

# An Order for Compline

(from the Book of Common Prayer 1979)

*The Officiant begins*

The Lord Almighty grant us a peaceful night and a perfect end. Amen.

*Officiant* Our help is in the Name of the Lord;  
*People* The maker of heaven and earth.

*The Officiant may then say*

Let us confess our sins to God.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Officiant and People*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father:  
We have sinned against you,  
through our own fault,  
in thought, and word, and deed,  
and in what we have left undone.  
For the sake of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,  
forgive us all our offenses;  
and grant that we may serve you  
in newness of life,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

*The Officiant then says*

                  O God, make speed to save us.  
*People*          O Lord, make haste to help us.

*Officiant and People*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as  
it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

*Except in Lent, add Alleluia.*

**Psalm 91** *Qui habitat*

- 1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High \*  
abides under the shadow of the Almighty.
- 2 He shall say to the LORD,  
"You are my refuge and my stronghold, \*  
my God in whom I put my trust."
- 3 He shall deliver you from the snare of the hunter \*  
and from the deadly pestilence.
- 4 He shall cover you with his pinions,  
and you shall find refuge under his wings; \*  
his faithfulness shall be a 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 plague that stalks in the darkness, \*  
nor of the sickness that lays waste at mid-day.
- 7 A thousand shall fall at your side  
and ten thousand at your right hand, \*  
but it shall not come near you.
- 8 Your eyes only have to behold \*  
to see the reward of the wicked.
- 9 Because you have made the LORD your refuge, \*  
and the Most High your habitation,
- 10 There shall no evil happen to you, \*  
neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.
- 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 the adder; \*  
you shall trample the young lion and the serpent  
under your feet.
- 14 Because he is bound to me in love,  
therefore will I deliver him; \*  
I will protect him, because he knows my Name.
- 15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; \*  
I am with him in trouble;  
I will rescue him and bring him to honor.
- 16 With long life will I satisfy him, \*  
and show him my salvation.

*At the end of the Psalms is sung or said*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

*One of the following, or some other suitable passage of Scripture, is read*

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will  
give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;  
for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for  
your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

*Matthew 11:28-30*

*People* Thanks be to God.

*A hymn suitable for the evening may be sung.*

**O Gracious Light** *Phos hilaron*

O gracious light,  
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,  
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun,  
and our eyes behold the vesper light,  
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,  
O Son of God, O Giver of Life,  
and to be glorified through all the worlds.

*Then follows*

V. Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit;  
R. For you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.  
V. Keep us, O Lord, as the apple of your eye;  
R. Hide us under the shadow of your wings.

Lord, have mercy.  
*Christ, have mercy.*  
Lord, have mercy.

*Officiant and People*

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.

*Officiant*

*People*

*Officiant*

Lord, hear our prayer;  
And let our cry come to you.  
Let us pray.

*The Officiant then says one of the following Collects*

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this life may rest in your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Look down, O Lord, from your heavenly throne, and illumine this night with your celestial brightness; that by night as by day your people may glorify your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. *Amen.*

*The service concludes with the Song of Simeon with this Antiphon, which is sung or said by all*

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

Lord, you now have set your servant free \*  
to go in peace as you have promised;

For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, \*  
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:

A Light to enlighten the nations, \*  
and the glory of your people Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. *Amen.*

*All repeat the Antiphon*

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

*The Officiant concludes*

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

**Salve Regina** *Hail, Holy Queen*

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.*

