

An Order for Compline

Night Prayer



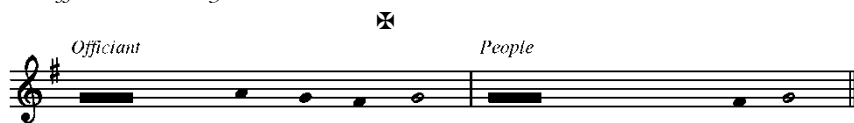
The *Book of Common Prayer* provides in the Daily Office a cycle of daily prayer. Its aim is to hallow time itself as it passes, and to draw the Christian deeper into the life of Christ. We owe the form of the Order of Compline (BCP p. 127) to Saint Benedict of Nursia, the regularizer of western monasticism, who appointed it in the sixth century as the bedtime prayer of monks. Compline focuses on individual thoughts of night, sleep, and death. It is the ideal trusting prayer for a “peaceful night and a perfect end,” for ourselves and for all others, and is a fitting completion of the day’s work and perhaps our life’s.

The Officiant begins

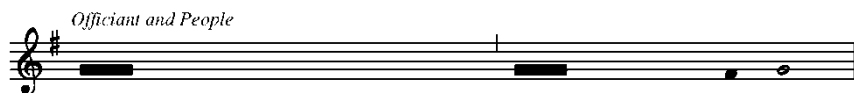


Officiant

The Officiant then says



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



Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spi - rit:



as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. A - men.

Psalms

Psalm 4 Cum invocarem



- 1 *An-swer* me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; *
you set me free when I am hard-pressed;
have mercy on / me and héar my prayer.
- 2 "You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glóry? *
how long will you worship dumb idols
and run / after fálse gods?"
- 3 Know that the Lord does wonders for the fáithful; *
when I call upon the Lord, / he will héar me.
- 4 Tremble, then, and dó not sin; *
speak to your heart in si- / lence upón your bed.
- 5 Offer the appointed sacrifices, *
and put your / trust in thé Lord.
- 6 Many are saying.
"Oh, that we might see bétter times!" *
Lift up the light of your countenance up- / on us, Ó Lord.
- 7 You have put gladness in my héart, *
more than when grain and / wine and óil increase.
- 8 I lie down in peace; at once I fáll asleep; *
for only you, Lord, make me / dwell in sáfety.

Psalm 31 *In te, Domine, speravi*

Tone 8



- 1 *In you*, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me / in your righteousness.
- 2 Incline your ear to me: *
make haste / to deliver me.
- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead / me and guide me.
- 4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me. *
for you / are my tower of strength.
- 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit. *
for you have redeemed me,
O / Lord, O God of truth.



- 1 *He who* dwells in the shelter of the Móst 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 ar- / row 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 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 / 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 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, be- / cause 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.

Psalm 134 *Ecce nunc*



- 1 *Be-hold* now, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lórd, *
you that stand by night in the / house of the Lórd.
- 2 Lift up your hands in the holy place and bléss the Lord; *
the Lord who made heaven and earth bless you / out of Zíon.

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At the end of the Psalms is sung



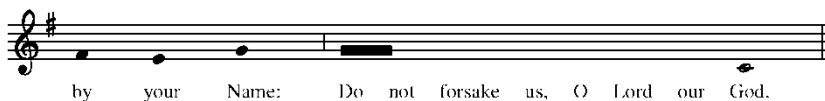
Glory to the F'ather, and to the Són *
and to the / Holy Spírit:

As it was in the beginning, is nów *
and will be for / ever. Amen.

