

# An Order for Compline

According to *The Book of Common Prayer, 1979*



St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
Lewes, Delaware

## *Concerning the Office*

As is characteristic of monastic offices, Compline consists of psalms, short passages from scripture (chapters), an office hymn, a canticle (*Nunc Dimittis*), a litany, collects and additional prayers. In keeping with the earliest practices of the monastic communities, Compline is offered when the work of the day is completed, and the quietness of evening settles over the hearts and minds of those who have come together in thankfulness for the blessings of the day which has passed, and in anticipation of God's gift of a new day.


The Office of Compline originated and developed in southern Europe and the Middle East during the first six hundred years of Christianity. At first, Compline was offered primarily by the monastic communities, but as Christian influence spread throughout Europe and the Mediterranean area, the offices found a place in local liturgical settings. By the time of the Reformation in the 16th century, a large number of breviaries – books which contained the texts and music of the offices – were available for recitation.

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At St. Peter's, Lewes we offer sung **Compline on the first Thursday of the month at 8:30 PM**, all are warmly invited to attend. Compline is rather unlike our Sunday Eucharistic services which are characterized by active participation of the congregation, stirring hymns with organ accompaniment, and edifying preaching. The office of Compline is contemplative in nature and allows worshipers to experience the Divine in ancient texts sung to plainsong chant as well as reverent silence. Please participate in the sung responses as you are comfortable doing so, your presence here is a gift to us and we hope you will return often.

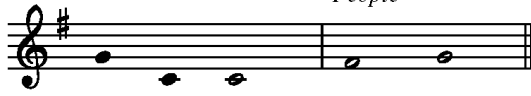
*Silence is kept before the Office.*

*Officiant*



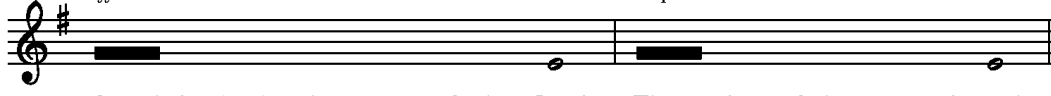
The Lord Almighty grant us a peace - ful night and a

*People*



per - fect end. A - men.

*Officiant* *People*



Our help is in the name of the Lord; The maker of heaven and earth.

*Officiant*  
Let us confess our sins to God.


*Silence is kept.*

*Officiant and People*

Almighty God, \* **our heavenly Father; We have sinned against you, through our own fault, in thought, and word, and deed, and in what we have left undone. For the sake of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, Forgive us all our offenses; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**


*Officiant*  
May the Almighty God grant us forgiveness of all our sins, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

*Officiant* *People*




O God, make speed to save us, O Lord, make haste to help us.

*Officiant and People*



Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spi - rit:



as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. A - men.

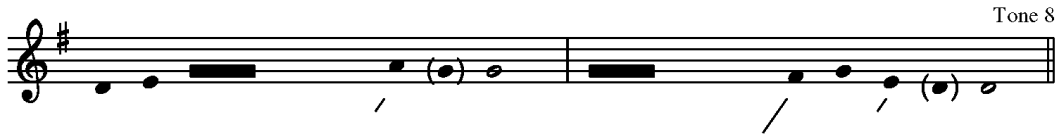
*Except in Lent, add:*



Al - le - lu - ia.

One of the following four Psalms is sung. Other suitable selections may be substituted. A long pause is observed at the half verse with a shorter pause between verses. Underlined syllables do not change pitch. Following the psalm the Office continues on page 7.

