



CHORAL COMPLINE

DURING

HOLY WEEK 2022

A Brief History of Compline

In the early Church, monastic desert communities continued the Jewish practice of prayer at principal hours of the day. For these early monks, the hours of prayer became commemorative of the work of Christ. Daybreak equalled the resurrection, the third hour represented the descent of the Holy Spirit or condemnation of Christ, the sixth hour portrayed the crucifixion, the ninth hour paralleled the death of Christ, and the evening service symbolised the light of Christ in the darkness of the world.

Each of these services later had a Latin name often related to the time of day. Matins ('morning') is the first service of the day, was prayed between midnight and 3am; Lauds the next service, came between 3am and daybreak; Prime, the first hour of the daylight at 6am; Terce at the third hour of daylight at 9am; Sext at the sixth hour or noon; and None at the ninth hour or 3pm. The last of the daily services or 'offices' came to be known as Compline, taken from the Latin word 'completorium' meaning 'completion of the day'. Benedict of Nursia (c. 480–550 A.D.), often called the 'Father of Western monasticism', was probably the first to give a permanent place in the daily office to Compline, as the last office in the evening before retiring to rest. Late in the Middle Ages, Vespers (the preceding office also known as Evening Prayer or Evensong) moved to earlier in the day, and Compline was often said in the Church.

Today Compline is a popular service which enables us to be still in the presence of God at the end of the day. The music and the silence calm the spirits and bring comfort and peace to troubled hearts.

Other details about the music

On Monday, the Introit is *O nata lux* by Thomas Tallis.

On Tuesday, the Introit is *Hail, gladdening light* by Charles Wood.

On Monday, the Motet is *O vos omnes* by Philip Moore.

On Tuesday, the Motet is *Ne irascaris* by William Byrd.

Introit

Preparation

Please stand.

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

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

All But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.
Thanks be to God.

All Our help is in the name of the Lord
who hath made heaven and earth.

As we come to the end of the day,
let us bring to mind our shortcomings and sinfulness.

A period of silence for reflection follows.

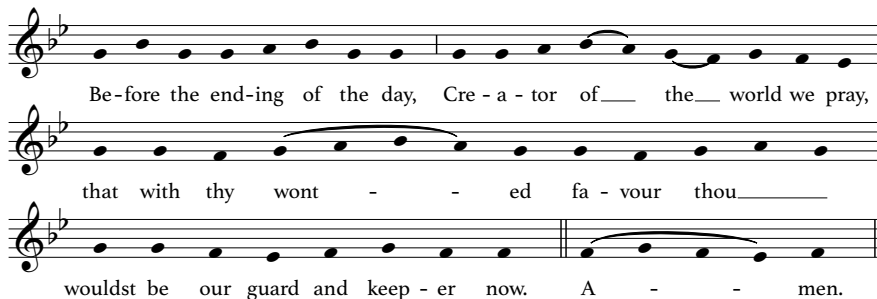
All **We confess to God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost,
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed,
through our own grievous fault.
Wherefore we pray God to have mercy upon us.**

**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.**

All 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.
Amen.



Hymn



From all ill dreams defend our eyes,
From nightly fears and fantasies;
Tread underfoot our ghostly foe,
That no pollution 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.

On Monday, the HYMN is sung to a choral setting by Thomas Tallis.

Te lucis ante terminum
rerum Creator poscimus:
ut solita clementia
sis praesul et custodia.

Procul recedant somnia
et noctium phantasmata;
hostemque nostrum comprime
ne polluantur corpora.

Praesta, Pater omnipotens,
per Jesum Christum Dominum
qui tecum in perpetuum
regnat cum Sancto Spiritu. Amen.

The Word of God

Psalmody

Antiphon



Have mer - cy † up-on me, O God, and heark-en un-to my prayer.

Please sit.

Psalm 4 *Cum invocarem*



- 1 Hear me when I call, O God of my *righ*-teous^{ness} :
thou hast set me at liberty when I was in trouble;
have mercy upon me, and hearken un-to my prayer.
- 2 O ye sons of men, how long will ye blaspheme mine *hon*-our :
and have such pleasure in vanity, and seek af-ter leasing?
- 3 Know this also,
that the Lord hath chosen to himself the man that is *god*-ly :
when I call upon the Lord, he *will* hear me.
- 4 Stand in awe, and *sin* not :
commune with your own heart, and in your cham-ber, and be still.
- 5 Offer the sacrifice of *righ*-teous^{ness} :
and put your *trust* in the Lord.
- 6 There be many that *say* :
Who will shew *us* a^{ny} good?
- 7 Lord, lift thou *up* :
the light of thy countenance *up*-on us.
- 8 Thou hast put gladness in my *heart* :
since the time that their corn, and wine, and oil *in*-creas-ed.
- 9 I will lay me down in peace, and take my *rest* :
for it is thou, Lord, only, that makest me dwell *in* safe-ty.

