



**An Order for Compline in the Face of
Covid Transition and Grief**
Come as you are, for God's embrace is wide.

In the face of a world wide pandemic, racialized violence, mass shootings, and a level of social isolation and division never before seen in our lifetimes to this degree, it can be difficult to find a communal space for grief, hurt, and rage in our hurried and noisy world. In the liturgy of compline, God offers us healing grace and an evening's hour to enjoy the power of quiet ... gently touched by candlelight, sacred space and prayer. The Christian tradition holds that we find God in Christ in our hearts, in each other, and in all creation. Through moments of reflection and calm, and the words of Compline, we refresh this tradition.

This spirituality, part of our Anglican /Episcopal heritage, took root in the practice of prayer also known as the daily office in the halls of monasteries and convents the world over. It seems particularly appropriate in this time of tragedy, that we join with the communion of saints, in heaven and on earth, to pray for healing and comfort, literally being re-membered as part of God's creation and renewing thoughtful connection to the natural world and to one another. In Compline, we also seek to receive the help and strength of the Holy Spirit so that we can go out from here, still working to bring the Commonwealth of God, the Beloved Community here on earth, so that someday, such horror never happens again.

As always, we welcome the faithful, the seeker, the doubter, the hopeful, the troubled and the joyful. Come as you are, for God's embrace is wide. With God's help, our gifts become the blessings we seek for the world.

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 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.

Officiant

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

One or more of the following Psalms are sung or said. Other suitable selections may be substituted.

Psalm 31 *In te, Domine, speravi*

- 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.

Psalm 134 *Ecce nunc*

- 1 Behold now, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, *
you that stand by night in the house of the LORD.
- 2 Lift up your hands in the holy place and bless the LORD; *
the LORD who made heaven and earth bless you out of Zion.

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.

This following 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.**

Intercessor Remember us, our families and children, and close friends, that they may be enfolded in in love, comforted in fear, honored in their grief, and kept safe, we pray.

People **Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Intercessor You are the Lord who does wonders:

People **You have declared your power among the peoples.**

Intercessor With you, O Lord, is the well of life:

People **And in your light we see light.**

Intercessor Teach us to be patient with ourselves and each other as we grieve, rage, and seek to find the way forward into the unknowns of our future, as a world, as church, and as individuals. Be with those of us and others who are burned out, weary, anxious, and unsure, so that we may put our trust in you.

People **Heal us, and make us whole.**

Officiant Let us pray.

A period of silence follows.

God our deliverer, gather our horror and pity for the deaths of so many from Covid-19, the deaths of others, even in our own families who could not be mourned and buried as we wanted to during the year of lockdown; the deaths of those from state sanctioned violence, and the deaths of those who were victims of random mass violence, so that we may know that all

these we grieve are brought by you into the compass of your wisdom and strength, that through the night we may seek and do what is right, and when morning comes trust ourselves to your cleansing mercy and new life; through Christ our Savior. Amen.

Holy God, we lift into the light of your justice those who knowingly placed others at risk in this pandemic, by action and inaction, falsehoods and confusion, as well as non-compliance with the findings of scientists and physicians who continue to work to stop the virus. Where our hearts are stone return to us hearts of flesh; that grief and bitterness may not swallow us up, but new life and forgiveness find us through Jesus the crucified, with whom we are raised by your power. Amen.

Blessed One, you give us life and breath, and all of us return to you. Touch this country where life has been lost needlessly and blood has been shed in hate, with the cleansing of your Presence.

Where there is grief,
Bring your comfort,
Where there is horror,
Bring your calming hand.
Where there is desecration,
Breathe your sanctifying Spirit.
Strengthen us to reclaim our thoughts, words, and emotions
As your sacred ground,
Our home in which you dwell with us.
Amen.

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

The Officiant then says one or more of the following Collects

Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in 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.*

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

Eternal God, your mercy is without end, and your steadfast love never ceases: Accept our prayers for all those we've lost and receive them into the land of light and joy, into the company of your saints; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

This prayer 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.*

Silence may be kept, and free intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered.

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. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**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. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Officiant concludes

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