Psalm 4 *Cum invocarem*



1 *Ans-wer* me when I call, O God, defender of my / cause; \* [Long Pause]  
 you set me free when I am hard-pressed;  
 have mercy on / me and hear my prayer. [Short Pause]

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

3 Know that the Lord does wonders for the / faithful; \*  
 when I call upon the Lord, / he will hear me.

4 **Tremble, then, and / do not sin; \***  
**speak to your heart in si- / lence upon your bed.**

5 Offer the appointed sacrific- / ices, \*  
 and put your / trust in the Lord.

6 **Many are saying,**  
**“Oh, that we might see / better times!” \***  
**Lift up the light of your countenance up- / on us, O Lord.**

7 You have put gladness in my / heart, \*  
 more than when grain and / wine and oil increase.

8 **I lie down in peace; at once I / fall asleep; \***  
**for only you, Lord, make me / dwell in safety.**

Glory to the Father, and to the / Son \*  
 and to the / Holy Spirit:

**As it was in the beginning, is / now \***  
**and will be for / ever. Amen.**

Psalm 31 *In te, Domine, speravi*



1 *In you*, O Lord, have I taken refuge;  
 let me never be / put to shame; \* [Long Pause]  
 deliver me / in your righteousness. [Short Pause]

2 **Incline your / ear to me; \***  
**make haste / to deliver me.**

3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,  
for you are my crag and my / stronghold; \*  
for the sake of your Name, lead / me and guide me.

4 **Take me out of the net that they have secretly / set for me, \***  
**for you / are my tower of strength.**

5 Into your hands I commend my / spirit, \*  
for you have redeemed me,  
O / Lord, O God of truth.

Glory to the Father, and to the / Son \*  
and to the / Holy Spirit:

**As it was in the beginning, is / now \***  
**and will be for / ever. Amen.**

Psalm 91 *Qui habitat*



1 *He who dwells in the shelter of the / Most High, \* [Long Pause]*  
*abides under the shadow of / the Almighty. [Short Pause]*

2 **He shall say to the Lord,**  
**“You are my refuge and my / stronghold, \***  
**my God in / whom I put my trust.”**

3 He shall deliver you from the snare of the / hunter \*  
and from the / deadly pestilence.

4 **He shall cover you with his pinions,**  
**and you shall find refuge under his / wings; \***  
**his faithfulness shall be a / shield and buckler.**

5 You shall not be afraid of any terror by / night, \*  
nor of the ar- / row that flies by day;

6 **Of the plague that stalks in the / darkness, \***  
**nor of the sickness that lays / waste and mid-day.**

7 A thousand shall fall at your side  
and ten thousand at your / right hand, \*  
but it shall / not come near you.

8 **Your eyes have only to be- / hold \***  
**to see the reward / of the wicked.**

9 Because you have made the Lord your / refuge, \*  
and the Most High your / habitation,

10 **There shall no evil happen to / you, \***  
**neither shall any plague come / near your dwelling.**

- 11 For he shall give his angels charge / over you, \*  
to keep / you in all your ways.
- 12 **They shall bear you in their / hands, \***  
**lest you dash your / foot against a stone.**
- 13 You shall tread upon the lion and / adder; \*  
you shall trample the young lion and the serpent / under your feet.
- 14 **Because he is bound to me in love,**  
**therefore will I de- / liver him; \***  
**I will protect him, be- / cause he knows my Name.**
- 15 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.
- 16 **With long life will I satis- / fy him; \***  
**and show him / my salvation.**

Glory to the Father, and to the / Son \*  
and to the / Holy Spirit:

**As it was in the beginning, is / now \***  
**and will be for / ever. Amen.**

Psalm 134 *Ecce nunc*



- 1 *Be-hold* now, bless the Lord, all you servants of the / Lord, \* [*Long Pause*]  
you that stand by night in the / house of the Lord. [*Short Pause*]
- 2 **Lift up your hands in the holy place and / bless the Lord; \***  
**the Lord who made heaven and earth bless you / out of Zion.**

Glory to the Father, and to the / Son \*  
and to the / Holy Spirit:

