

Compline in Holy Week

Monday, 30th March, 2026, 8pm

Welcome to Compline

As the day draws to a close, the Church turns to Compline—its final prayer of the day. Rooted in the ancient rhythms of monastic life that would have been practiced here on Hill Top for centuries, shaped by the Rule of Saint Benedict, Compline (from the Latin *completorium*, meaning “completion”) is a quiet, reflective service of scripture, prayer and reflection.

Here at Coventry Cathedral, this stillness carries a deeper resonance. In a place shaped by both destruction and reconciliation, Compline becomes a prayer of trust and surrender, echoing the Cathedral’s enduring witness to peace.

During Holy Week, as we walk with Christ through the shadows of his Passion, Compline invites us to keep watch - resting in God’s presence and holding fast to hope through the night.

Texts for you to say are marked in **bold** type. Please follow directions to **STAND** and **SIT** as you are able, led by the clergy.

Our service today is led by the Reverend Canon Nitano Muller, Canon for Worship and Welcome. The preacher is the Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry. The Lay Clerks are directed by Adam Heron, Organ Scholar.

The Preparation

Please STAND as the choir and ministers enter the Chancel. The Officiant introduces:

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

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.

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.

The Officiant introduces a time of silent prayer and then leads

**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.**

The officiant says

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. **Amen.**

The Officiant and the choir sing



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.

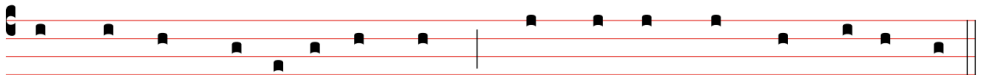


Praise ye the Lord. **The Lord's name be praised.**

The Compline Hymn



Be-fore the end-ing of the day, † Cre - a - tor of the world we pray,



That with thy wonted favour thou Wouldst be our guard and keeper now.

The choir sings

Before the ending of the day,

and everyone continues

**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.**

The Word of God

Please SIT. The choir sings the following Psalm

Psalm 4

1. 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.
2. O ye sons of men, how long will ye blaspheme mine honour: and have such pleasure in vanity, and seek after leasing?
3. 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.
4. Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart, and in your chamber, and be still.
5. Offer the sacrifice of righteousness: and put your trust in the Lord.
6. There be many that say: Who will shew us any good?
7. Lord, lift thou up: the light of thy countenance upon us.
8. Thou hast put gladness in my heart: since the time that their corn and wine and oil increased.

9. I will lay me down in peace, and take my rest: for it is thou,
Lord, only, that makest me dwell in safety.

The Psalm ends with the Gloria

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning
is now and ever shall be. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Now before the feast of Passover, Jesus, knowing that his hour had come that he would depart from this world to the Father, *and* having loved *his own* in the world, loved them to the end. ² And *as* a dinner was taking place, *when* the devil had already put into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot that he should betray him, ³ *because he knew* that the Father had given him all *things* into *his* hands, and that he had come forth from God and was going away to God, ⁴ he got up from the dinner and took off *his* outer clothing, and taking a towel, tied *it* around himself. ⁵ Then he poured water into the washbasin and began to wash the feet of the disciples, and to wipe *them* dry with the towel *which he had tied around himself*.

⁶ Then he came to Simon Peter. He said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will understand after these *things*." ⁸ Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet *forever!*" Jesus replied to him, "Unless I wash you, you do not have a share with me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also *my hands and my head!*" ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed *only needs* to wash *his* feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not all *of you*." ¹¹ (For he knew the one who would betray him; because of this he said, "Not all *of you* are clean.")

¹² So when he had washed their feet and taken his outer clothing and reclined at table again, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done for you? ¹³ You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you speak

correctly, for I am. ¹⁴ If then I—*your* Lord and Teacher—wash your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that just as I have done for you, you also do. ¹⁶ Truly, truly I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ If you understand these *things*, you are blessed if you do them.

¹⁸ “I am not speaking about all of you. I know whom I have chosen, but in order that the scripture would be fulfilled, ‘The one who eats my bread has lifted up his heel against me.’ ¹⁹ From now *on* I am telling you before *it* happens, in order that when *it* happens you may believe that I am *he*.²⁰ Truly, truly I say to you, the one who receives anyone I send receives me, and the one who receives me receives the one who sent me.”

