

# All Saints Church, Helmsley.



## An Order for Night Prayer in Advent

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.**

Be sober; be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist, steadfast in the faith.

But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.  
*All* **Thanks be to God.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord  
*All* **who hath made heaven and earth.**

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

*All* **We confess to God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
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 all our sins and deliver us from all evil,  
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,  
and bring us to life everlasting:  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*A priest may say*

May the almighty and merciful Lord  
Grant unto you pardon and remission of all your sins,  
Time for amendment of life  
And the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit  
*All* **Amen.**

O God, make speed to save us.

*All* **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;

*All* **as it was in the beginning is now  
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Praise ye the Lord,

*All* **The Lord's name be praised.**

*The following or another suitable hymn may be sung.*

Before the ending of the day,  
Creator of the world, we pray  
That with thy wonted favour thou  
Wouldst be our guard and keeper now.

From all ill dreams defend our eyes,  
From nightly fears and fantasies;  
Tread underfoot our ghostly foe,  
That we no pollution we may know.

O Father, that we ask be done,  
Through Jesus Christ, thine only Son;  
Who with the Holy Ghost and thee  
Doth live and reign eternally.

## **The Word of God**

*One of the following psalms may be used.*

### Advent I - Psalm 80 (1-8)

HEAR, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep : shew thyself also,  
thou that sittest upon the cherubims.

2 Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasses : stir up thy strength, and come, and help us.

3 Turn us again, O God : shew the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.

4 O Lord God of hosts : how long wilt thou be angry with thy people that prayeth?

5 Thou feedest them with the bread of tears : and givest them plenteousness of tears to drink.

6 Thou hast made us a very strife unto our neighbours : and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7 Turn us again, thou God of hosts : shew the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.

8 Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt : thou hast cast out the heathen, and planted it.

**All        Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
              as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
              Amen.**

### Advent 2 - Psalm 85

LORD, thou art become gracious unto thy land : thou hast turned away the captivity of Jacob.

2 Thou hast forgiven the offence of thy people : and covered all their sins.

3 Thou hast taken away all thy displeasure : and turned thyself from thy wrathful indignation.

4 Turn us then, O God our Saviour : and let thine anger cease from us.

5 Wilt thou be displeased at us for ever : and wilt thou stretch out thy wrath from one generation to another?

6 Wilt thou not turn again, and quicken us : that thy people may rejoice in thee?

7 Shew us thy mercy, O Lord : and grant us thy salvation.

8 I will hearken what the Lord God will say concerning me : for he shall speak peace unto his people, and to his saints, that they turn not again.

9 For his salvation is nigh them that fear him : that glory may dwell in our land.

10 Mercy and truth are met together : righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

11 Truth shall flourish out of the earth : and righteousness hath looked down from heaven.

12 Yea, the Lord shall shew loving-kindness : and our land shall give her increase.

13 Righteousness shall go before him : and he shall direct his going in the way.

**All**        **Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.**  
**Amen.**

### Advent 3 - Psalm 126

WHEN the Lord turned again the captivity of Sion : then were we like unto them that dream.

2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter : and our tongue with joy.

3 Then said they among the heathen : The Lord hath done great things for them.

4 Yea, the Lord hath done great things for us already : whereof we rejoice.

5 Turn our captivity, O Lord : as the rivers in the south.

6 They that sow in tears : shall reap in joy.

7 He that now goeth on his way weeping, and beareth forth good seed : shall doubtless come again with joy, and bring his sheaves with him.

**All**        **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.**  
**Amen.**

Advent 4 - Psalm 89 (1-4 & 20-27)

MY song shall be always of the loving-kindness of the Lord : with my mouth will I ever be shewing thy truth from one generation to another.

2 For I have said, Mercy shall be set up for ever : thy truth shalt thou stablish in the heavens.

3 I have made a covenant with my chosen : I have sworn unto David my servant;

4 Thy seed will I stablish for ever : and set up thy throne from one generation to another.

20 Thou spakest sometime in visions unto thy saints, and saidst : I have laid help upon one that is mighty; I have exalted one chosen out of the people.