The Antiphon is repeated.

The Lesson

Please sit.

One of the following short lessons or another suitable passage 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

(or)

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Matthew 11.28–30

(or)

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

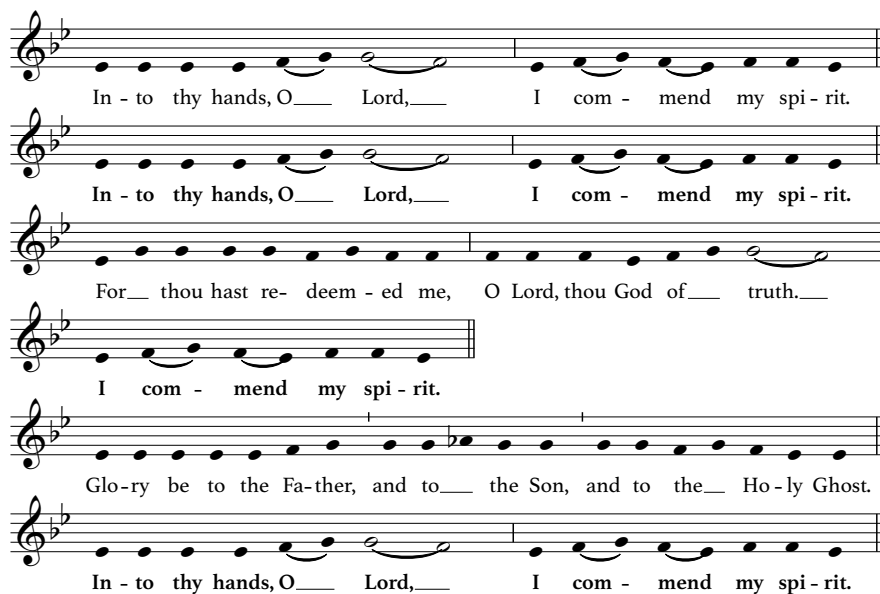
Hebrews 13.20,21

All This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

A period of silence is kept.

Please stand.

Responsory



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.

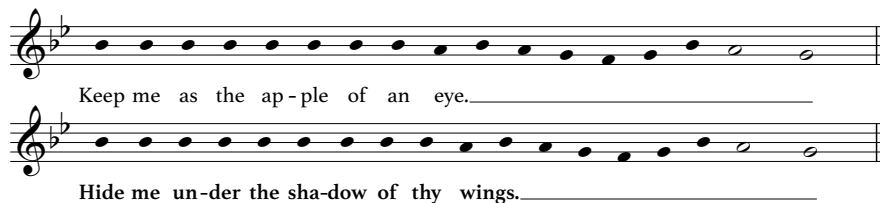
In - to thy hands, O Lord, I com - mend my spi - rit.

On Monday, the RESPONSORY is sung to a choral setting by Thomas Tallis.

In manus tuas, Domine, commendo spiritum meum.
Redemisti me Domine, Deus veritatis.

*Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
For thou hast redeemed me, O Lord, thou God of truth.*

Words Psalm 31 ♦ Music Thomas Tallis



Keep me as the ap - ple of an eye.

Hide me un - der the sha - dow of thy wings.

Gospel Canticle ♦ Nunc dimittis

Antiphon

Pre serve us, † O Lord, while wak-ing. 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

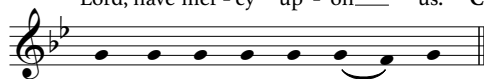
The Antiphon PRESERVE US is repeated.

On Tuesday, the NUNC DIMITTIS is sung to a choral setting by Gustav Holst.

Prayers



Lord, have mer - cy up - on___ us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on___ us.



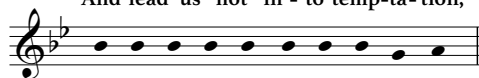
Lord, have mer - cy up - on___ us.



Our Fa - ther,
which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.



And lead us not in - to temp-ta - tion;



but de - liv - er us from e - vil. A - men.



