

Compline



Introduction

The ancient office of Compline derives its name from a Latin word meaning ‘completion’ (completorium). It is above all a service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day. It is most effective when the ending is indeed an ending, without additions, conversation or noise. If there is an address, or business to be done, it should come first. If the service is in church, those present depart in silence; if at home, they go quietly to bed.

Structure Preparation

The minister **asks a blessing** on the life of all God’s holy people. Authorized **Prayers of Penitence** may be used. A **hymn** may be sung.

The Word of God

This includes

- ¶ **psalmody**
- ¶ a **short reading from Holy Scripture**
- ¶ a **responsory**, committing oneself into the hands of God
- ¶ the **Gospel Canticle: Nunc dimittis**

Prayers

Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered.
The Collect is said.
The Lord’s Prayer may be said.

The Conclusion

The service concludes with

- ¶ a calling on God for protection through the coming night
- ¶ a simple blessing

¶ **Notes**

1. Daily, Seasonal and Other Variations

The Order for Night Prayer that follows may be used on any day throughout the year. Alternatively, the psalm, Scripture reading and Collect may be varied daily; and the hymn, the Scripture reading, the refrain to the Gospel Canticle, the Collect and the blessing may change seasonally and on Holy Days.

2. Gospel Reading

On suitable occasions, particularly Saturday night and before other festivals, the Gospel for the following day may be read before Night Prayer or in place of the set reading.

3. Thanksgiving

Reflection on the past day may lead into thanksgiving in addition to penitence. In such case one of the Prayers of Thanksgiving from the seasonal forms of Morning and Evening Prayer or the Prayer of Thanksgiving in Evening Prayer on Sunday in Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England may be used.

4. Penitence

When the confession is used, it may be replaced by another act of penitence. However, all that precedes ‘O God, make speed to save us’ may be omitted; this is particularly appropriate if Holy Communion has been celebrated in the evening.

5. Conclusion

The response in square brackets [] is normally used only if Holy Communion is to be celebrated the following morning.

Preparation

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

All Amen.

Our help is in the name of the Lord

All who made heaven and earth.

A period of silence for reflection on the past day may follow.

All Most merciful God,

we confess to you,

before the whole company of heaven and one another,

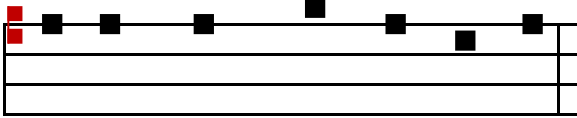
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed

and in what we have failed to do.

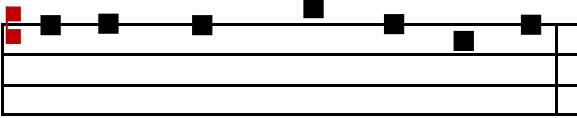
Forgive us our sins,

heal us by your Spirit

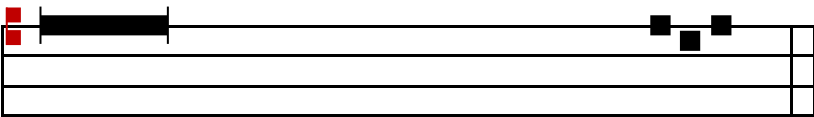
and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.



O God. Make speed to save us.

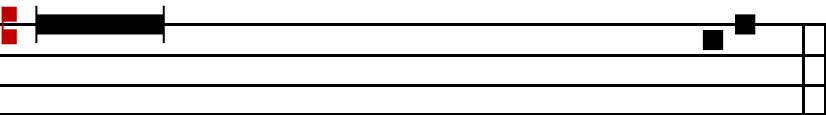


All O Lord, make haste to help us



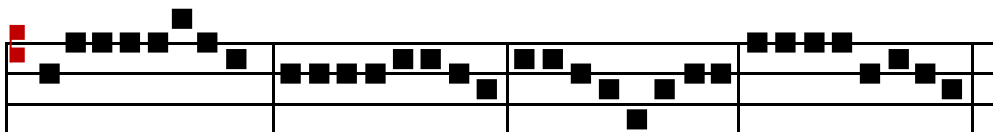
Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy'

Spirit;



All as it was in the beginning is now
and ever shall be, world without end . Amen.