21 I have found David my servant : with my holy oil have I anointed him.

22 My hand shall hold him fast : and my arm shall strengthen him.

23 The enemy shall not be able to do him violence: the son of wickedness shall not hurt him.

24 I will smite down his foes before his face : and plague them that hate him.

25 My truth also and my mercy shall be with him: and in my Name shall his horn be exalted.

26 I will set his dominion also in the sea : and his right hand in the floods.

27 He shall call me, Thou art my Father : my God, and my strong salvation.

**All            Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
                  as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
                  Amen.**

## Scripture Reading

*One of the following lessons is read.*

Advent 1 – Luke, chapter 21 verses 25 to 36.

Advent 2 – Isaiah, chapter 40 verses 1 to 11.

Advent 3 – John, chapter 1 verses 6 to 8 and 19 to 29.

Advent 4 – Luke, chapter 1 verses 39 to 45.

## Responsory

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

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

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

*All* **I commend my spirit.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit.

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

Keep me as the apple of an eye.

*All* **Hide me under the shadow of thy wings.**

## Nunc dimittis

*All* **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.**

1 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace : according to thy word.

2 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation :  
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

3 To be a light to lighten the Gentiles : and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

*Luke 2.29-32*

**All**      **Glory be 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**      **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.**

### **Advent Prose**

**All**      **Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour forth  
righteousness: let the earth be fruitful, and bring forth a Saviour.**

Be not very angry, O Lord, neither remember our iniquity for ever:  
thy holy cities are a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation:  
our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee.

**All**      **Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour forth  
righteousness: let the earth be fruitful, and bring forth a Saviour.**

We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing,  
and we all do fade as a leaf:  
our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away;  
thou hast hid thy face from us:  
and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.

**All**      **Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour forth  
righteousness: let the earth be fruitful, and bring forth a Saviour.**

Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen;  
that ye may know me and believe me:  
I, even I, am the Lord, and beside me there is no Saviour:  
and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.

**All**      **Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour forth  
righteousness: let the earth be fruitful, and bring forth a Saviour.**

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, my salvation shall not tarry:  
I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions:  
fear not for I will save thee:  
for I am the Lord thy god, the holy one of Israel, thy Redeemer.

**All Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour forth  
righteousness: let the earth be fruitful, and bring forth a Saviour.**

## **The Collect**

*One of the following collects may be used.*

### Advent 1

Almighty God, as thy kingdom dawns,  
turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness,  
that we may be ready to meet thee  
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

### Advent 2

Almighty God,  
purify our hearts and minds,  
that when thy Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour,  
we may be ready to receive him,  
who is our Lord and our God.

**Amen.**

### Advent 3

God for whom we watch and wait,  
thou sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of thy Son.  
Give us courage to speak the truth,  
to hunger for justice,  
and to suffer for the cause of right,  
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Advent 4

Eternal God,  
as Mary waited for the birth of thy Son,  
so we wait for his coming in glory.  
Bring us through the birth pangs of this present age,  
to see, with her, our great salvation  
in Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
**Amen.**

*Silence may be kept and intercessions and thanksgivings offered.*

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**

*All* **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.**

## **The Conclusion**

We will lay us down in peace and take our rest.  
*All* **For it is thou, Lord, only that makest us dwell in safety.**  
Abide with us, O Lord,  
*All* **for the night is at hand and the day is far spent.**  
As the watchmen look for the morning,  
*All* **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.**

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.

**Amen.**

Some material included in this service is copyright: © The Archbishops' Council 2000

Nunc dimittis (Save us, O Lord, while waking) © The Crown/Cambridge University Press: The Book of Common Prayer (1662)

Scripture quotations are from *The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible* copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches in the USA. Used by permission. All Rights Reserved