

Compline

**St John's Church,
Ranmoor**



In the early church religious communities continued Jewish practices of prayer at principal hours through the day. For these early members of Christian communities the hours of prayer became representative of the work of Christ. Daybreak (Prime) represented The Resurrection, the third hour (Terce) represented the condemnation of Christ, the sixth hour (Sext) portrayed The Crucifixion, and the ninth hour (None) paralleled Christ's death. The night service (which came to be known as Compline) symbolised the light of Christ in the darkness of the world.

Compline, which was likely first permanently placed in the daily offices (the services of prayer throughout the day) by Saint Benedict of Nursia, the father of the Benedictine monastic order, derives its name from '*Completorium*' meaning "Completion" in Latin, and is predominantly a service of quietness and reflection before the rest at the end of the day.

At the end of the service you are encouraged to depart in silence.

Please remain seated

Officiant May the Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.
All **Amen**

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

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

Officiant 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 follows.

Officiant We confess to God almighty
All **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 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.**

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

Please remain seated as the officiant sings the hymn

Hymn

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 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. Amen.

Psalmody

Please remain seated as the officiant sings the psalm

Officiant

*Have mercy upon me, O God
And harken unto my prayer*

In thee, O Lord, have I put my *trust* :
let me never be put to confusion, deliver me *in* thy righteousness.

Bow down thine ear to *me* :
make haste *to* deliver me.

And be thou my strong rock, and house of *defence* :
that thou *mayest* save me.

For thou art my strong rock, and my *castle* :
be thou also my guide, and lead me *for* thy Name's sake.

Draw me out of the net that they have laid privily for *me* :
for *thou* art my strength.

Into thy hands I commend my *spirit* :
for thou hast redeemed me, O *Lord*, thou God of truth.

Psalm 31. 1-6

*Have mercy upon me, O God
And harken unto my prayer.*

Lesson

Please remain seated for the reading

Jesus said '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.'

Matthew 11.28–30

Officiant This is the Word of the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God**

A period of silence is kept.

Please stand for the Gospel Canticle.

The Gospel Canticle

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

Officiant For thou hast redeemed me, O Lord, thou God of truth
All **I commend my spirit.**

Officiant Keep me as the apple of an eye
All **Hide me under the shadow of thy wing.**

The officiant sings:

Officiant 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.

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.

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.

Prayers

Please sit for the prayers

Officiant Lord have mercy upon us
All **Christ have mercy upon us**
Officiant Lord have mercy upon us.

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.**

Officiant Blessed art thou, Lord God of our fathers:
All **to be praised and glorified above all for ever.**

Officiant Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost:
All **Let us praise him and magnify him for ever.**

Officiant Blessed art thou, O Lord, in the firmament of heaven
All **to be praised and glorified above all for ever.**

Officiant The Almighty and most merciful Lord guard us and give us his
blessing.

All **Amen.**

Officiant Let us pray.

A moment of silent prayer follows, concluding with the collects

O Lord Jesus Christ, son of the living God,
who at this evening hour 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,
one God, world without end.

All **Amen**

The Conclusion

Officiant I will lay me down in peace and take my rest.

All **For it is thou, Lord, only that makest us dwell in safety.**

Officiant Abide with us, O Lord,

All **for it is toward evening and the day is far spent.**

Officiant As the night watch looks for the morning,

All **so do we look for thee, O Christ.**

Officiant The Lord be with you

All **and with thy spirit.**

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant May the almighty and most merciful Lord,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost,
bless us and preserve us.

All **Amen.**

The officiant extinguishes the altar candles, and we depart in silence.

