

Compline

An Order for Night Prayer

Compline is the seventh and last hour of divine service, and it is as much to say as a 'fulfilling': for, in the end thereof, the seven hours of divine service are fulfilled. And therewith also is ended, and fulfilled, speaking, eating, and drinking, and labouring, and all bodily businesses. So that after that time ought to be kept great stillness and strait silence, not only from words, but also from all noises and deeds save only privy and soft prayer, and holy thinking, and bodily sleep. For compline betokeneth the end of man's life, or the end of the world, when the chosen of our Lord shall be delivered from all travail and woe, and be brought to endless quiet and rest. And therefore each person ought to dispose him to bed-ward, as if his bed were his grave.

— Thomas Fishbourne [attrib.], *The Myrroure of Oure Lady*, 1420s
(ed. Richard Fawkes, 1530, fol. 89v)

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TEXT *The Book of Common Prayer with the Additions and Deviations Proposed in 1928* (London: Oxford University Press, 1928); revised, *The Book of Common Prayer* (Toronto: Anglican Book Centre, 1962)

MUSIC W.H. Frere and G.H. Palmer, *The Order of Compline Throughout the Year* (Wantage: St Mary's Convent, 1896)

[J.H. Arnold], *An Order for Compline* (Burnham: Plainsong and Mediaeval Music Society, 1929); rearranged, *Compline: An Order for Night Prayer in Traditional Language* (Salisbury: Royal School of Church Music, 2005)

Healey Willan, *The Canadian Psalter: Plainsong Edition* (Toronto: Anglican Book Centre, 1963)

William Renwick, *Sarum Compline: BCP English* (Hamilton, ON: Gregorian Institute of Canada, 2018), <http://sarum-chant.ca>

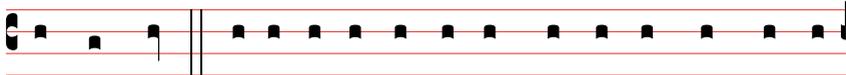
Compline

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect



end. **R.** Amen.

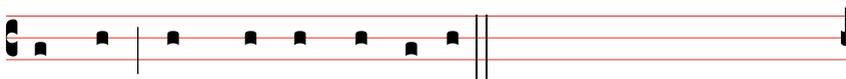
O God, make speed to save us; **R.** O Lord, make haste



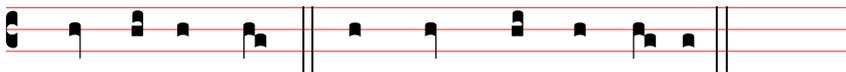
to help us. **Ps.** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to



the Holy Ghost; **R.** As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever



shall be: world without end. Amen.



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

Psalmody

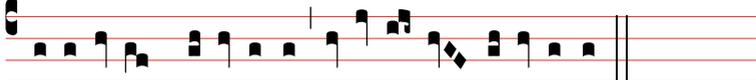
Ant.
viii.i



Have mercy upon me, O God, and hearken un-to my prayer.

Or, from Easter until Trinity Sunday

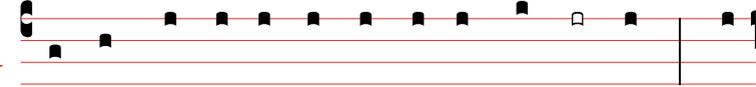
Ant.
viii.i



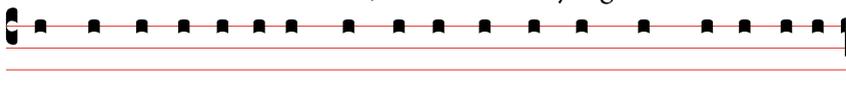
AL-le-lu-ia, * al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

One or more of the following psalms may be used

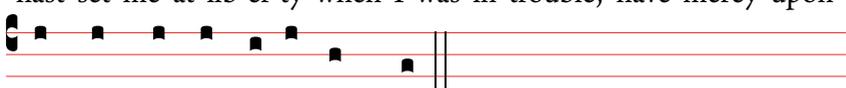
Psalm 4, Cum inuocarem



Hear me when I call, O God of my *righteousness* * thou



hast set me at lib-er-ty when I was in trouble; have mercy upon



me, and hearken *un*-to my prayer.

