

**Wednesday 5 April 2023**

# Compline for Holy Wednesday

(Ecumenical version)



Compline is 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 said at home, participants go quietly to bed.

The name of this ancient service comes from a Latin word which means 'completion' (*completorium*). We pronounce it name as 'com-plinn' rather than 'com-plyne'.

**Liturgy** © 2001 *A Manual of Anglo-Catholic Devotion*, by Andrew Burnham.

**Collect** © *Prayers for the Inclusive Church*, Steven Shakespeare.

**Intercessions** © the [Vanderbilt Divinity Library](#).

The hymn and chant are YouTube links. Please click on the links to hear them.

All the verses in the psalm and nunc dimittis is split in two with a red diamond ♦. The diamond indicates a short pause to allow the reader to reflect on the content. The pause is voluntary and can be ignored.

To see service transcripts from previous weeks, please visit the page,

<http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/resources/index.htm>

## **Introduction**

O God make speed to save us

**All O Lord make haste to help us**

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

Silence for reflection on the past day.

**All Almighty God,  
long-suffering and of great goodness.  
I confess to you,  
I confess with my whole heart  
my neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments,  
my doing wrong, thinking and speaking;  
the hurts I have done to others,  
and the good I left undone.  
O God, forgive me, for I have sinned against you;  
and raise me to newness of life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
and raise us to everlasting life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

**Hymn Bind us together Lord**

(please click on this link to hear the hymn)

## The Word of God

- 1 O Lord, God of my salvation, ♦  
I have cried day and night before you.
- 2 Let my prayer come into your presence; ♦  
incline your ear to my cry.
- 3 For my soul is full of troubles; ♦  
my life draws near to the land of death.
- 4 I am counted as one gone down to the Pit; ♦  
I am like one that has no strength,
- 5 Lost among the dead, ♦  
like the slain who lie in the grave,
- 6 Whom you remember no more, ♦  
for they are cut off from your hand.
- 7 You have laid me in the lowest pit, ♦  
in a place of darkness in the abyss.
- 8 Your anger lies heavy upon me, ♦  
and you have afflicted me with all your waves.
- 9 You have put my friends far from me ♦  
and made me to be abhorred by them.
- 10 I am so fast in prison that I cannot get free; ♦  
my eyes fail from all my trouble.
- 11 Lord, I have called daily upon you; ♦  
I have stretched out my hands to you.
- 12 Do you work wonders for the dead? ♦  
Will the shades stand up and praise you?
- 13 Shall your loving-kindness be declared in the grave, ♦  
your faithfulness in the land of destruction?
- 14 Shall your wonders be known in the dark ♦  
or your righteous deeds in the land where all is forgotten?

- 15 But as for me, O Lord, I will cry to you; ♦  
early in the morning my prayer shall come before you.
- 16 Lord, why have you rejected my soul? ♦  
Why have you hidden your face from me?
- 17 I have been wretched and at the point of death from my youth; ♦  
I suffer your terrors and am no more seen.
- 18 Your wrath sweeps over me; ♦  
your horrors are come to destroy me;
- 19 All day long they come about me like water; ♦  
they close me in on every side.
- 20 Lover and friend have you put far from me ♦  
and hid my companions out of my sight.

*Psalm 88*

**All 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

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

‘Who is this that comes from Edom,  
from Bozrah in garments stained crimson?

Who is this so splendidly robed,  
marching in his great might?’

‘It is I, announcing vindication,  
mighty to save.’

‘Why are your robes red,  
and your garments like theirs who tread the wine press?’

‘I have trodden the wine press alone,  
and from the peoples no one was with me;

I trod them in my anger  
and trampled them in my wrath;  
their juice spattered on my garments,  
and stained all my robes.  
For the day of vengeance was in my heart,  
and the year for my redeeming work had come.  
I looked, but there was no helper;  
I stared, but there was no one to sustain me;  
so my own arm brought me victory,  
and my wrath sustained me.  
I trampled down peoples in my anger,  
I crushed them in my wrath,  
and I poured out their lifeblood on the earth.’  
I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,  
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,  
because of all that the Lord has done for us,  
and the great favour to the house of Israel  
that he has shown them according to his mercy,  
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.  
For he said, ‘Surely they are my people,  
children who will not deal falsely’;  
and he became their saviour  
in all their distress.  
It was no messenger or angel  
but his presence that saved them;  
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;  
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

*Isaiah 63:1-9*

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

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

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.

**All** I commend my spirit.

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

**All**    **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**

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

### **The Nunc dimittis (the Song of Simeon)**

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

- 1    Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: ♦  
your word has been fulfilled.
- 2    My own eyes have seen the salvation ♦  
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;
- 3    A light to reveal you to the nations ♦  
and the glory of your chosen people.

*Luke 2.29-32*

**All**    **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**

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

## Prayers of intercession

The refrain after each prayer is the Taizé chant, 'O Lord hear my prayer':

**O Lord, hear my prayer,  
O Lord, hear my prayer;  
when I call answer me.  
O Lord, hear my prayer,  
O Lord, hear my prayer;  
come and listen to me. × 2**

For a choral version of the chant, please click on this link [O Lord hear my prayer](#)

Holy God, who call your people to sustain the weary  
and protect the oppressed.

Uphold us in our concern and strengthen us,  
that we may not only speak our prayers but act on behalf of their fulfilment.

**All O Lord hear my prayer ...**

Most Holy One,

grant that we may be counted as members of the great cloud of witnesses  
who live with justice and compassion,  
and reveal your divine glory before all people.

**All O Lord hear my prayer ...**

Troubled God, in every generation you call your people to contend  
against the brutality of sin and betrayal.

Keep us steadfast even in our fear and uncertainty,  
that we may follow where Jesus has led the way.

**All O Lord hear my prayer ...**

## The Collect for Holy Wednesday

Lord, you let us convert you  
into currency and commodity  
so that you can pay the price  
beyond all accounting:  
may we offer our misused powers to you  
knowing that you can transform them,  
knowing that even this betrayal is still a kiss:  
through Jesus Christ,  
the passion of God.

**All    Amen**

*Silence is 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**

**All    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**

As watchmen wait for the morning,  
so do our souls long for you, O Christ.  
Come with the dawning of the day,  
and make yourself known to us in the breaking of bread;  
for you are God for ever and ever.

**All    Amen**

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