

Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich St John the Baptist, Needham Market

Compline

A Note: We have left the words in normal and in bold print in case anybody would like to read Compline with friends or family, perhaps over the telephone. In this case, one person may take the role of 'leader'. If you are praying on your own, of course, please use all the liturgy as you wish.

Although we have kept the text as though several are praying this together, remember that as a church family, we will all be praying Compline in unison, albeit in separate locations. Therefore, the plural is absolutely appropriate!

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

Our help is in the name of the Lord
Who made heaven and earth.

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

Words of Penitence

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

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
And to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning is now
And shall be for ever. Amen.**

A Hymn (The tune may be found on youtube if needed, or it may be said!)

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.

Psalm 139:1-18

Search me out, O God, and know my heart.

You have searched me, Lord,
and you know me.
You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.
You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.
Before a word is on my tongue
you, Lord, know it completely.
You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.
Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.
If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me
and the light become night around me,"
even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you.
For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.
My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be.
How precious to me are your thoughts, God!
How vast is the sum of them!
Were I to count them,
they would outnumber the grains of sand—
when I awake, I am still with you.

Search me out, O God, and know my heart.

Creator God,
May every breath we take be for your glory,
May every footstep show you as our way,
That, trusting in your presence in this world,
We may, beyond this life, still be with you
Where you are alive and reign for ever and ever.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
And to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning is now
And shall be for ever. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

*A Short Period of Reflection
The Responory*

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.
I commend my spirit.
Glory to the Father and to the Son
And to the Holy Spirit.
Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Keep me as the apple of your eye.
Hide me under the shadow of your wings.

*Gospel Canticle
The Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)*

**Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the tree,
That we might die to sin and live to righteousness.**

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;
As it was in the beginning is now
And shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the tree,
That we might die to sin and live to righteousness.**

A Time for Private Prayers

The Collect

Almighty God,
As we stand at the foot of the cross of your Son,
Help us to see and know your love for us,
So that in humility, love and joy
We may place at his feet
All that we have and all that we are;
Through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on 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.**

The Conclusion

In peace we will lie down and sleep;
For you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.
Abide with us, Lord Jesus,
For the night is at hand and the day is now past.
As the night watch looks for the morning,
So do we look for you, O Christ.
Come with the dawning of the day
And make yourself known in the breaking of the bread.

May God bless us,
That in us may be found love and humility,
Obedience and thanksgiving,
Discipline, gentleness and peace.
Amen.