

# A FORM OF COMPLINE

*Modified from the Anglican Church in  
North America's Book of Common Prayer 2019*



**HOLY TRINITY**  
ANGELICAN CHURCH

*Proclaim. Exalt. Serve.*

## COMPLINE FOR LENT

Have you thought about doing something special during the season of Lent?

We have a suggestion for you: try praying the brief service of Compline at the close of every day. If you are not familiar with Compline, it is a very brief service (5-10 minutes) consisting of confession, several verses from a psalm, and prayers. Toward the end of the service, time is allotted for freely offered intercessions.

The word, Compline, originally meant “complete” a fitting term, since this service is intended for use when the day is over. You can read Compline every night by yourself, with friends over Zoom, with your spouse if you are married, or if you have children at home, together as a family.

Praying Compline is a great way to give over to Jesus any worries or frustrations from the day because it reminds us that God is sovereign and his loving-kindness endures forever.

## INTRODUCTION

### What is Compline?

Compline is a brief service featuring a series of short petitions (versicles and responses), confession, brief readings from the Psalms and other books of the Old and New Testament and prayers.

A notable feature of Compline is the recitation of four verses from Luke's gospel (2:29-32) which comes near the end of the service. This passage is often referred to as the Song of Simeon. Simeon was a righteous and devout man who had been waiting all his life to see the promised Savior. The evangelist Luke writes that when Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus to the temple for purification, according to the law of Moses, Simeon took Jesus into his arms and gave thanks that his prayer had been answered at long last. Now, he declares, he can die in peace.

The Song of Simeon is a reminder that we will all die one day. Keeping our mortality in mind is a good thing when it serves to promote humility and teaches us to number our days, drawing upon God's wisdom and guidance rather than on our own. At the same time, we who confess Jesus as Lord and Savior also know that we do not live without hope. Through faith in the crucified and risen Jesus, we will be resurrected bodily, as was Jesus, to new and everlasting life. So Compline ends by looking forward to the return of Jesus, when the dead in Christ will be raised, and by asking for God's blessing upon us in the meantime.

## How is Compline conducted?

Simple instructions are offered in italics. When there is more than one person participating in Compline, someone is designated to lead, as the Officiant, and everyone else reads the part of the People. The words for the People are in bold print. The Psalm of the day may be divided by half verse between the Officiant and the People. When, on occasion, the Officiant and People speak together, it is noted in the instructions.

A time for offering intercessions and thanksgivings is set aside before the conclusion of the service, following the Collect of the day. It is appropriate to bring before the Lord in prayer those cares and concerns which linger from the day or are anticipated on the morrow.

*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 continues*

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

*Silence may be kept. The Officiant and People then say*

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*The Officiant alone says:*

May Almighty God grant us forgiveness of all our sins, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*Officiant:* O God, make speed to save us;

*People:* O Lord, make haste to help us.

*Officiant:* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

*People:* As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. **Amen.**

*Except in Lent, add Alleluia.*

*The Psalm of the day is said. Officiant begins with the first half of each verse; the people respond with the second half.*

## **SUNDAY**

### PSALM 3:1-5

1 Lord, how they are increased who trouble me; \*  
many are those who rise against me.

2 Many there are who say of my soul, \*  
“There is no help for him in his God.”

3 But you, O Lord, are my defender; \*  
you are my glory, and the one who lifts up my head.

4 I called upon the Lord with my voice, \*  
and he heard me from his holy hill.

5 I lay down and slept, and rose up again, \*  
for the Lord sustained me.

## **MONDAY**

### PSALM 40: 1-4

1 I waited patiently for the Lord, \*  
and he inclined to me, and heard my call.

2 He brought me out of the horrible pit, out of the mire and clay; \*  
he set my feet upon the rock, and secured my footing.

3 He has put a new song in my mouth, \*  
a song of thanksgiving unto our God.

4 Many shall see and fear, \*  
and shall put their trust in the Lord.

## **TUESDAY**

PSALM 65:5-8

- 5 You shall show us wonderful things in your righteousness, O God of our salvation, \*  
for you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the isles that are far away.
- 6 You in your strength set firm the mountains, \*  
and are girded about with power.
- 7 You still the raging of the seas, \*  
the noise of their waves, and the tumult of the peoples.
- 8 Those who dwell in the uttermost parts of the earth shall be in fear of your wonders; \*  
you make the morning and evening to shout with joy.

