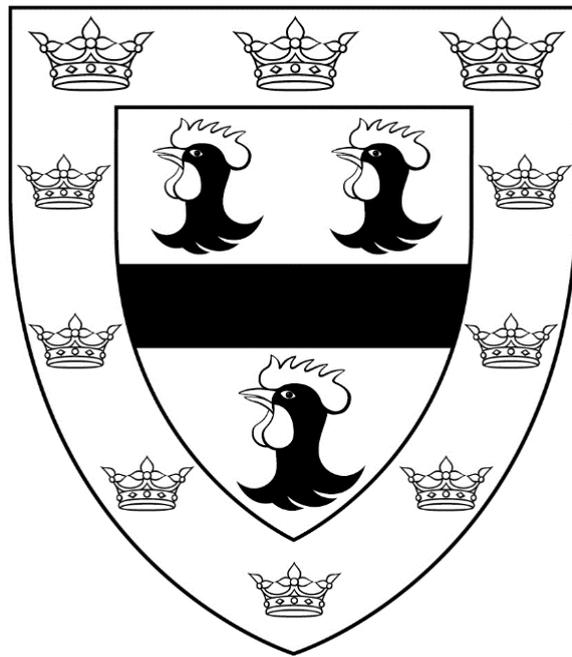


JESUS COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE



Sung Compline
(Night Prayer)

The ancient office of Compline derives its name from a Latin word meaning ‘completion’ (*completorium*). It has its origins in the monastic office for the end of the day, and so our prayer tonight is joined with the whole Church in giving thanks to God for the day past and for all past worshippers in this place, and in entrusting ourselves to His protection during the night ahead. Most of the service is sung by the choir to plainsong, simple chant which has been used by Christians since the earliest days of the Church. The congregation is encouraged to participate by listening to the choir, by joining in the parts in bold, and by keeping silence before and after the service. Through this reflective meditation, we allow God to speak to us amidst the stresses of life, and we offer our cares and concerns to Him. At the heart of tonight’s service is the ‘Nunc dimittis’. This can be found in the Gospel of St Luke as the song of Simeon, who was promised by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before seeing the salvation of God’s people. As the infant Jesus was brought before him in the Temple, he sang these words. So we are pointed beyond ourselves to the wider implications of Christ’s coming for the world, and at the same time we entrust all our cares into the unfailing mercy of God.

All are invited for port and hot chocolate in D1 (First Court) after the service. If you are unsure where to go, please ask the Chapel Secretaries for directions, or follow everyone else.

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All stand as the choir and clergy enter for the **PREPARATION:**

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

All: **Amen.**

Brethren, 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

But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord

All: **who hath made heaven and earth.**

A period of silence for reflection on the past day follows.

All remain standing for the **CONFESSIO:**

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.**

A priest may pronounce the **ABSOLUTION:**

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.

All: **Amen.**

Cantor: O God, make speed to save us.

Choir: O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without
end. Amen.

Cantor: Praise ye the Lord.

Choir: The Lord's name be praised.

*All remain standing as the choir sings the **HYMN**, the following or some other:*

BEFORE the ending of the day,
Creator of the world we pray,
That with thy wonted favour thou
Wouldst be our guard and keeper now.

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.

*All sit as the choir sings the **PSALMODY**, one of the following or some other:*

HAVE mercy upon me, O God,
and hearken unto my prayer.

PSALM 4

HEAR me when I call, O God of my righteousness :
thou hast set me at liberty when I was in trouble; have mercy upon
me, and hearken unto my prayer.

O ye sons of men, how long will ye blaspheme mine honour :
and have such pleasure in vanity, and seek after leasing?

Know this also, that the Lord hath chosen to himself the man that is
godly : when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.

Stand in awe, and sin not :

commune with your own heart, and in your chamber, and be still.

Offer the sacrifice of righteousness : and put your trust in the Lord.

There be many that say : Who will shew us any good?

Lord, lift thou up : the light of thy countenance upon us.

Thou hast put gladness in my heart :

since the time that their corn, and wine, and oil, increased.

I will lay me down in peace, and take my rest :

for it is thou, Lord, only, that makest me dwell in safety.

PSALM 31: 1–6

IN thee, O Lord, have I put my trust :

let me never be put to confusion, deliver me in thy righteousness.

Bow down thine ear to me : make haste to deliver me.

And be thou my strong rock, and house of defence :

that thou mayest save me.

For thou art my strong rock, and my castle :

be thou also my guide, and lead me for thy Name's sake.

Draw me out of the net, that they have laid privily for me :

for thou art my strength.

Into thy hands I commend my spirit :

for thou hast redeemed me, O Lord, thou God of truth.

PSALM 91

WHOSO dwelleth under the defence of the most High :

shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say unto the Lord, Thou art my hope, and my strong hold :

my God, in him will I trust.

For he shall deliver thee from the snare of the hunter :

and from the noisome pestilence.

He shall defend thee under his wings, and thou shalt be safe under his feathers : his faithfulness and truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

Thou shalt not be afraid for any terror by night :

nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

For the pestilence that walketh in darkness :

nor for the sickness that destroyeth in the noon-day.

A thousand shall fall beside thee, and ten thousand at thy right hand :

but it shall not come nigh thee.

Yea, with thine eyes shalt thou behold : and see the reward of the ungodly.

For thou, Lord, art my hope :

thou hast set thine house of defence very high.

