

Compline in Holy Week

Tuesday, 31st 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 Joe Watson, Acting Director of Music.

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.



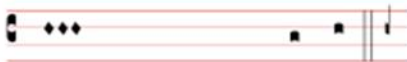
O Lord, make haste to help us.



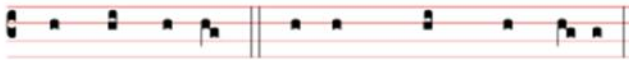
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;



As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,

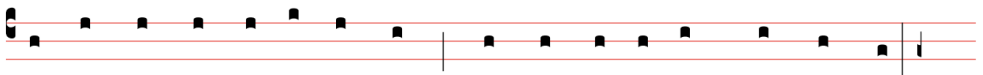


world without end. Amen.



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 31:1-6

1. In Thee, O Lord, have I put my trust ♦
let me never be put to confusion, deliver me in thy
righteousness.
2. Bow down thine ear to me ♦
make haste to deliver me.
3. And be thou my strong rock, and house of defence ♦
that thou mayest save me.
4. For thou art my strong rock, and my castle ♦
be thou also my guide, and lead me for thy Name's sake.
5. Draw me out of the net that they have laid privily for me ♦
for thou art my strength.
6. Into thy hands I commend my spirit ♦
for thou hast redeemed me, O Lord, thou God of truth.

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

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places; but if not, I would have told you, because I am going away to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myself, so that where I am, you may be also. ⁴And you know the way where I am going.”

⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How are we able to know the way?”

⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Am I with you so long a time and you have not known me, Philip? The one who has seen me has seen the Father! How can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’ ¹⁰Do you not believe that I *am* in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak from myself, but the Father residing in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I *am* in the Father and the Father *is* in me; but if not, believe because of the works themselves. ¹²Truly, truly I say to you, the one who believes in me, the works that I am doing he will do also, and he will do greater *works* than these because I am going to the Father. ¹³And *whatever* you ask in my name, I will do this, in order that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me anything in my name, I will do *it*.

¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, in order that he may be with you *forever*— ¹⁷the Spirit of truth, whom the world is not

able to receive, because it does not see him or know *him*. You know him, because he resides with you and will be in you.

¹⁸ “I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ Yet a little *time* and the world will see me no longer, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I *am* in my Father, and you *are* in me, and I *am* in you. ²¹ The one who has my commandments and keeps them—that one is the one who loves me. And the one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and will reveal myself to him.”

²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, why is it that you are going to reveal yourself to us and not to the world?” ²³ Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and *will take up residence with him*. ²⁴ The one who does not love me does not keep my words, and the word that you hear is not mine, but the Father’s who sent me.

²⁵ These *things* I have spoken to you *while* residing with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name—that one will teach you all *things*, and will remind you of everything that I said to you.

²⁷ “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you—not as the world gives, I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let *them* be afraid. ²⁸ You have heard that I said to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would have rejoiced that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I *am*. ²⁹ And now I have told you before *it* happens, so that when it happens, you may believe. ³⁰ I will no longer speak much with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has *no power over me*. ³¹ But so that the world may know that I love the Father, and just as the Father has commanded me, thus I am doing. Get up, let us go from here!

John 14

The Address

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

The Responory

Please remain STANDING as the Officiant leads everyone in singing



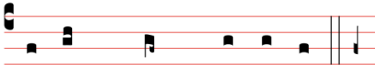
In-to thy hands, O Lord , I com-mend my spi-rit.



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

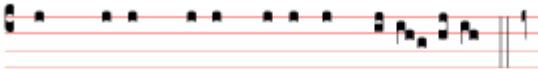


For thou hast re-deem-ed me , O Lord, thou God of truth.

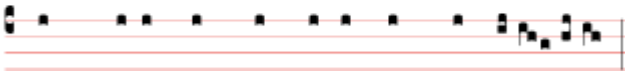


I commend my spirit.

The Officiant and the choir sing



Keep me as the apple of an eye.



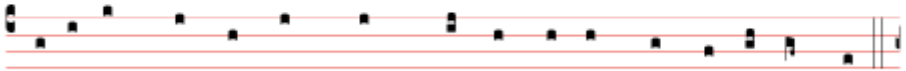
Hide me under the shadow of thy wings.

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

Short Service in G Minor by Thomas Weelkes (1576-1623)

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 pace, in idipsum dormiam et
requiescam.
Si dedero somnum oculis meis,
et palpebris meis dormitationem,
dormiam et requiescam.
Gloria Patri et Filio, et Spiritui
Sancto.

In peace, in true peace shall I
sleep and rest.
If I give slumber to my eyes
and to my eyelids drowsiness,
I shall sleep and rest.
Glory be to the Father, and to
the Son
and to the Holy Ghost.

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