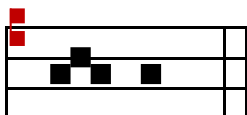
The following or another suitable hymn may be sung



Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world, we pray
That you, with steadfast love, would keep
Your watch around us while we sleep.

From evil dreams defend our sight,
From fears and terrors of the night;
Tread underfoot our deadly foe
That we no sinful thought may know.

O Father, that we ask be done
Through Jesus Christ, your only Son;
And Holy Spirit, by whose breath
Our souls are raised to life from death.



Am' en.

The Word of God
Psalmody

One or more of the following psalms may be used.

Psalm 4

1. Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness; ♦
you set me at liberty when I was in trouble;
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
2. How long will you nobles dishonour my glory; ♦
how long will you love vain things and seek after falsehood?

3. But know that the Lord has shown me his marvellous kindness; ♦
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.
4. Stand in awe, and sin not; ♦
commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.
5. Offer the sacrifices of righteousness ♦
and put your trust in the Lord.
6. There are many that say, ‘Who will show us any good?’ ♦
Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon us.
7. You have put gladness in my heart, ♦
more than when their corn and wine and oil increase.
8. In peace I will lie down and sleep, ♦
for it is you Lord, only, who make me dwell in safety.

Psalm 91

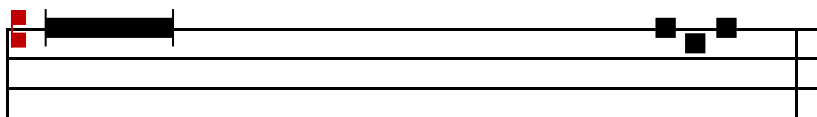
1. Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High ♦
and abides under the shadow of the Almighty,
2. Shall say to the Lord, ‘My refuge and my stronghold, ♦
my God, in whom I put my trust.’
3. For he shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler ♦
and from the deadly pestilence.
4. He shall cover you with his wings
and you shall be safe under his feathers; ♦
his faithfulness shall be your shield and buckler.
5. You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, ♦
nor of the arrow that flies by day;
6. Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, ♦
nor of the sickness that destroys at noonday.
7. Though a thousand fall at your side
and ten thousand at your right hand, ♦
yet 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 stronghold,

10. There shall no evil happen to you, ♦
neither shall any plague come near your tent.
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; ♦
the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.
14. Because they have set their love upon me,
therefore will I deliver them; ♦
I will lift them up, because they know my name.
15. They will call upon me and I will answer them; ♦
I am with them in trouble,
I will deliver them and bring them to honour.
16. With long life will I satisfy them ♦
and show them my salvation.

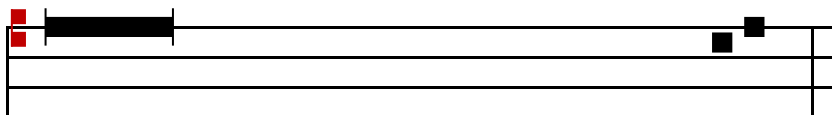
Psalm 134

1. Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, ♦
you that by night stand in the house of the Lord.
2. Lift up your hands towards the sanctuary ♦
and bless the Lord.
3. The Lord who made heaven and earth ♦
give you blessing out of Zion.

Each psalm or group of psalms ends with.



Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy' Spirit;



All as it was in the beginning is now
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Scripture Reading

The reading for the day or

One of the following short lessons or another suitable passage is read

You, O Lord, are in the midst of us
and we are called by your name;
leave us not, O Lord our God.

Jeremiah 14.9

(Or)

Be sober, be vigilant,
because your adversary the devil is prowling round
like a roaring lion, seeking for someone to devour.
Resist him, strong in the faith.

1 Peter 5.8,9

(Or)

The servants of the Lamb shall see the face of God,
whose name will be on their foreheads.
There will be no more night: they will not need
the light of a lamp or the light of the sun,
for God will be their light,
and they will reign for ever and ever.

