All Saints Church, Helmsley.

An Order for Night Prayer
Trinity to Christ the King

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. For this reason there will be silence at the end of the service until all have finished praying.

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.

The following words of penitence may be used

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.

One of the following hymns may be sung

Te Lucis Ante Terminum

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.

Phos Hilaron (translation)

Hail, gladdening light, of his pure glory poured,
Who is the immortal Father, heavenly, blest,
Holiest of holies, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Now we are come to the sun's hour of rest,
The lights of evening round us shine,
We hymn the Father, Son and Holy Spirit divine.

Worthiest art thou at all times to be sung – with undefiled tongue,
Son of our God, giver of life , alone:
Therefore in all the world thy glories, Lord, they own.

The Word of God

Psalmody

One or more of the following psalms may be used.

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 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 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 readings or another suitable passage is read

Isaiah 30:15	Thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.
Matthew 11:28-30	Jesus said, "Come unto me, all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."
1 Thessalonians 5:9-10	God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.

A period of silence to meditate on the scripture reading

The following responsory may be said

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 Canticle

The Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon) is said

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

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

Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.

The Collect

Silence may be kept.

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.
All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer is said.

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;
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.**

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