²¹ *When he* had said these *things*, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified and said, “Truly, truly I say to you that one of you will betray me.” ²² The disciples began looking at one another, uncertain about whom he was speaking. ²³ One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining *close beside* Jesus. ²⁴ So Simon Peter gestured for this one to inquire who it was about whom he was speaking. ²⁵ He leaned back accordingly against Jesus’ chest *and* said to him, “Lord, who is it?” ²⁶ Jesus replied, “It is he to whom I dip the piece of bread and give *it* to him.” Then *after* dipping the piece of bread, he gave *it* to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷ And after the piece of bread, then Satan entered into him. Then Jesus said to him, “What you are doing, do quickly!” ²⁸ (Now no one of those reclining at table knew for what *reason* he said this to him. ²⁹ For some were thinking because Judas had the money box, Jesus was telling him, “Purchase *what* we need for the feast,” or that he should give something to the poor.) ³⁰ So *after he* had taken the piece of bread, he went out immediately. And it was night.

³¹ Then, when he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and will glorify him immediately. ³³ Children, yet a little *time* I am with you. You will seek

me and just as I said to the Jews, “Where I am going you cannot come,” now I say also to you.

³⁴ “A new commandment I give to you: that you love one another—just as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples—if you have love for one another.”

³⁶ Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus replied, “Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow later.” ³⁷ Peter said to him, “Lord, why am I not able to follow you now? I will lay down my life for you!” ³⁸ Jesus replied, “Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly I say to you, the rooster will not crow until you have denied me three times!

John 13

The Address

A time of silence is kept after the address, given by the Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry.

The Responsoy

Please remain STANDING as the Officiant leads everyone in singing



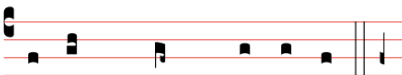
In-to thy hands, O Lord , I com-mend my spi-rit.



In-to thy hands, O Lord , I com-mend my spi-rit.

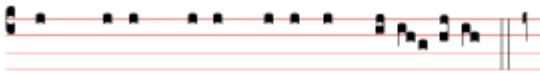


For thou hast re-deem-ed me , O Lord, thou God of truth.

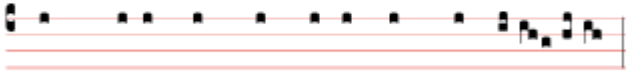


I commend my spirit.

The Officiant and the choir sing



Keep me as the apple of an eye.



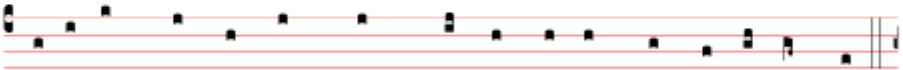
Hide me under the shadow of thy wings.

Gospel Canticle: Nunc Dimittis

The choir sings



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.

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

Luke 2:29-32

Evening service in E flat major by Charles Wood (1866-1926)

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. Amen.

The antiphon is repeated.

The Prayers

The Officiant says

Let us pray.

Please SIT or KNEEL for the prayers. Some of the following collects may be used.

Watch thou, dear Lord,
with those who wake, or watch, or weep tonight,
and give thine angels charge over those who sleep.
Tend thy sick ones, Lord Christ.
Rest thy weary ones. Bless thy dying ones.
Soothe thy suffering ones. Pity thine afflicted ones.
Shield thy joyous ones, and all for thy love's sake.
Amen.

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.

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.

Standing at the foot of the cross,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

The choir sing

Pater noster, qui es in caelis,
Sanctificetur nomen tuum:
Adveniat regnum tuum:
Fiat voluntas tua,
sicut in caelo, et in terra.
Panem nostrum quotidianum 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. 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.*

Music by Leonhart Paminger (1495-1567)

The Conclusion

The officiant says,

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 looks for the morning,
so do we look for you, O Christ.

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.

The Anthem

The choir sings the anthem.

In manus tuas, Domine,
commendo spiritum meum.

Redemisti me Domine,
Deus veritatis.

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

*You have redeemed me, O Lord,
O God of truth.*

Words John 6:30

Music by John Sheppard (1515-1558)

The ministers and choir leave in silence.

If you would like to talk to us about the work we do here, or about the Christian faith, do get in touch with the Reverend Nitano Muller, Canon for Worship and Welcome, at nitano.muller@coventry.anglican.org