*The ancient office of Compline derives its name from a Latin word meaning ‘completion’. It is a service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day. It is most effective when the ending is an ending, without addition, conversation or noise. If there is an address, or business to be done, it should be completed first; then the service marks the end of the day.*

*This is an order for Evening Prayer for the Fourth Sunday of Lent.*

*Welcome*

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

Our help is in the name of the Lord, **who has made heaven and earth.**

*A period of silence for reflection on the past day may follow; then these 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 forever. Amen.**

*The Office Hymn*

**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 terror 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.**

*The Psalms – Psalm 91.*

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High and abides under the shadow of the Almighty.\*

*Shall say to the Lord, ‘My refuge and my stronghold. My God, in whom I put my trust’.*

For he shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence.

*He shall cover you with his wings and you shall be safe under his feathers; his faithfulness shall be your shield and buckler.*

You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day;

*Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor of the sickness that destroys at noonday.*

Though a thousand fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand, yet it shall not come near you.

*Your eyes have only to behold to see the reward of the wicked.*

Because you have made the Lord your refuge and the Most High your stronghold,

*There shall no evil happen to you, neither shall any plague come near your tent.*

For he shall give his angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.

 *They shall bear you in their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone.*

You shall tread upon the lion and adder; the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

*Because they have set their love upon me,*

*therefore will I deliver them; I will lift them up, because they know my name.*

They will call upon me and I will answer them; I am with them in trouble, I will deliver them and bring them to honour.

*With long life will I satisfy them and show them my salvation.*

Psalm 134

Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, you that by night stand in the house of the Lord. *Lift up your hands towards the sanctuary and bless the Lord.*

The Lord who made heaven and earth

give you blessing out of Zion.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:**

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

*Lessons*

You, O Lord, are in our midst and call us by name; leave us not, O Lord our God (Jeremiah 14.9)

Be sober, be vigilant, for your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, seeking for someone to devour. Resist him, strong in the faith. (1 Peter 5. 8,9)

The servants of the Lamb shall see the face of God, whose name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night; they will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever. (Revelation 22. 4,5)

Responsory

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

**Into your hand, 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.**

*The New Testament Canticle*

*The Song of Simeon (Nunc dimittis - Luke 2:29-32)*

Save us, O Lord, while waking, and guard us while sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep 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 to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:**

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

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 and The Lord's Prayer*

*Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.*

*The Collect*

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. Amen.

*The Conclusion*

In peace we will lie down and sleep; **for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.**

Abide with me, 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.**

*The Blessing*

The Lord bless us and watch over us; the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us; the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace. **Amen.**