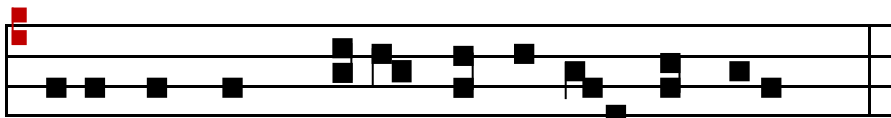
Revelation 22.4,5

Silence may be kept.

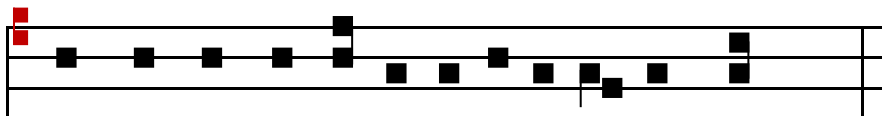
A reflection may be given

Silence may be kept.

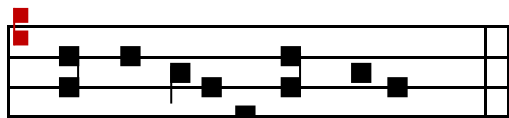
The following responsory may be said or sung



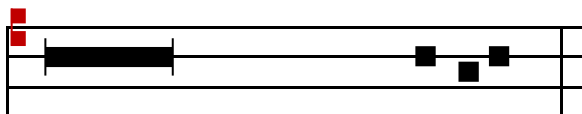
All Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.



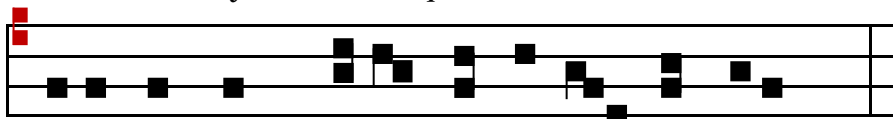
For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.



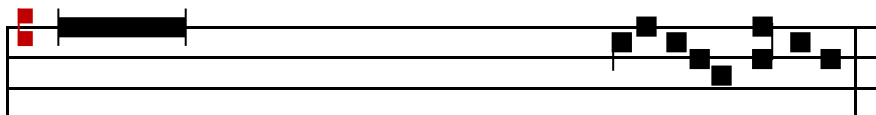
All I commend my spirit.



Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;



All Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

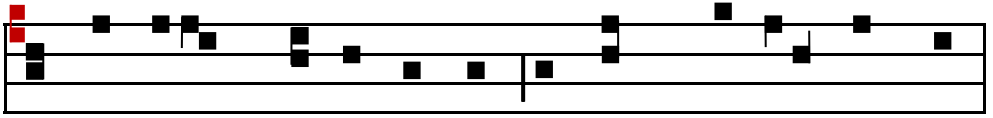


Keep me as the apple of your eye_____.

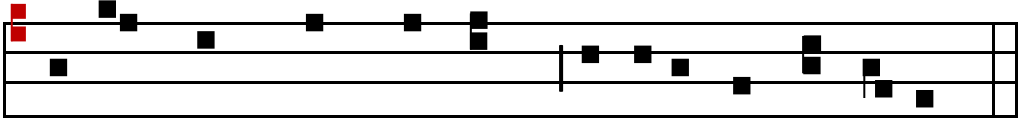
All Hide me under the shadow of your wings_____.

Gospel Canticle

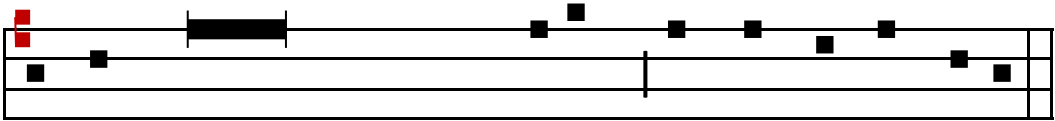
The Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon) is said or sung



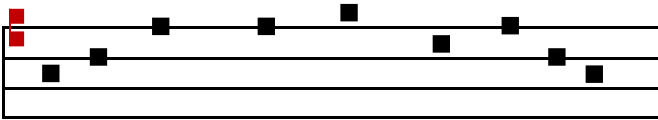
All Save us, O Lord, whilst waking, and guard us while sleeping,



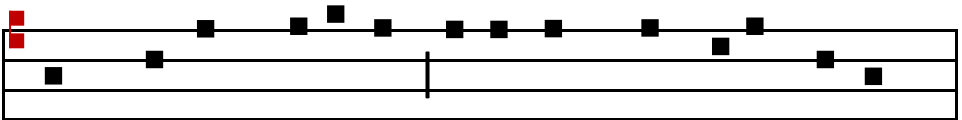
that a wake we may watch with Christ: and asleep may rest in peace.



