23-24

- 1 O Lord, you have searched me out and known me; •
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 You mark out my journeys and my resting place •
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 For there is not a word on my tongue, •
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
- 4 You encompass me behind and before •
and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, •
so high that I cannot attain it.
- 6 Where can I go then from your spirit? •
Or where can I flee from your presence?
- 7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; •
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
- 8 If I take the wings of the morning •
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- 9 Even there your hand shall lead me, •
your right hand hold me fast.
- 10 If I say, 'Surely the darkness will cover me •
and the light around me turn to night'
- 11 Even darkness is no darkness with you;
the night is as clear as the day; •
darkness and light to you are both alike.
- 12 For you yourself created my inmost parts; •
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

- 5 My soul waits for the Lord,
more than the night watch for the morning, •
more than the night watch for the morning.
- 6 O Israel, wait for the Lord, •
for with the Lord there is mercy;
- 7 With him is plenteous redemption •
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

**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 66.12-14*

Thus says the Lord: as one whom a mother comforts so will I
comfort you; you shall see, and your heart shall rejoice.

Thanks be to God

Turn to page 16

The Word of God – Thursday

Psalms 4 & 134

- 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.

**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.**

- 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.

**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
John 15.16

You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go
and bear fruit, fruit that will last.

Thanks be to God

Turn to page 16