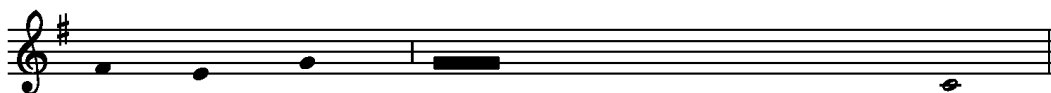
**As it was in the beginning, is / now \***  
**and will be for / ever. Amen.**

One of the following, or some other suitable passage of Scripture, is sung

Jeremiah 14:9, 22



Lord, you are in the midst of us, and we are called

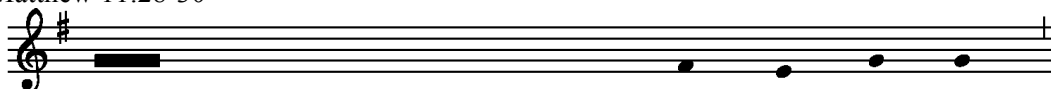


by your Name: Do not forsake us, O Lord our God.



Thanks be to God.

Matthew 11:28-30



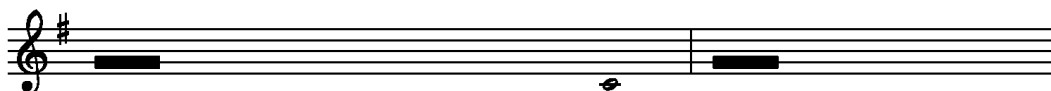
Come to me, all who labor and are hea - vy - la - den,



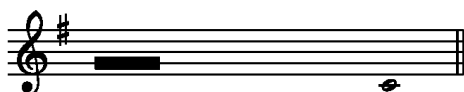
and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and



