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The Office of Compline

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The Office of Compline is the final service of the day.

The English word *Compline* is derived from the Latin *completorium*, as Compline is the completion of the working day. The word was first used in this sense about the beginning of the 6th century by St. Benedict in his *Rule (Regula Benedicti)*.

Compline tends to be a contemplative Office that emphasizes spiritual peace. In many monasteries it is the custom to begin the “Great Silence” after Compline, during which the whole community, including guests, observes silence throughout the night until the morning service the next day.

Order of Service for Compline

Introit *sung by the choir.*

Then shall the leader welcome the congregation, give details of the music, and announce the hymn.

The congregation sings the hymn.

All standing, the leader shall say:

May the Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

Amen.

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil goeth about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist, steadfast in the faith. *1 Peter 5: 8–9*

But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us;

Thanks be to God.

Our help is in the name of the Lord:

Who hath made heaven and earth.

Then the leader and people kneel:

**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 our sins and deliver us from 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.

All standing, the leader shall say:

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.

Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's Name be praised.

Have mercy upon us, O God, and hearken unto our prayer.

Then shall the choir sing one of the following psalms:

Psalm 4 Cum invocarem

1. Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness: thou hast set me at liberty when I was in trouble; have mercy upon me, and hearken unto my prayer.
2. O ye sons of men, how long will ye blaspheme mine honour: and have such pleasure in vanity, and seek after leasing?
3. Know this also, that the Lord hath chosen to himself the man that is godly: when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.
4. Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart, and in your chamber, and be still.
5. Offer the sacrifice of righteousness: and put your trust in the Lord.
6. There be many that say: Who will show us any good?
7. Lord, lift thou up: the light of thy countenance upon us.
8. Thou hast put gladness in my heart: since the time that their corn, and wine, and oil increased.
9. I will lay me down in peace, and take my rest: for it is thou, Lord, only, that makest me dwell in safety.

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.

Have mercy upon us, O God, and hearken unto our prayer.

Psalm 31 *In te, Domine, speravi*

1. In thee, O Lord, have I put my trust : let me never be put to confusion, deliver me in thy righteousness.
2. Bow down thine ear to me: make haste to deliver me.
3. And be thou my strong rock, and house of defence: that thou mayest save me.
4. For thou art my strong rock, and my castle: be thou also my guide, and lead me for thy name's sake.
5. Draw me out of the net, that they have laid privily for me: for thou art my strength.
6. Into thy hands I commend my spirit: for thou hast redeemed me, O Lord, thou God of truth.

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.

Have mercy upon us, O God, and hearken unto our prayer.

Psalm 91 *Qui habitat*

1. Whoso dwelleth under the defence of the Most High: shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
2. I will say unto the Lord, Thou art my hope, and my stronghold: my God, in him will I trust
3. For he shall deliver thee from the snare of the hunter: and from the noisome pestilence.
4. He shall defend thee under his wings, and thou shalt be safe under his feathers: his faithfulness and truth shall be thy shield and buckler.
5. Thou shalt not be afraid for any terror by night: nor for the arrow that flieth by day;
6. For the pestilence that walketh in darkness nor for the sickness that destroyeth in the noonday.
7. A thousand shall fall beside thee, and ten thousand at thy right hand: but it shall not come nigh thee.
8. Yea, with thine eyes shalt thou behold: and see the reward of the ungodly.

9. For thou, Lord, art my hope: thou hast set thine house of defence very high.
10. There shall no evil happen unto thee: neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.
11. For he shall give his angels charge over thee: to keep thee in all thy ways.
12. They shall bear thee in their hands: that thou hurt not thy foot against a stone.
13. Thou shalt go upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou tread under thy feet.
14. Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him up, because he hath known my Name.
15. He shall call upon me, and I will hear him: yea, I am with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and bring him to honour.
16. With long life will I satisfy him: and shew him my salvation.

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.

Have mercy upon us, O God, and hearken unto our prayer.

Psalm 134 *Ecce nunc*

1. Behold now, praise the Lord: all ye servants of the Lord;
 2. Ye that by night stand in the house of the Lord: even in the courts of the house of our God.
 3. Lift up your hands in the sanctuary: and praise the Lord.
 4. The Lord that made heaven and earth: give thee blessing out of Sion.
- 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.