- 2 O ye sons of men, how long will ye blaspheme mine *hon*-our : and have such pleasure in vanity, and seek *af*-ter falsehood?
- 3 Know this also, that the Lord hath chosen to himself the man that is *god*-ly : 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 *cham-ber*, and be *still*.
- 5 Offer the sacrifice of *right-eous-ness* : and put your *trüst* in the *Lord*.
- 6 There be many that say, ‘Who will show us *a-ny-good*?’ : Lord, lift thou up the light of thy counten-*ance* upon us.
- 7 Thou hast put gladness in my *heart* : more than men have when their *grain* and wine in-*crease*.
- 8 I will lay me down in peace, and *take* my *rest* : for it is thou, Lord, only, that makest me *dwell* in safety.

Psalm 31.1–6, In te Domine speravi

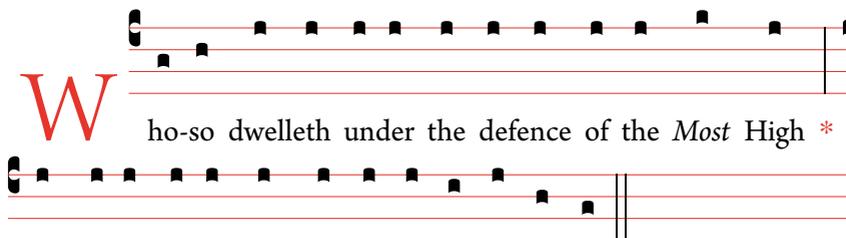
In thee, O Lord, have I *put* my trust * let me never be put

to confusion; de-liv-er me *in* thy righteousness.

- 2 Bow down thine *ear* to *me* : make haste *to* de-liv-er *me*.
- 3 And be thou my strong rock, and house of *de-fence* : that thou *may-est* save me.
- 4 For thou art my strong rock, and my *cas-tle* : be thou also my guide, and lead me *for* thy name’s sake.
- 5 Draw me out of the net that they have hidden *for* me : *for* thou art my *strength*.

- 6 Into thy hands I commend my *spi-rit* : for thou hast redeemed me,
O *Lord*, thou God of *truth*.

Psalm 91, Qui habitat



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* whom I will *trust*.'
- 3 For he shall deliver thee from the snare of the *hunt-er* : and from
the *noi-some* pes-ti_lence.
- 4 He shall defend thee under his wings, and thou shalt be safe under
his *fea-thers* : his faithfulness is a *shield* and buckler.
- 5 Thou shalt not be afraid for any terror by *night* : nor for the arrow
that *fli-eth* by day;
- 6 For the pestilence that walketh in *dark-ness* : nor for the sickness
that destroyeth *in* the noonday.
- 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* be_hold : and see the reward of *the*
ungodly.

- 9 Because thou hast said, ‘The Lord is my *ref-uge*, : and hast made the Most High thy *hab-it-a-tion*,
- 10 There shall no evil happen *un-to* thee : neither shall any plague come *nigh* thy dwelling.
- 11 For he shall give his angels charge *o-ver* 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 tread upon the lion and *ad-der* : the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample *un-der* thy feet.
- 14 Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I *de-li-ver* 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 show him *my* salvation.

Psalm 134, Ecce nunc



Behold now, *praise* the Lord * all ye *servants* of the Lord;

- 2 Ye that by night stand in the house of the *Lord* : even in the courts of the *house* of our God.
- 3 Lift up your hands in the sanctu-*ar-y* : — and praise the Lord.

- 4 The Lord that made heaven and *earth* : give thee blessing *out* of Sion.

At the end of the psalms

Glory be to the Father, and to the *Son* : and *to* the Ho-ly_Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever *shall* be : world with-*out* end. Amen.

Ant. 

Have mercy upon me, O God, and hearken un-to my prayer.

Or, from Easter until Trinity Sunday

Ant. 

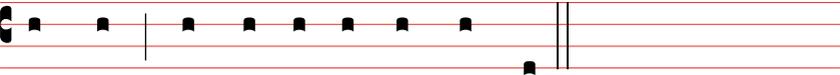
AL-le-lu-ia, * al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Scripture Reading

One of the following short lessons or another suitable passage is read

Jeremiah 14.9

Thou, O Lord, art in the midst of us, and we are called by 



thy name. Leave us not, O Lord our God.

or

COME unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. *Matthew 11.28–30*

or

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the Everlasting Covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. *Hebrews 13.20, 21*



R. Thanks be to God.

Then may be said the following Respond

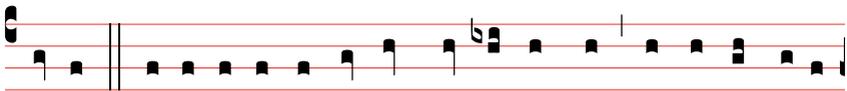
In-to thy hands, * O Lord, I commend my spirit.



