

An Order for Compline

The service often begins with an introit, music intended to help gather us in. At other times, it begins directly with the following words:

Cantor Bid, sir, a blessing.

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

Choir Amen.

Lesson 1 Peter, 5: 8 -9 or another suitable scriptural text

Cantor Brethren: be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith. But thou, O Lord, have mercy on us.

Choir Thanks be to God.

Cantor Our help is in the name of the Lord,

Choir Who hath made heaven and earth.

Cantor O God, make speed to save us.

Choir 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 ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, as it is in heaven and on earth. 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. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Psalms 4, 91 and 134 are sung. At times other psalms may be substituted.

Psalm 4 *Cum invocarem*

Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause;
you set me free when I am hard-pressed;
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

“You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory;
how long will you worship dumb idols
and run after false gods?”

Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful;
when I call upon the LORD, he will hear me.

Tremble, then, and do not sin;
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.

Jube domne benedicere.

Noctem quietam et finem perfectum concedat Nobis
Dominus omnipotens.

Amen.

Fratres: Sobrii estote, et vigilate: quia adversarius vester diabolus, tamquam leo rugiens, circuit, quaerens quem devoret: cui resistite fortes in fide. Tu autem Domine miserere nobis.

Deo gratias.

Adjutorium nostrum in nomine Domini.

Qui fecit caelum et terram.

Deus in adjutorium meum intende.

Domine ad adjuvandum me festina. Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto. Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in saecula saeculorum.

Amen. Alleluia.

Pater noster, qui es in caelis: sanctificetur nomen tuum; adveniat regnum tuum; fiat voluntas tua, sicut in caelo, et in terra. Panem nostrum cotidianum da nobis hodie; et dimitte nobis debita nostra, sicut et nos dimittimus debitoribus nostris; et ne nos inducas in tentationem; sed libera nos a malo. Quia tuum est regnum, et potestas, et gloria in saecula. Amen.

Cum invocarem exaudivit me Deus justitiae meae;
In tribulatione dilatasti mihi;
miserere mei, et exaudi orationem meam.

Filii hominum, usquequo gravi corde?
ut quid diligitis vanitatem
et quaeritis mendacium?

Et scitote quoniam mirificavit Dominus sanctum suum:
Dominus exaudiet me cum clamavero ad eum.

Irascimini, et nolite peccare; quae dicitis in cordibus
vestris, in cubilibus vestris compungimini.

Offer the appointed sacrifices
and put your trust in the LORD.
Many are saying, "Who will show us any good?"
Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O LORD.
You have put gladness in my heart,
more than when grain and wine and oil increase.
I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep;
for only you, LORD, make me dwell in safety.

Psalm 91 *Qui habitat*

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High,
abides under the shadow of the Almighty.
He shall say to the LORD,
"You are my refuge and my stronghold,
my God in whom I put my trust."
He shall deliver you from the snare of the hunter
and from the deadly pestilence.
He shall cover you with his pinions,
and you shall find refuge under his wings;
his faithfulness shall be a shield and buckler.
You shall not be afraid of any terror by night,
nor of the arrow that flies by day;
Of the plague that stalks in the darkness,
nor of the sickness that lays waste at mid-day.
A thousand shall fall at your side
and ten thousand at your right hand,
but 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 habitation,
There shall no evil happen to you,
neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.
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 the adder;
you shall trample the young lion and the serpent
under your feet.
Because he is bound to me in love, I will deliver him;
I will protect him, because he knows my name.
He shall call upon me, and I will answer him;
I am with him in trouble;
I will rescue him and bring him to honor.
With long life will I satisfy him,
and show him my salvation.

Psalm 134 *Ecce nunc*

Behold now, bless the LORD,
all you servants of the LORD, *
you that stand by night in the house of the LORD.
Lift up your hands in the holy place

Sacrificate sacrificium justitiae,
et sperate in Domino.
Multi dicunt, Quis ostendit nobis bona?
Signatum est super nos lumen vultus tui Domine:
Dedisti laetitiam in corde meo,
a fructu frumenti, vini et olei sui, multiplicati sunt.
In pace in idipsum dormiam et requiescam.
Quoniam tu Domine singulariter in spe constituisti me.

Qui habitat in protectione Altissimi,
sub umbra Omnipotentis commorabitur.
Dicet Domino:
"Refugium meum et fortitudo mea,
Deus meus, sperabo in eum."
Quoniam ipse liberabit te de laqueo venantium
et a verbo maligno.
Alis suis obumbrabit tibi,
et sub pennas eius confugies;
scutum et lorica veritas eius.
Non timebis a timore nocturno,
a sagitta volante in die,
A peste perambulante in tenebris,
ab exterminio vastante in meridie.
Cadent a latere tuo mille
et decem milia a dextris tuis;
ad te autem non appropinquabit.
Verumtamen oculis tuis considerabis
et retributionem peccatorum videbis.
Quoniam tu es, Domine, refugium meum.
altissimum posuisti habitaculum tuum.
Non accedet ad te malum,
et flagellum non appropinquabit tabernaculo tuo,
Quoniam angelis suis mandabit de te,
ut custodiant te in omnibus viis tuis.
In manibus portabunt te,
ne forte offendas ad lapidem pedem tuum.
Super aspidem et basiliscum ambulabis
et conculcabis leonem
et draconem.
Quoniam mihi adhesit, liberabo eum;
Suscipiam eum, quoniam cognovit nomen meum.
Clamabit ad me, et ego exaudiam eum;
cum ipso in tribulatione
Eripiam eum et glorificabo eum.
Longitudine dierum replebo eum
at ostendam illi salutarem meum.