learn from me; For I am gentle and lowly in heart,



and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy,

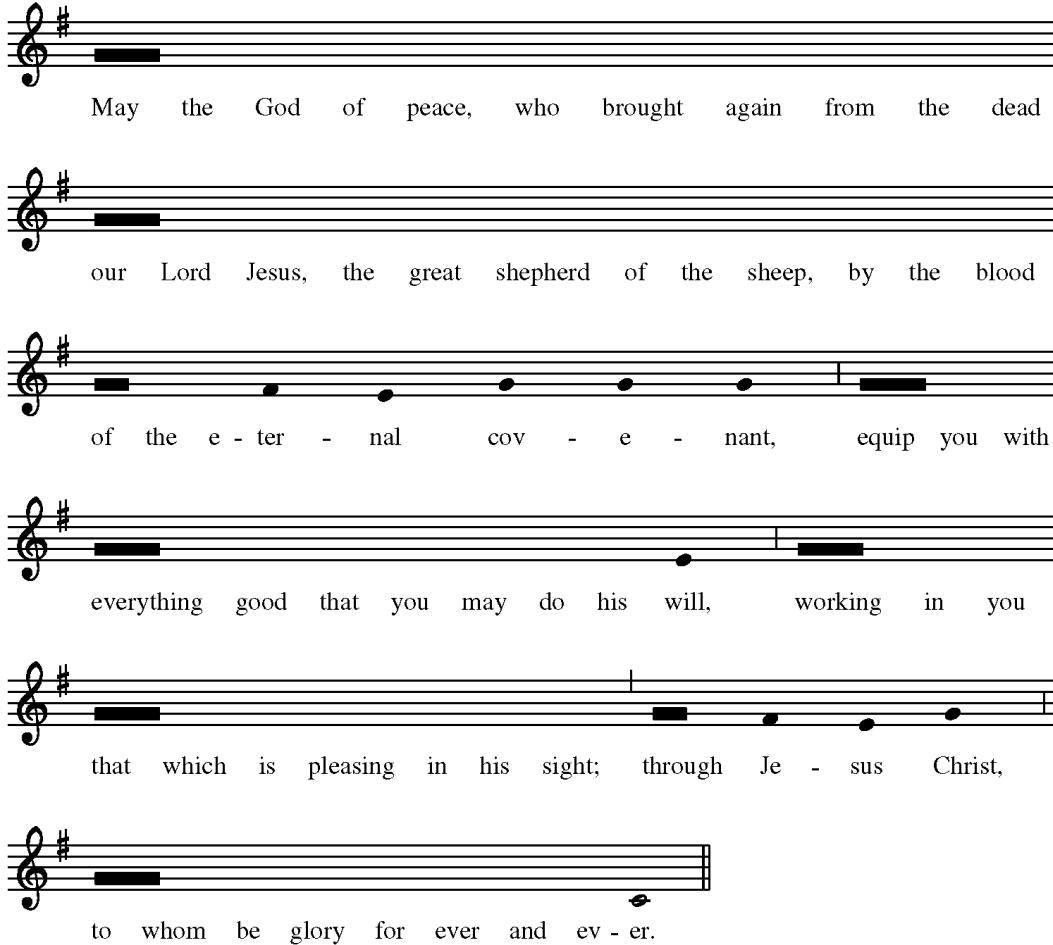


and my burden is light.



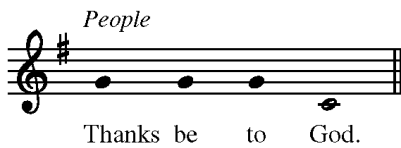
Thanks be to God.

Hebrews 13:20-21



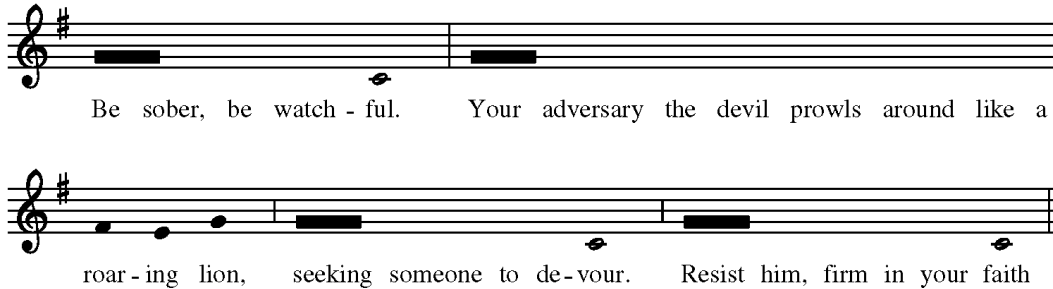
May the God of peace, who brought again from the dead  
our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood  
of the e - ter - nal cov - e - nant, equip you with  
everything good that you may do his will, working in you  
that which is pleasing in his sight; through Je - sus Christ,  
to whom be glory for ever and ev - er.

*People*



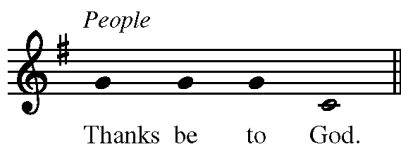
Thanks be to God.

1 Peter 5:8-9a



Be sober, be watch - ful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a  
roar - ing lion, seeking someone to de - vour. Resist him, firm in your faith

*People*




Thanks be to God.



A hymn suitable for the evening is sung, the number of the hymn is posted on the hymn board.

Responsory: Into your hands

*Officiant or Cantor*




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

*People*



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

*Officiant or Cantor*



For you have re - deemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.