R. In-to thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit. **Ps.** For thou



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



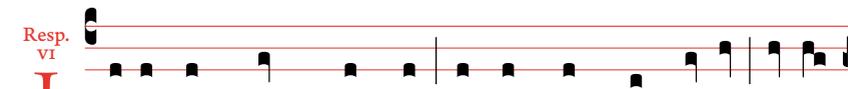
spirit. **Ps.** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy



Ghost. *R.* In-to thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Or, in Easter

Resp.
VI



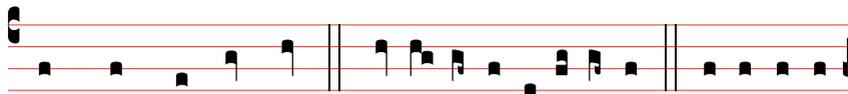
In-to thy hands, * O Lord, I commend my spirit. Al-le-



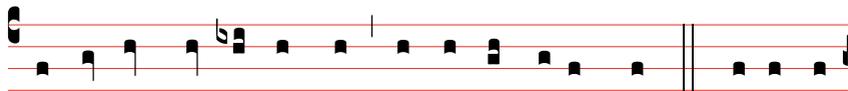
lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. *R.* In-to thy hands, O Lord, I commend my



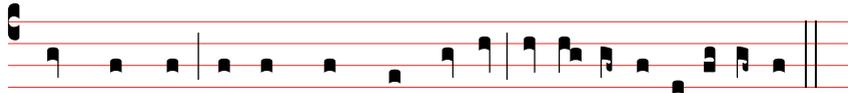
spirit. Al-le- lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. *Ps.* For thou hast redeemed me, O



Lord, thou God of truth. *R.* Al-le- lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. *Ps.* Glory be to



the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. *R.* In-to thy



hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit. Al-le- lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Hymn: *Te lucis ante terminum*

Here may follow this or some other hymn.

Festal melody, for Saturday, Sunday, and feast days

Hymn.
VIII

B



efore the ending of the day, Cre-a-tor of the world we



pray, That with thy wont- ed favour thou Wouldst be our guard



and keeper now.

Ferial melody, for ordinary weekdays

Hymn.
VIII

B



efore the ending of the day, Cre-a-tor of the world we



pray, That with thy wonted favour thou Wouldst be our guard and



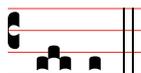
keeper now.

2 From all ill dreams defend our eyes,
From nightly fears and fantasies;
Tread under foot our ghostly foe,
That no pollution we may know.



Amen.

3 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.



A-men.

K eep us as the apple of an eye;

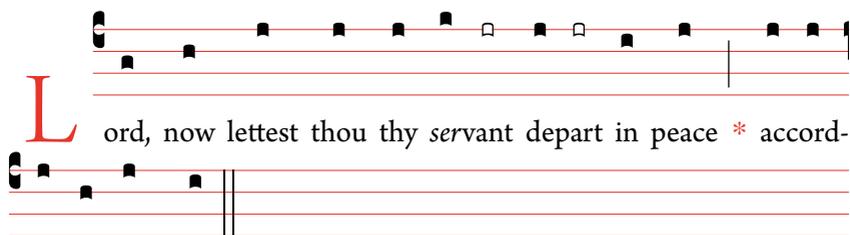
R. Hide us under the shadow of thy wings.

Luke 2.29–32, *Nunc dimittis*

Ant.
III.IV

P reserve us, * O Lord, while waking, and guard us while

may rest in peace. *In Easter:* Al-le- lu-ia.



Lord, now lettest thou thy *servant* depart in peace * accord-

ing *to* thy word.

- 2 For mine eyes have seen *thy* salvation : which thou hast prepared before the face of *all* people;
- 3 To be a light to *light-en* the Gentiles : and to be the glory of thy *peo-ple* *Is-ra-el*.

Glory be to the *Fa-ther*, and to the Son : and to *the* *Ho-ly* Ghost;

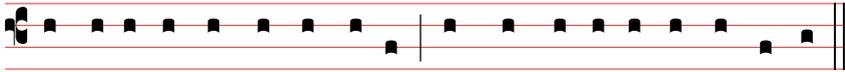
As it was in the beginning, is now, and *ev-er* shall be : world without *end*. Amen.

The antiphon is repeated

The Apostles' Creed

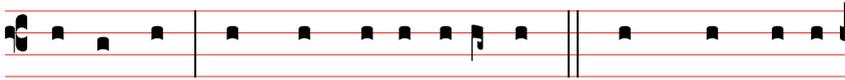
IBELIEVE in God the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Catholic Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins;



The resurrection of the body, And the life e-verlasting. Amen.