Have mercy upon us, O God, and hearken unto our prayer.

One of the following lessons is read:

THOU, O Lord, art in the midst of us, and we are called by thy Name;
leave us not, O Lord our God.

Jeremiah 14: 9

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. For my yoke is
easy, and my burden is light.

St. Matthew 11: 28-30

NOW the God of peace, who brought again from the dead the great
Shepherd of the sheep with the blood of the eternal covenant, even our
Lord Jesus, make you perfect in every good thing to do his will,
working in us that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus
Christ; to whom be the glory for ever and ever.

Hebrews 13: 20 -21

Thanks be to God.

Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit:

Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

For thou hast redeemed me, O Lord, thou God of truth:

I commend my spirit.

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

Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Keep me as the apple of an eye;

Hide me under the shadow of thy wings.

Or, from Easter to Pentecost:

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

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

For thou hast redeemed me, O Lord, thou God of truth:

Alleluia, alleluia.

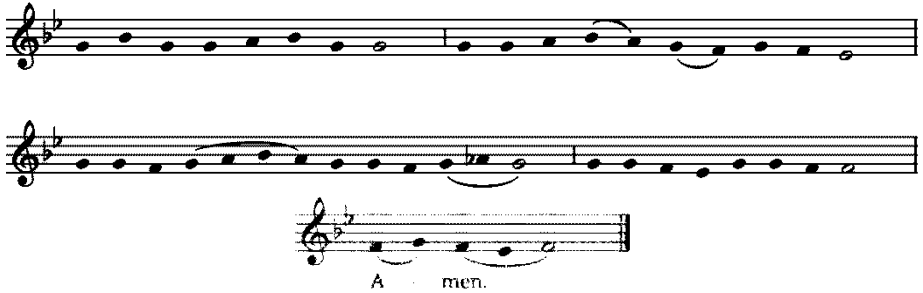
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost:

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

Keep me as the apple of an eye;

Hide me under the shadow of thy wings.

Then shall the choir and congregation sing the hymn together:



Hymn

Te lucis ante terminum

Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world, we pray
That thou, with steadfast love wouldst keep,
Thy watch around us while we sleep.

O let no evil dreams be near,
Nor phantoms of the night appear,
Tread underfoot our deadly foe,
That we no sinful thought may know.

Almighty Father, hear our cry,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord most high;
Who with the Holy Ghost and thee,
Doth live and reign eternally. Amen.

Latin, translated by J. M. Neale 1818-66

Then shall the leader and people say:

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.
(In Eastertide add: **Alleluia**)

Then shall the choir sing the following:

Nunc dimittis

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.

(In Eastertide add: Alleluia)

Then shall be sung or said the Apostles' Creed by the leader and the people, standing, and turning to face the east.

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth:
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, dead, and buried:
He descended into hell;
The third day he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
The holy Catholic Church;
The Communion of Saints;
The Forgiveness of sins;
The Resurrection of the body,
And the Life everlasting. Amen.**

Then shall the leader and people kneel:

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**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, O Lord God of our forebears:

And worthy to be praised and glorified forever.

Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost;

Let us praise him and magnify him forever.

Blessed art thou, O Lord, in the firmament of heaven;

To be praised and glorified for evermore.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin;

O Lord, have mercy upon us.

O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us:

As our trust is in thee.

O Lord, hear our prayer;

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 far 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. **Amen.**

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, who at the hour of Compline didst rest in the sepulchre, and didst thereby sanctify the grave to be a bed of hope to thy people: Make us so to abound in sorrow for our sins, which were the cause of thy passion, that when our bodies lie in the dust, our souls may live with thee; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Sarum Encheiridion

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

Ambrosian

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. **Amen**

Ambrosian

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troublous life, until the shades lengthen, and the evening cometh, and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work done. Then, Lord, in thy mercy, grant us safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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, 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 thee, O Christ.

The Lord be with you:

And with thy spirit.

Let us bless the Lord;

Thanks be to God.

May the Almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, bless, preserve and keep us, this night and for evermore. **Amen.**

Anthem sung by the choir.

There is then a silence for three minutes.

Then shall the leader leave, followed by choir and congregation.