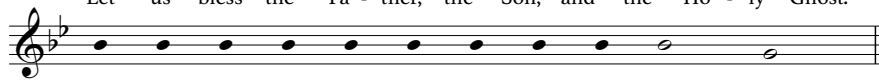
Bles - sed art thou, Lord God of our fa - thers:



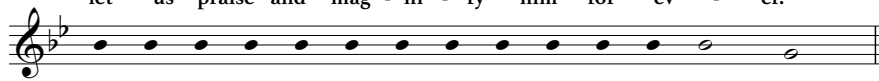
to be praised and glo - ri - fied a - bove all for ev - er.



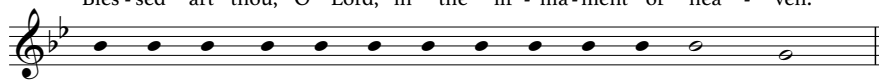
Let us bless the Fa - ther, the Son, and the Ho - ly Ghost:



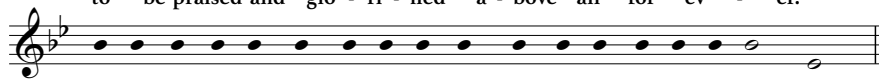
let us praise and mag - ni - fy him for ev - er.



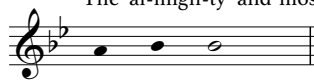
Bles - sed art thou, O Lord, in the fir - ma - ment of hea - ven:



to be praised and glo - ri - fied a - bove all for ev - er.



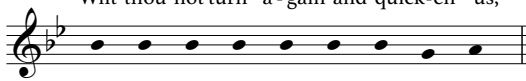
The al-migh - ty and most mer - ci - ful Lord guard us and give us his bles - sing.



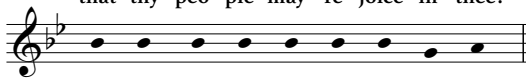
A - men.



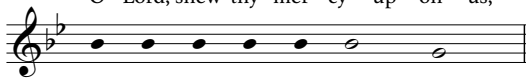
Wilt thou not turn a - gain and quick - en us;



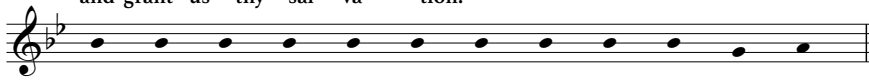
that thy peo - ple may re - joice in thee?



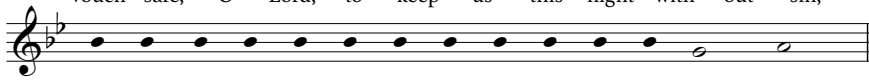
O Lord, shew thy mer - cy up - on us;



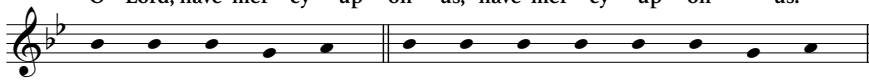
and grant us thy sal - va - tion.



Vouch - safe, O Lord, to keep us this night with - out sin;



O Lord, have mer - cy - up - on us, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Lord, hear our prayer; And let our cry come un - to thee.



Let us pray.

These Collects are sung or said:

O Lord Jesus Christ, son of the living God,
 who at this evening hour didst rest in the sepulchre,
 and didst thereby sanctify the grave
 to be a bed of hope to thy people:
 make us so to abound in sorrow for our sins,
 which were the cause of thy passion,
 that when our bodies lie in the dust,
 our souls may live with thee;
 who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost,
 one God, world without end.

All **Amen.**

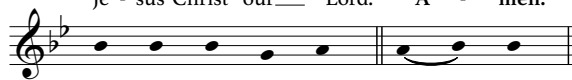
Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord;
 and by thy great mercy defend us
 from all perils and dangers of this night;
 for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

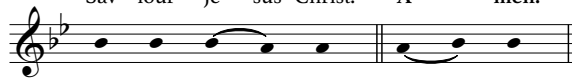
The Collects are inflected thus:



Je - sus Christ our Lord. A - men.



Sav - iour Je - sus Christ. A - men.



world with - out end. A - men.

Motet

Address

The Archbishop of York

The Conclusion

In pace, in idipsum dormiam et requiescam.
Si dederò somnum oculis meis,
et palpebris meis dormitationem,
dormiam et requiescam.

*In peace, in the same, I shall sleep and take my rest.
If I suffer my eyes to sleep
and my eyelids to slumber,
I shall sleep and take my rest.*

Music John Sheppard

On Tuesday, ABENDLIED by Josef Rhienberger is sung instead of IN PACE.



The Lord be with you. And with thy spi - rit.
Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.

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

All **Amen.**

The anthem AVE REGINA COELORUM is sung:

*on Monday, the setting is by Tomás Luis da Victoria;
on Tuesday, the setting is by Josef Rheinberger.*