

**The Benefice of  
Shrivenham & Ashbury**

**An Order for  
Night Prayer  
(Compline)**

**For use during Advent**

*The ancient office of Compline derives its name from a Latin word meaning 'completion' (completorium); it is a service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day.*

## Preparation

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.  
**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.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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

**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.**

May the almighty and merciful Lord grant unto *us* pardon and remission of all *our* sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

O God, make speed to save us.  
**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.**

Praise ye the Lord.  
**The Lord's name be praised.**

## **Hymn**

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.

- 1 Hear my prayer, O Lord,  
and in your faithfulness give ear to my  
supplications; ♦  
answer me in your righteousness.
- 2 **Enter not into judgement with your servant, ♦**  
**for in your sight shall no one living be justified.**
- 3 For the enemy has pursued me,  
crushing my life to the ground, ♦  
making me sit in darkness like those long dead.
- 4 **My spirit faints within me; ♦**  
**my heart within me is desolate.**
- 5 I remember the time past; I muse upon all your  
deeds; ♦  
I consider the works of your hands.
- 6 **I stretch out my hands to you; ♦**  
**my soul gasps for you like a thirsty land.**
- 7 O Lord, make haste to answer me; my spirit fails  
me; ♦  
hide not your face from me  
lest I be like those who go down to the Pit.
- 8 **Let me hear of your loving-kindness in the morning,**  
**for in you I put my trust; ♦**  
**show me the way I should walk in,**  
**for I lift up my soul to you.**
- 9 Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies, ♦

for I flee to you for refuge.

**10 Teach me to do what pleases you, for you are my God; ♦**

**let your kindly spirit lead me on a level path.**

**11 Revive me, O Lord, for your name's sake; ♦**  
for your righteousness' sake, bring me out of trouble.

**12 In your faithfulness, slay my enemies,**  
**and destroy all the adversaries of my soul, ♦**  
**for truly I am your servant.**

**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.**

### **Scripture Reading**

Keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake. *Mark 13.35-end*

**Thanks be to God.**

## Responsary

Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.  
**Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

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

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
**Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

Keep me as the apple of an eye.  
**Hide me under the shadow of thy wings.**

## Gospel Cantic

**Come, O Lord, and visit us in peace;  
that we may rejoice before you with a perfect heart.**

**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 the 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.**

**Come, O Lord, and visit us in peace;  
that we may rejoice before you with a perfect heart.**

**Prayers**

Stir up your power, O God,  
and come among us.  
Heal our wounds,  
calm our fears  
and give us peace;  
through Jesus our Redeemer. **Amen**

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.**

Blessed art thou, Lord God of our fathers:  
**to be praised and glorified above all for ever.**

Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost:  
**let us praise him and magnify him for ever.**

Blessed art thou, O Lord, in the firmament of heaven:  
**to be praised and glorified above all for ever.**

The almighty and most merciful Lord guard us and give us  
his blessing. **Amen.**

## **Conclusion**

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

Abide with us, Lord Jesus:  
**for the night is at hand and the day is now past.**

As the night watch look for the morning  
**so do we look for you, O Christ.**

Restore us again, O God of hosts;  
show us the light of your countenance  
and we shall be saved.  
Bless and keep us, this night and always.  
**Amen.**