

# An Order for Compline

St. John's Episcopal Church  
Kingston, NY

*Officiant* The Lord Almighty grant us a peaceful night and a perfect end.

**People** Amen.

*Officiant* Our help is in the Name of the Lord;

**People** The maker of heaven and earth.

*The Officiant may then say*  
Let us confess our sins to God.

*Silence may be kept.*

*All* 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.

*All* Amen.

*Officiant* O God, make speed to save us.

**People** O Lord, make haste to help us.

**All** 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.

*Except in Lent, add Alleluia.*

*One or more of the following Psalms are sung or said. Other suitable  
selections may be substituted.*

## **Psalm 4** *Cum invocarem*

- 1 Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; \*  
you set me free when I am hard-pressed; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- 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 silence upon your bed.

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- 5 Offer the appointed sacrifices \*  
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 upon 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.

## **Psalm 31** *In te, Domine, speravi*

- 1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame: \*  
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 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.

## **Psalm 91** *Qui habitat*

- 1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High \*  
abides under the shadow of the Almighty.
- 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 arrow that flies by day;
- 6 Of the plague that stalks in the darkness, \*  
nor of the sickness that lays waste at 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 only have to behold \*  
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.

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- 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 the 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 deliver him; \*  
I will protect him, because 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 satisfy him, \*  
and show him my salvation.

## **Psalm 134** *Ecce nunc*

- 1 Behold now, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, \*  
you that stand by night in the house of the LORD.
- 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.

*At the end of the Psalms is sung or said*

**All** **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 read*

*Officiant* Lord, you are in the midst of us, and we are called by your  
Name: Do not forsake us, O Lord our God. *Jeremiah 14:9,22*

**People** **Thanks be to God.**

*Officiant* Come to me, all who labor and are heavy-laden, 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. *Matthew 11:28-30*

**People** **Thanks be to God.**

*Officiant* Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls  
around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.  
Resist him, firm in your faith. *1 Peter 5:8-9a*

**People** **Thanks be to God.**

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*A hymn suitable for the evening may be sung.  
Hymn texts are found beginning on page 6.*

*Officiant* Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit;  
**People** **For you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.**  
*Officiant* Keep us, O Lord, as the apple of your eye;  
**People** **Hide us under the shadow of your wings.**

*Officiant* Lord, have mercy.  
**People** **Christ, have mercy.**  
*Officiant* Lord, have mercy.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

*Officiant* Lord, hear our prayer;  
**People** **And let our cry come to you.**  
*Officiant* Let us pray.

*The Officiant then says one of the following Collects*

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

**People** **Amen.**

*Officiant* 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 Redeemer.

**People** **Amen.**

*Officiant* Look down, O God, 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.

**People** **Amen.**

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*Officiant* Visit this place, O God, 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 Savior.

**People** Amen.

*This prayer is then said*

**All** 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.

*Officiant* For what or whom shall we pray?

*Please offer your thanksgivings and intercessions either silently or aloud.*

*The service concludes with the Song of Simeon with this Antiphon, which is sung or said by all*

**All** Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.

*In Easter Season, add Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

**Lord, you now have set your servant free \*  
to go in peace as you have promised;  
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, \*  
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:  
A Light to enlighten the nations, \*  
and the glory of your people Israel.  
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.**

*All* Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.

*In Easter Season, add Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.

**People** Thanks be to God.

*Officiant* The almighty and merciful God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, bless us and keep us.

**People** Amen.

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*Be thou my vision*                      *Hymnal 1982, 488*

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
all else be nought to me, save that thou art--  
thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
thou my great Father; thine own may I be;  
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

3 High King of heaven, when victory is won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my heart, whatever befall,  
still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

*All praise to thee, my God, this night*      *Hymnal 1982, 43*

1 All praise to thee, my God, this night,  
for all the blessings of the light:  
keep me, O keep me, King of kings,  
beneath thine own almighty wings.

2 Forgive me, Lord, for thy dear Son,  
the ill that I this day have done;  
that with the world, myself, and thee,  
I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.

3 O may my soul on thee repose,  
and with sweet sleep mine eyelids close;  
sleep that shall me more vigorous make  
to serve my God when I awake.

4 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host:  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

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*Breathe on me, Breath of God*

*Hymnal 1982, 508*

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew,  
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.

2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,  
until with thee I will one will, to do or to endure.

3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly thine,  
till all this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.

4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die;  
but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.

*There's a wideness in God's mercy*

*Hymnal 1982, 469*

1 There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in his justice, which is more than liberty.  
There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good;  
there is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in His blood.

2 There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven;  
there is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.  
There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed;  
there is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.

3 For the love of God is broader than the measure of the mind;  
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.  
If our love were but more faithful, we should take him at his word;  
and our life would be thanksgiving for the goodness of the Lord.