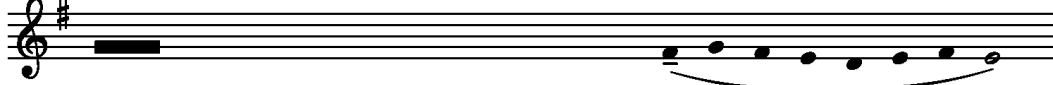
*People*



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

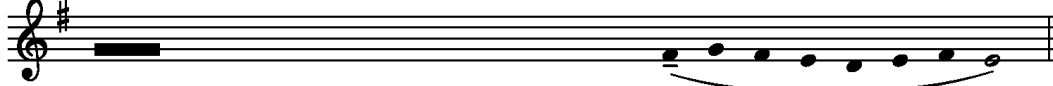
Then follows

*Officiant or Cantor*



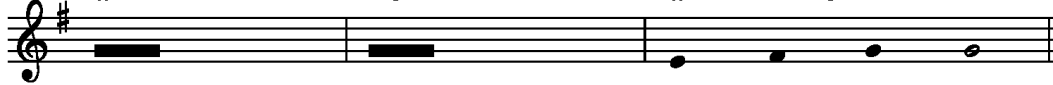
V. Keep us, O Lord, as the apple of your eye;

*People*



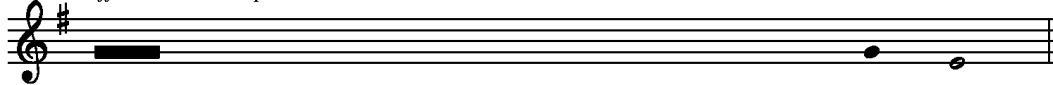
R. Hide us under the shadow of your wings.

*Officiant*                      *People*                      *Officiant and People*




Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mer - cy.

*Officiant and People*



Our Father, who art in heaven . . . deliver us from e - vil.

*Officiant*                      *People*



Lord, hear our prayer. And let our cry come to you.

*Officiant*



Let us pray.

*The Officiant then sings the Collect of the Day (if applicable) and two or more of the following Collects*

Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this life may rest in your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Look down, O Lord, from your heavenly throne, and illumine this night with your celestial brightness; that by night as by day your people may glorify your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Visit this place, O Lord, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let your blessing be upon us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. **Amen.**

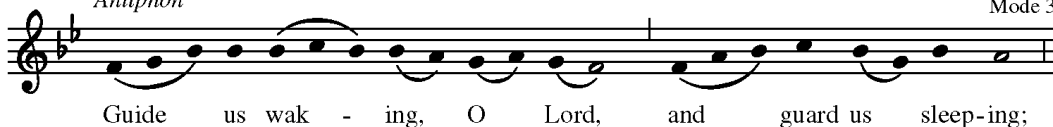
O God, your unfailing providence sustains the world we live in and the life we live: Watch over those, both night and day, who work while others sleep, and grant that we may never forget that our common life depends upon each other's toil; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Silence is kept, and free intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered.*

The Song of Simeon *Nunc dimittis*

*Antiphon*

Mode 3



Guide us wak - ing, O Lord, and guard us sleep-ing;



that a-wake we may watch with Christ, and a-sleep we may rest in peace.

*In Easter Season, add:*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1. Lord, you now have set your ser - vant free to go in peace as you



have prom-ised; 2. For these eyes of mine have seen the Sav - ior,



whom you have prepared for all the world to see: 3. A Light to en-



light-en the na - tions, and the glory of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

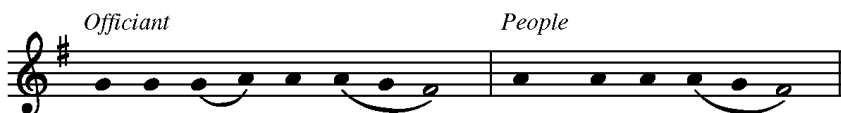


Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spi-rit:



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for ev-er. A-men. [Ant.]

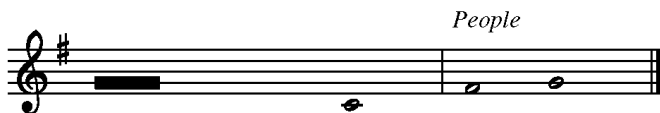
### Concluding Versicle and Blessing



Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.



The almighty and mer - ci - ful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spi - rit,



bless us and keep us. A - men.

Compline Setting: adapt. David Hurd (b. 1950).  
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*If you do not wish to keep this leaflet kindly return it to the basket near the front door following the service.*