



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

NIGHT PRAYER (Compline) In Brockenhurst Parish

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.

Belonging, Growing, Living in the Light and Life and Love of Jesus.

An Order for Night Prayer (Compline)

Preparation

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

All Amen.

Our help is in the name of the Lord

All who made heaven and earth.

A period of silence for reflection on the past day may follow.

**All 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.

All O Lord, make haste to help us.

**All 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.**

Belonging, Growing, Living in the Light and Life and Love of Jesus.

All 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

Psalmody

One or more of the following psalms may be used.

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.

Belonging, Growing, Living in the Light and Life and Love of Jesus.

- 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.

Belonging, Growing, Living in the Light and Life and Love of Jesus.

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.

At the end of the psalmody, the following is said or sung

All **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 of the following short lessons or another suitable passage is read

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*

Responsory

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
All **Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.
All **I commend my spirit.**

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

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

Gospel Cantic

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

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

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

Belonging, Growing, Living in the Light and Life and Love of Jesus.

Belonging, Growing, Living in the Light and Life and Love of Jesus.

All 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.

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

Prayers

Lord, have mercy upon us.

All Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

Belonging, Growing, Living in the Light and Life and Love of Jesus.

One or more of the following prayers may be said:

Let us pray.

Visit, our homes, O Lord, we pray,
and drive far from them all 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.

All Amen.

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

All Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,
who at this evening hour lay in the tomb
and so hallowed the grave
to be a bed of hope for all those who put their trust in you:
give us such 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 forever.

All Amen.

Belonging, Growing, Living in the Light and Life and Love of Jesus.

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

All 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.

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 rest upon your eternal changelessness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Belonging, Growing, Living in the Light and Life and Love of Jesus.

The Conclusion

In peace we will lie down and sleep;

All for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.

Abide with us, Lord Jesus,

All for the night is at hand and the day is now past.

As the night watch looks for the morning,

All so do we look for you, O Christ.

The Lord bless us and watch over us;
the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us;
the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace.

All Amen.

Belonging, Growing, Living in the Light and Life and Love of Jesus.