There shall no evil happen unto thee :

neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

For he shall give his angels charge over thee :

to keep thee in all thy ways.

They shall bear thee in their hands :

that thou hurt not thy foot against a stone.

Thou shalt go upon the lion and adder :

the young lion and the dragon shalt thou tread under thy feet.

Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him :

I will set him up, because he hath known my Name.

He shall call upon me, and I will hear him : yea, I am with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and bring him to honour.

With long life will I satisfy him : and shew him my salvation.

PSALM 134

BEHOLD now, praise the Lord : all ye servants of the Lord;
Ye that by night stand in the house of the Lord :
 even in the courts of the house of our God.
Lift up your hands in the sanctuary : and praise the Lord.
The Lord that made heaven and earth : give thee blessing out of Sion.

concluding with:

GLORY be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end.
Amen.

HAVE mercy upon me, O God,
and hearken unto my prayer.

*All remain seated for the **READING**, one of the following or some other:*

JEREMIAH 14: 9

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

MATTHEW 11: 28–30

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.

HEBREWS 13: 20, 21

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.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

A period of silence may follow.

*All remain seated as the choir sings the **RESPONSORY**:*

Cantor: Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
[Alleluia, alleluia.]

Choir: Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
[Alleluia, alleluia.]

Cantor: For thou hast redeemed me, O Lord, thou God of truth.

Choir: I commend my spirit. [Alleluia, alleluia.]

Cantor: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

Choir: Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
[Alleluia, alleluia.]

Cantor: Keep me as the apple of an eye.

Choir: Hide me under the shadow of thy wings.

*All stand as the choir sings the **NUNC DIMITTIS**:*

PRESERVE us, O Lord, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ,
and asleep we may rest in peace.

+ Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace : according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen : thy salvation;
Which thou hast prepared : before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles : and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end.
Amen.

Luke 2: 29–32

PRESERVE us, O Lord, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ,
and asleep we may rest in peace.

All sit or kneel for the **PRAYERS:**

Cantor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Choir: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Cantor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Choir: Our Father,
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 into temptation;
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Cantor: Blessed art thou, Lord God of our fathers:

Choir: to be praised and glorified above all for ever.

Cantor: Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost:

Choir: let us praise him and magnify him for ever.

Cantor: Blessed art thou, O Lord, in the firmament of heaven:

Choir: to be praised and glorified above all for ever.

Cantor: The almighty and most merciful Lord guard us and give us his
blessing.

Choir: Amen.

Cantor: Let us pray.

One or more of the following **COLLECTS** *is sung:*

VISIT, we beseech thee, O Lord, this place, and drive from it all the snares of the enemy; let thy holy angels dwell herein to preserve us in peace; and may thy blessing be upon us evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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. Amen.

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. Amen.

LOOK down, O Lord, from thy heavenly throne, illuminate the darkness of this night with thy celestial brightness, and from the sons of light banish the deeds of darkness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BE PRESENT, O merciful God, and protect us through the silent hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world, may repose upon thy eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All remain sitting or kneeling for the **CONCLUSION:**

Cantor: We will lay us down in peace and take our rest.

Choir: For it is thou, Lord, only that makest us dwell in safety.

Priest: Abide with us, O Lord,

All: **for it is toward evening and the day is far spent.**

As the watchmen look for the morning,

All: **so do we look for thee, O Christ.**

All: The Lord be with you
and with thy spirit.

All: 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.**

*All sit as the choir process to the Ante-Chapel, where they sing the **MARIAN ANTHEM**, after which all depart in silence:*

ALMA Redemptoris Mater, quæ pervia caeli porta manes, et stella maris, succurre cadenti, surgere qui curat, populo: tu quae genuisti, natura mirante, tuum sanctum Genitorem. Virgo prius ac posterius, Gabrielis ab ore sumens illud ave, peccatorum miserere.

KIND Mother of the Redeemer, thou who art the open door of heaven and star of the sea, help thy fallen people, striving to rise again; thou who gavest birth, while nature marvelled, to thine own sacred Creator. Virgin before and afterwards, receiving that greeting from the lips of Gabriel, have mercy on sinners.

AVE Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum. Benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Iesus. Sancta Maria, Mater Dei, ora pro nobis peccatoribus, nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen

HAIL Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen

AVE, Regina Caelorum, Ave, Domina Angelorum:
salve, radix, salve, porta ex qua mundo lux est orta:
gaude, Virgo gloriosa, super omnes speciosa, vale,
o valde decora, et pro nobis Christum exora.

*HAIL, Queen of Heavens, hail, Lady of Angels;
hail, root, hail gate from whom the light arose on the world!
Rejoice, glorious Virgin, fairer than all others;
thou art worthy, O Lady, of exceeding beauty; pray to Christ for us.*

REGINA Caeli, laetare, alleluia:
quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia,
resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia,
ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.

*QUEEN of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia;
for He whom thou wast worthy to bear, alleluia,
has risen, as He said, alleluia.
Pray for us to God. Alleluia.*

SALVE, Regina, Mater misericordiae, vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra, salve; ad
te clamamus exsules filii Hevae, ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes in
hac lacrimarum valle. Eia, ergo, advocata nostra, illos tuos misericordes
oculos ad nos converte; et Jesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui, nobis post
hoc exilium ostende. O clemens, O pia, O dulcis Virgo Maria.

*HAIL, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we
cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping
in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us;
and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O
loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.*

All depart in silence.