

Compline in Holy Week

Wednesday, 1st April, 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 Liam Condon, Assistant 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.

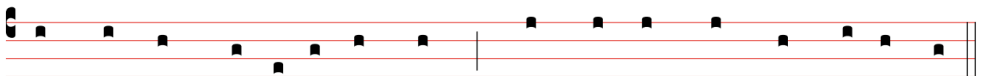


Praise ye the Lord. **The Lord's name be praised.**

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 91

1. Whoso dwelleth under the defence of the most High ♦
shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
2. I will say unto the Lord, Thou art my hope,
and my strong hold ♦
my God, in him will I trust.
3. For he shall deliver thee from the snare of the hunter ♦
and from the noisome pestilence.
4. He shall defend thee under his wings,
and thou shalt be safe under his feathers ♦
his faithfulness and truth shall be thy shield and buckler.
5. Thou shalt not be afraid for any terror by night ♦
nor for the arrow that flieth by day;
6. For the pestilence that walketh in darkness ♦
nor for the sickness that destroyeth in the noon-day.
7. A thousand shall fall beside thee,
and ten thousand at thy right hand ♦

but it shall not come nigh thee.

8. Yea, with thine eyes shalt thou behold ♦
and see the reward of the ungodly.

9. For thou, Lord, art my hope ♦
thou hast set thine house of defence very high.

10. There shall no evil happen unto thee ♦
neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

11. For he shall give his angels charge over thee ♦
to keep thee in all thy ways.

12. They shall bear thee in their hands ♦
that thou hurt not thy foot against a stone.

13. Thou shalt go upon the lion and adder ♦
the young lion and the dragon shalt thou tread under thy feet.

14. Because he hath set his love upon me,
therefore will I deliver him ♦
I will set him up, because he hath known my Name.

15. He shall call upon me, and I will hear him ♦
yea, I am with him in trouble; I will deliver him,
and bring him to honour.

16. With long life will I satisfy him ♦
and shew him my salvation.

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

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch that does not bear fruit in me, he removes it, and every *branch* that bears fruit, he prunes it in order that it may bear more fruit. ³ You are

already clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, and I in you. Just as the branch is not able to bear fruit from itself unless it remains in the vine, so neither *can* you, unless you remain in me.

⁵ “I am the vine; you *are* the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him—this one bears much fruit, for apart from me you are not able to do anything. ⁶ If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown out as a branch, and dries up, and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this: that you bear much fruit, and prove to be my disciples.

⁹ “Just as the Father has loved me, I also have loved you. Remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love.

¹¹ I have spoken these *things* to you in order that my joy may be in you, and your joy may be made complete. ¹² This is my commandment: that you love one another just as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this: that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you slaves, because the slave does not know what his master is doing. But I have called you friends, because everything that I have heard from my Father I have revealed to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and your fruit should remain, in order that whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you. ¹⁷ These *things* I command you: that you love one another.

¹⁸ If the world hates you, you know that it has hated me before *it* hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own. But because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, for this *reason* the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will keep yours also. ²¹ But they will do all these *things* to you on account of my name, because they do not know the one who sent me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin. But now they do

not have a valid excuse for their sin. ²³ The one who hates me hates my Father also. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not have sin. But now they have both seen and hated both me and my Father. ²⁵ But *this happened* so that the word that is written in their law would be fulfilled, ‘They hated me without a reason.’

²⁶ “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father—that one will testify about me. ²⁷ And you also will testify, because you have been with me from the beginning.

John 15

The Address

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

The Responary

Please remain STANDING as the Officiant leads everyone in singing



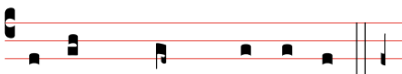
In-to thy hands, O Lord , I com-mend my spi-rit.



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.

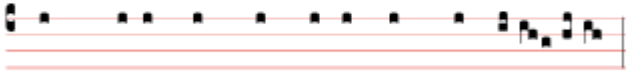


I commend my spirit.

The Officiant and the choir sing



Keep me as the apple of an eye.



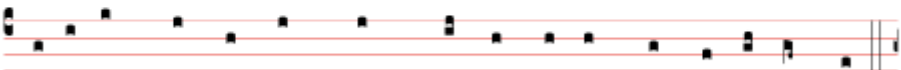
Hide me under the shadow of thy wings.

Gospel Cantic: 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

Dorian Evening Service by Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)

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.

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.

Christe, qui lux es et dies
Noctis tenebras delegis
Lucisque lumen crederis
Lumen beatum praedicans.

Praecamur, sancte Domine,
Defende nos in hac nocte;
Sit nobis in te requies,
Quietam noctem tribue.

Ne gravis somnus inruat,
Nec hostis nos subripiat,
Nec caro illi consentiens
Nos tibi reos statuatur.

Oculi somnum capiant,
Cor ad te semper vigilet,
Dextera tua protegat
Famulos qui te diligunt.

Defensor noster aspice,
Insidiantem reprime;
Guberna tuos famulos
Quos sanguine mercatus es.

Memento nostri, Domine,
In isto gravi corpore;
Qui es defensor animae
Adesto nobis, Domine.
Amen.

*O Christ, who art the light and day,
thou drivest darksome night away;
we know thee as the Light of light,
illuminating mortal sight.*

*All holy Lord, we pray to thee,
keep us tonight from danger free,
grant us, dear Lord, in thee to rest,
so be our sleep in quiet blest.*

*Let not the tempter round us creep,
with thoughts of evil while we sleep,
nor with his wiles the flesh allure,
and make us in thy sight impure.*

*And while the eyes soft slumber take,
still be the heart to thee awake,
be thy right hand upheld above
thy servants resting in thy love.*

*Yea, our Defender, be thou nigh
to bid the powers of darkness fly;
keep us from sin, and guide for good
thy servants purchased by thy blood.*

*Remember us, dear Lord, we pray,
while in this mortal flesh we stay;
'tis thou who dost the soul defend,
be present with us to the end.
Amen.*

Music by William Byrd (1543-1623)

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*