Ecce benedicite Dominum,
omnes servi Domini,
Qui statis in domo Domini per noctes.
Extollite manus vestras ad sanctuarium

and bless the LORD; *
the LORD who made heaven and earth bless
you out of Zion.

Hymn *Te lucis ante terminum*

Creator of all things, we ask before the close of day, that through your mercy, you be our guide and keeper this night. Defend our bodies from ill dreams and terrors of the night, lest they be defiled by the enemy. Grant this, most loving Father, who with your Son and the Holy Spirit, reigns forever.

Cantor Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit.
Choir Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit.
Cantor You have redeemed us, Lord, God of truth.
Choir I commend my spirit.
Cantor Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
Choir Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit.

Cantor Keep us, Lord, as the apple of the eye.
Choir Under the shadow of your wings protect us.

Canticle *Nunc dimittis*

Lord, you now have set your servant free
to go in peace as you have promised;
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior,
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:
A Light to enlighten the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.
Glory to the Father, and Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen.

Here the choir sometimes sings a motet.

Cantor The Lord be with you.
Choir And also with you.
Cantor Let us bless the Lord.
Choir Thanks be to God.

Officiant The almighty and merciful Lord, Father,
Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us.
Choir Amen.

Then follows a hymn in honor of Mary, mother of Jesus. One of four different hymns is chosen, depending on the season of the church year. The hymn is usually chanted, but sometimes a polyphonic setting is sung instead. The following is the Salve Regina, which is the Marian hymn sung from Trinity Sunday until the first Sunday of Advent.

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.

et benedicite Dominum.
Benedicat te Dominus ex Sion,
qui fecit caelum et terram.

Te lucis ante terminum, Rerum Creator, poscimus, Ut pro tua clementia, Sis praesul et custodia. Procul recedant somnia, Et noctium phantasmata: Hostemque nostrum comprime, Ne polluantur corpora. Praesta, Pater piissime, Patrique compare Unice, Cum Spiritu Paraclito, Regnans per omne saeculum.

In manus tuas Domine, commendo spiritum meum.
In manus tuas Domine, commendo spiritum meum.
Redemisti nos Domine, Deus veritatis.
Commendo spiritum meum.
Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto.

In manus tuas Domine, commendo spiritum meum.

Custodi nos Domine, ut pupillam oculi,
Sub umbra alarum tuarum protégé nos.

Nunc dimittis servum tuum Domine,
secundum verbum tuum in pace;
Quia viderunt oculi mei salutare tuum:
quod parasti ante faciem omnium populorum:
Lumen ad revelationem gentium
et gloriam plebes tuae Israel.
Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto:
sicut erat in principio, et nunc,
et semper, et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

Dominus vobiscum.
Et cum spiritu tuo.
Benedicamus Domino.
Deo gratias.

Benedicat et custodiat nos omnipotens et misericors
Dominus, Pater, et Filius, et Spiritus Sanctus.
Amen.

Salve, Regina, mater misericordiae:
Vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra, salve.
Ad te clamamus,
exultes, 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.

Hymn Conditor alme siderum. *In translation:*

Creator of the stars of night,
your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, redeemer of us all,
we pray you hear us when we call.

In sorrow that the ancient curse
should doom to death a universe,
you came, o savior, to set free
your own in glorious liberty.

When this old world drew on toward night,
you came; but not in splendor bright,
not as a monarch, but the child
of Mary, blameless mother mild.

At your great name, O Jesus, now
all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
All things on earth with one accord,
like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.

Come in your holy might, we pray,
redeem us for eternal day;
Defend us while we dwell below
from all assaults of our dread foe.

To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, three in one,
Praise, honor, might, and glory be
from age to age eternally. Amen.

Conditor alme siderum,
aeterna lux credentium,
Christe, redemptor omnium,
exaudi preces supplicum.

Qui condolens interitu,
mortis perire saeculum,
Salvasti mundum languidum,
donna reis remedium.

Vergente mundi vespere,
uti sponsus de thalamo,
Egresus honestissima

Virginis matris clausula.

Cuius forti potentiae,
genu curvantur omnia;
Caelestia, terrestrial,
nutu fatentur subdita.

Te, Sancte, fide quaesumus,
venture iudex saeculi;
Conserva nos in tempore
hostis a telo perfidy.

Sit, Christe, rex piissime,
tibi Patrique Gloria
Cum Spiritu Paraclito,
in sempiterna saecula. Amen.

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