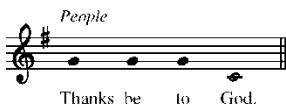
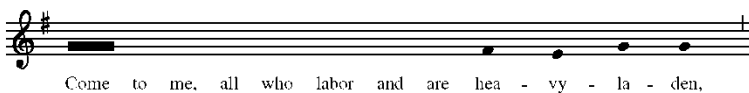
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Scripture

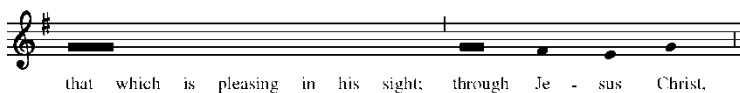
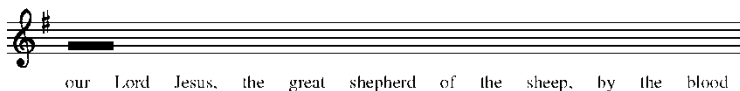
One of the following, or some other suitable passage of Scripture, is read



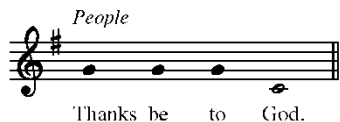
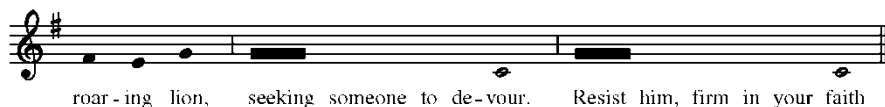
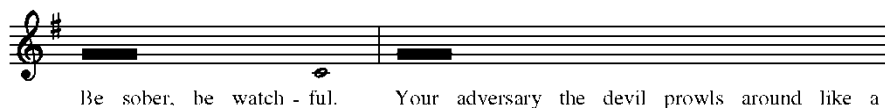
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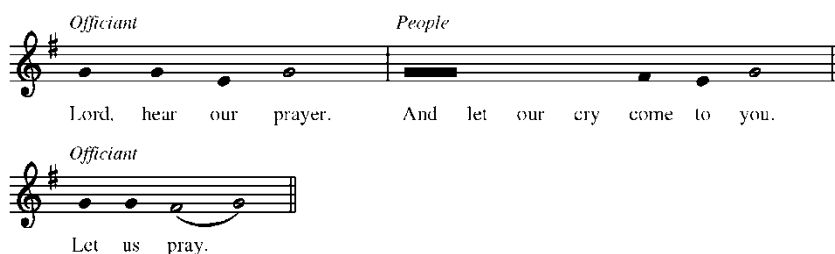
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Commendation and Our Lord's Prayer

Officiant or Cantor

Officiant and People

Our Father, who art in heaven, Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name, hallowed be your Name,
thy kingdom come, your kingdom come,
thy will be done, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven. on earth as in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread. Give us today our daily bread. And
forgive us our trespasses, Forgive us our sins as we forgive those as
we forgive those who trespass against us. who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation, Save us from the time of trial, but
deliver us from evil. and deliver us from evil.



Visit this place, O Lord, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let your blessing be upon us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Collect for Saturdays

We give you thanks, O God, for revealing your Son Jesus Christ to us by the light of his resurrection: Grant that as we sing your glory at the close of this day, our joy may abound in the morning as we celebrate the Paschal mystery; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

One of the following prayers may be added

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.*

or this

O God, your unfailing providence sustains the world we live in and the life we live: Watch over those, both night and day, who work while others sleep, and grant that we may never forget that our common life depends upon each other's toil; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Song of Simeon: Final Night Prayer

Antiphon Mode 3

Guide us wak - ing, O Lord, and guard us sleep-ing;
 that a-wake we may watch with Christ, and a-sleep we may rest in peace.
 1. Lord, you now have set your ser - vant free to go in peace as you
 have prom-ised; 2. For these eyes of mine have seen the Sav - ior,
 whom you have prepared for all the world to see: 3. A Light to en-
 light-en the na - tions, and the glory of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.
 Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spi-rit:
 as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for ev-er. A-men. [Ant.]

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Officiant *People*

Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.
 The almighty and mer-ci - ful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spi-rit,
 bless us and keep us. A - men.

Compline Setting: adapt. David Hurd (b. 1950).
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