Sung Compline during Lent
Welcome to this service of Sung Compline at Christ Church.

In this season of Lent, we seek to step back from some of the busyness of the year; to simplify both our life and our worship; and to rest in the presence of God. This service of Compline is one of the ways in which we can take that step into stillness and rest, in which God comes to meet us. You are very welcome here this evening as we worship God together, with silence and music, words of Scripture and from the Christian tradition. May God meet you in this holy place and walk with you on this journey of Lent.

The ancient office of Compline derives its name from a Latin word meaning ‘completion’ (*completorium*). It is a service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day; at the end, please leave as quietly as you can, keeping conversations to after you have left the Cathedral.

The italic instructions in this order of service invite you to sit, stand and kneel at various points. These are only invitations. Please feel free to sit throughout if you would prefer. You are invited to join in saying or singing the text in **Bold** type.

Details of our Lenten and Holy Week services may be found on the website and in the monthly service list.
Preparation

Words of welcome may be said. Please stand.

Minister The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

All Amen.

Minister Beloved, 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.

1 Peter 5: 8–9

Minister But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

All Thanks be to God.

Minister Our help is in the name of the Lord

All who hath made heaven and earth.

Please sit or kneel. A period of silence follows, for reflection on the past day.

Minister Let us confess our sins to Almighty God.

All We confess to God almighty, 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.

If a priest is present, the following absolution may be given.

Priest 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.
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 sight,
from fears and terrors of the night;
tread underfoot our ghostly foe,
that no confusion 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.
Psalm 31: 1–6

In te, Domine, speravi

1 In thee, | O Lord, have I put my trust :  
   let me never be put to confusion;  
   deliver me in thy right-eous'ness.

2 Bow down thine ear to me : make haste to de-li-ver^me.

3 And be thou my strong rock, and house of de-fence :  
   that thou may-est save me.

4 For thou art my strong rock, and my cas-tle :  
   be thou also my guide, and lead me for thy Name's sake.

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

6 Into thy hands I commend my spi-rit :  
   for thou hast redeemed me, O Lord, thou God of^truth.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :  
and to the Ho-ly^Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :  

Have mer-cy up-on me, O God : and hear-ken un-to my prayer.
Scripture Reading

This reading or another suitable portion of scripture is read.

Thou, O Lord, art in the midst of us, and we are called by thy name. Leave us not, O Lord our God.

*Jeremiah 14: 9*

All

Thanks be to God.

In-to thy hands, O Lord: I com-mend my spi-rit.

In-to thy hands, O Lord: I com-mend my spi-rit.

For thou hast re-deem-ed me: O Lord, thou God of truth.

I com-mend my spi-rit.

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son: and to the Ho-ly Ghost.

In-to thy hands, O Lord: I com-mend my spi-rit.

Keep me as the apple of an eye.

Hide me under the shadow of thy wings.
Please stand and join in singing the

Nunc Dimittis

Pre-serve us, O Lord while wa-king, and guard us while sleep-ing : that a-

wake we may watch with Christ, and a-sleep we may rest in peace.

1 Lord, now | lettest thou thy ser-vant de-part in peace : according to thy word.

2 For mine | eyes () () have seen : thy sal-va-tion.

3 Which thou | hast pre- () () par-ed : before the face of all peo-ple.

4 To be | a light to light-en the Gen-tiles
and to be the glory of thy peo-ple Is-ra-el.

Luke 2: 29–32

Glo-ry | be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son :
and to the Ho-ly Ghost;
as it | was in the begin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be :

Pre-serve us, O Lord while wa-king, and guard us while sleep-ing : that a-

wake we may watch with Christ, and a-sleep we may rest in peace.
Let us pray:

*Please sit or kneel.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

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

Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost:

let us praise him and magnify him for ever.

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

The Almighty and most merciful Lord guard us and give us his blessing.
Visit, we beseech thee, O Lord, this place,
and drive from it all the snares of the enemy;
let thy holy angels dwell herein to preserve us in peace;
and may thy blessing be upon us evermore;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord:
and by thy great mercy defend us
from all perils and dangers of this night;
for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Look down, O Lord, from thy heavenly throne,
illuminate the darkness of this night
with thy celestial brightness,
and from the sons of light
banish the deeds of darkness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Be present, O merciful God,
and protect us through the silent hours of this night,
so that we who are wearied
by the changes and chances of this fleeting world,
may repose upon thy eternal changelessness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.
The Conclusion

Minister  We will lay us down in peace and take our rest.
All       For it is thou, Lord, only that makest us dwell in safety.

Minister  Abide with us, O Lord,
All       for it is toward evening and the day is far spent.

Minister  As watchmen look for the morning,
All       so do we look for thee, O Christ.

Minister  Come with the dawning of the day
All       and make thyself known in the breaking of the bread.

Minister  The Lord be with you:
All       and with thy spirit.

Minister  Let us bless the Lord.
All       Thanks be to God.

Minister  The almighty and merciful Lord,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost,
bless us and preserve us.
All       Amen.

All depart in silence.

If you would like to use this order of service at home during Lent, you are very welcome to take it away with you after the service.