Prayers



∨. Let us pray. Lord, have mercy upon us. R̄. Christ, have mercy



upon us. ∨. Lord, have mercy upon us.

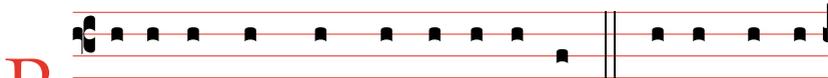
OUR Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done; In earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.



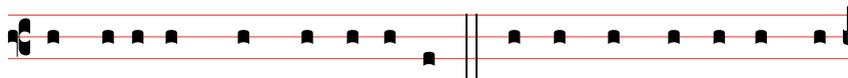
And lead us not in-to temptation; But deliv-er us from e-vil.



Amen.



Blessed art thou, Lord God of our fathers; R̄. To be praised



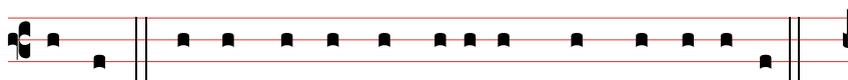
and glorified above all for e-ver. *Ps.* Let us bless the Father, the



Son, and the Holy Ghost; *R.* Let us praise him and magnify



him for e-ver. *Ps.* Blessed art thou, O Lord, in the firmament of



heaven; *R.* To be praised and glorified above all for e-ver.



Ps. The almighty and most merciful Lord guard us and give us his



blessing. *R.* Amen.

A period of silence for reflection on the past day may follow. The following words of penitence may be used

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.

A priest may say

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.**



℣. Wilt thou not turn again and quicken us; **℟.** That thy people



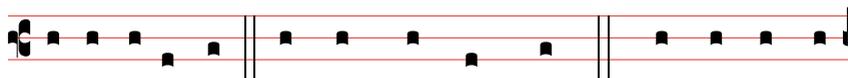
may rejoice in thee? **℣.** O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;



℟. And grant us thy salvation. **℣.** Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us



this night without sin; **℟.** O Lord, have mercy upon us, have



mercy upon us. **℣.** O Lord, hear our prayer; **℟.** And let our cry

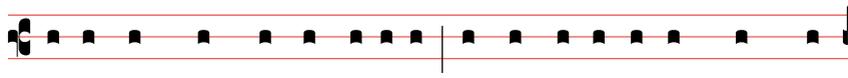


come un-to thee.

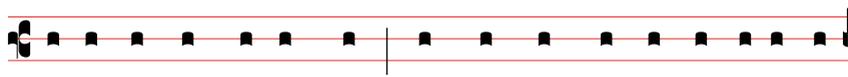
The Collect for Protection follows, with which may be said the Collect of the day



Vis-it, we beseech thee, O Lord, this place, and drive from



it all the snares of the en-emy; let thy ho-ly angels dwell here-

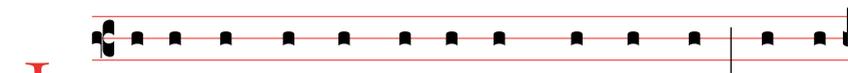


in to preserve us in peace; and may thy blessing be upon us



ev-ermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *R.* Amen.

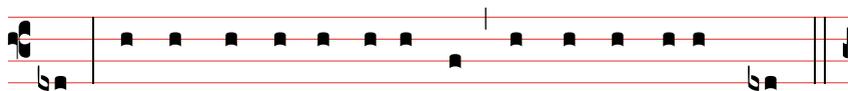
or



L ighten 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 on-ly Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.



R. Amen.

The following prayers may be added

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

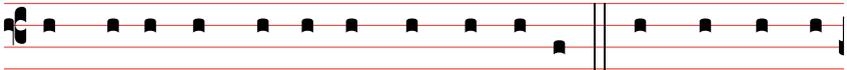
a bed of hope to thy people; Make us so to abound in sorrow for our sins, which were the cause of thy passion, that when our bodies lie in the dust, our souls may live with thee; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God world without end. **Amen.**

LOOK down, O Lord, from thy heavenly throne, illuminate the darkness of this night with thy celestial brightness, and from the sons of light banish the deeds of darkness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.**



℣. We will lay us down in peace and take our rest. **℞.** For it is thou,



Lord, on-ly that makest us dwell in safety. **℣.** The Lord be with



you; **℞.** And with thy spirit. **℣.** Let us bless the Lord. **℞.** Thanks



be to God. **℣.** The almighty and merci-ful Lord, the Father, the



Son and the Holy Ghost, bless us and preserve us. **℞.** **Amen.**