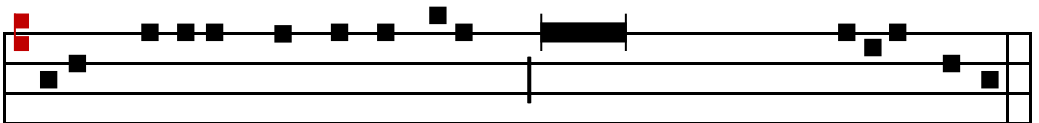
Now, Lord, you let your servant' go in peace: your word has been fulfilled.



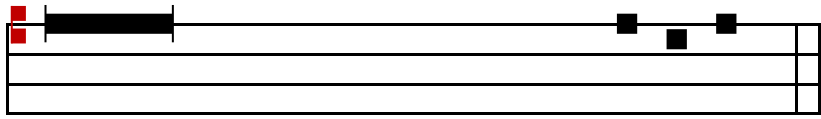
My own eyes have seen the salvation



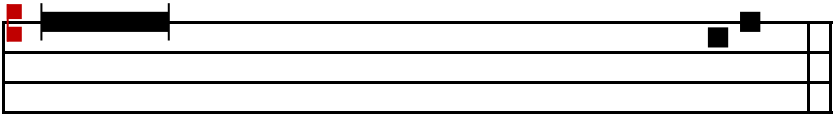
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;



A light to reveal you to the nations—and the glory of your people Israel.

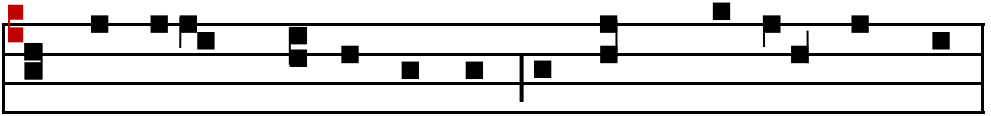


Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;

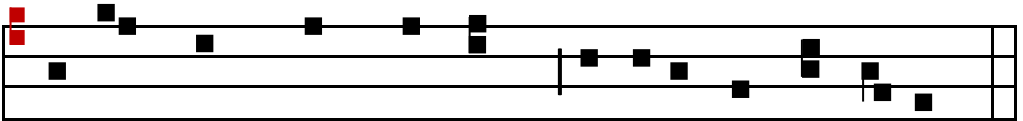


All

as it was in the beginning is now
and ever shall be, world without end . Amen.



Save us, O Lord, whilst waking, and guard us while sleeping,



that a wake we may watch with Christ: and asleep may rest in peace.

Prayers

Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.

Silence may be kept.

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray,
and drive far from it the snares of the enemy;
may your holy angels dwell with us and guard us in peace,
and may your blessing be always upon us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer may be said.

All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
in earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

Silence may be kept.

The Conclusion

In peace we will lie down and sleep;
All for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.
Abide with us, Lord Jesus,
All for the night is at hand and the day is now past.
As the night watch looks for the morning,
All so do we look for you, O Christ.

[Come with the dawning of the day
All and make yourself known in the breaking of the bread.]

The Lord bless us and watch over us;
All the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us;
the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace.
All Amen.

Lower Wensleydale

Common Worship, extracts from which are reproduced in this setting,
is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000.

Music based on traditional settings.

Formatting & Layout (inc. musical layout) © 2019 RDC Lawton

Cover Photograph © 2007 RDC Lawton - From the chapel at Glasshampton Monastery (SSF)

For parish use only, not for sale.