

An Order for Compline Sept 8

Introduction to Compline:

"The offering of prayer late in the evening, by laity, religious orders or clergy, often called Compline, has sometimes been described as the 'goodnight prayer of the Church'. It rounds off the day and prepares us for a quiet night. As the psalmist wrote:

I lie down in peace and take rest my rest
for it is in God alone that I dwell unafraid.

Night Prayer derives its content from the wisdom of the centuries in Scripture and above all in the psalms, but also from contemporary Christian experience of God. It celebrates the awareness that each of us who tries to pray is a part of the human whole. So we are taken over the threshold from daytime, not in a mood of self-centered spirituality, but as representatives of humanity, acknowledging our creaturehood before God." (Anglican Church of New Zealand, Night Prayer, p 167)

(Directions for Compline over ZOOM: As we are worshipping together over Zoom, I ask that participants stay muted until asked to unmute. A representative of the group will read the congregational responses, and another will assist with the readings.)

Compline for the Climate: *Pray*

September 8, 2021

God grant us a peaceful night and a perfect end. **Amen.** (ANZPB, Night Prayer, pp 167-186)

The angels of God guard us through the night,
and quiet the powers of darkness.

The Spirit of God be our guide
to lead us to peace and to glory.

It is but lost labor that we haste to rise up early,
and so late take rest, and eat the bread of anxiety.
For those beloved of God are given gifts even while they sleep.

Silence

My siblings in Christ,
our help is in the name of the eternal God,
who is making the heavens and the earth.

Dear God,
thank you for all that is good,
for our creation and for our humanity,
for the stewardship you have given us of this planet earth,
for the gifts of life and of one another,
for your love which is unbounded and eternal.

O thou, most holy and beloved,
our Companion, our Guide upon the way,
our bright evening star.

We repent the wrongs we have done:

We have wounded your love.
O God, heal us.

We stumble in the darkness.
Light of the world transfigure us.

We forget that we are your home.
Spirit of God, dwell in us.

Eternal Spirit, living God,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
all that we are, have been, and shall be is known to you,
to the very secret of our hearts
and all that rises to trouble us.
Living flame burn into us,
cleansing wind, blow through us,
fountain of water, well up within us,
that we may love and praise in deed and in truth.

Invocation

Eternal Spirit, flow through our being and open our lips,
that our mouths may proclaim your praise.
Let us worship the God of love.
Alleluia, alleluia.

First Reading: by Fyodor Mikhail Dostoyevsky

Love all God's creation, the whole of it and every grain of sand. Love every leaf, every ray of God's light! Love the animals, love the plants, love everything. If you love everything, you will perceive the divine mystery in things. And once you have perceived it, you will begin to comprehend it ceaselessly, more and more every day. And you will at last come to love the whole world with an abiding, universal love. Love the animals: God has given them the rudiments of thought and untroubled joy. Do not, therefore trouble [them], do not deprive them of their joy, do not go against God's intent.

Psalm or Canticle: Song of Solomon 2:9-14 (*read responsively as indicated*)

My beloved speaks and says to me:

**'Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away;**

for now the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.

**The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,**

and the voice of the turtle-dove
is heard in our land.

**The fig tree puts forth its figs,
and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.**

Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away.

**O my dove, in the clefts of the rock,
in the covert of the cliff,**

let me see your face,
let me hear your voice;

**for your voice is sweet,
and your face is lovely.**

Second Reading: by Mary Oliver

Egrets *published in American Primitive (1983)*

Where the path closed
down and over,
through the scumbled leaves,
fallen branches,
through the knotted catbrier,
I kept going. Finally,
I could not save my arms from the thorns; soon
the mosquitoes
smelled me, hot
and wounded, and came
wheeling and whining.
And that's how I came
to the edge of the pond:
black and empty
except for a spindle
of bleached reeds
at the far shore
which, as I looked,
wrinkled suddenly
into three egrets -

a shower
of white fire!
Even half asleep they had
such faith in the world
that had made them –
tilting through the water,
unruffled, sure,
by the laws
of their faith not logic,
they opened their wings
softly and stepped
over every dark thing.

Reflection: Pray

The Prayers

(BCP 1979)

Into your hands, O God, I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O God of truth and love.

Keep me, O God, as the apple of an eye;
hide me 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/more of the following Collects/Prayers

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.*

The following 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.

A Prayer for Night

(ANZPB)

Lord,
it is night.

The night is for stillness.
Let us be still in the presence of God.

It is night after a long day.
What has been done has been done;
what has not been done has not been done;
let it be.

The night is dark.
Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives
rest in you.

The night is quiet.
Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,
all dear to us,
and all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn.
Let us look expectantly to a new day,
new joys,
new possibilities.

In your name we pray.

Amen.

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Officiant concludes

The almighty and merciful God: Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit,
bless us and keep us. **Amen.**