## **WEDNESDAY**

PSALM 71: 1-5

- 1 In you, O Lord, have I put my trust; \*  
let me never be put to shame.
- 2 Rescue me and deliver me in your righteousness; \*  
incline your ear to me and save me.
- 3 Be my rock and my refuge, where I may always return; \*  
you have promised to help me, for you are my stronghold and my fortress.
- 4 Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the ungodly, \*  
out of the hand of the unrighteous and the cruel.
- 5 For you, O Lord God, are the one I long for; \*  
you are my hope, even from my youth.

## **THURSDAY**

PSALM 121: 1-4

- 1 I will lift up my eyes unto the hills; \*  
from whence comes my help?
- 2 My help comes from the Lord, \*  
who has made heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved, \*  
and he who keeps you will not sleep.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps Israel \*  
shall neither slumber nor sleep.

## **FRIDAY**

PSALM 139:1-5

- 1 O Lord, you have searched me out and known me; \*  
you know my sitting down and my rising up; you understand  
my thoughts from afar.
- 2 You examine my path and my places of rest, \*  
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 Indeed, there is not a word on my tongue, \*  
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
- 4 You have enclosed me behind and before, \*  
and have laid your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, \*  
so excellent I cannot attain to it.



## **SATURDAY**

PSALM 145: 15-19

15 The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord, \*  
and you give them their food in due season.

16 You open wide your hand, \*  
and fill all things living with plenteousness.

17 The Lord is righteous in all his ways \*  
and merciful in all his works.

18 The Lord is near to all those who call upon him, \*  
to all who call upon him faithfully.

19 He will fulfill the desire of those who fear him; \*  
he also will hear their cry and will help them.

*At the end of the Psalm the Gloria Patri (Glory to the Father...) is 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.**

*A passage of Scripture is read from the selection below.*

## **SUNDAY**

You keep in perfect peace, those whose minds are stayed on you, because they trust in you. Trust in the Lord for ever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock.

ISAIAH 26:3-4

## **MONDAY**

You, O LORD, are in the midst of us, and we are called by your name; do not leave us.

JEREMIAH 14:9

## **TUESDAY**

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

## **WEDNESDAY**

For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ROMANS 8:38-39

## **THURSDAY**

Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

## **FRIDAY**

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith.

1 PETER 5:8-9

## **SATURDAY**

They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

REVELATION 22:4-5

*At the end of the reading is said*

The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

*A period of silence may follow. A suitable hymn may be sung.*

*Officiant:* Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit;

*People:* **For you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.**

*Officiant:* Keep me, O Lord, as the apple of your eye;

*People:* **Hide me under the shadow of your wings.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*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. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

*Officiant:* O Lord, hear our prayer;

*People:* **And let our cry come to you.**

*Officiant:* Let us pray.

*The Officiant then says the following Collect of the day.*

## **SUNDAY**

Look down, O Lord, from your heavenly throne, illumine this night with your celestial brightness, and from the children of light banish the deeds of darkness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **MONDAY**

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.**

## **TUESDAY**

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.**

## **WEDNESDAY**

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.**

## **THURSDAY**

Lighten our darkness, we beseech you, O Lord; and by your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## **FRIDAY**

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for the night approaches and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. **Amen.**

## **SATURDAY**

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.**

*Other intercessions and thanksgivings are offered.*

*The Officiant and People say the Song of Simeon with this Antiphon.*

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

**NUNC DIMITTIS** The Song of Simeon

**Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, \***  
**according to your word.**

**For my eyes have seen your salvation, \***  
**which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples;**

To be a light for revelation to the Gentiles, \*

and to be 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.

LUKE 2:29-32

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 and People conclude with the following:*

*Officiant:* In peace we will lie down and sleep.

*People:* For you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.

*Officiant:* Abide with us, Lord Jesus.

*People:* For the night is at hand and the day is now past.

*Officiant:* As the night watch looks for the morning.

*People:* So do we look for you, O Christ.

*The Officiant alone says:*

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.**