



# O Sapientia

*O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High,  
reaching from one end of the earth to the other,  
mightily and sweetly ordering all things:  
Come and teach us the way of prudence.*

## Night Prayer (Compline)

December 16th 2020



Newbury, St George & St John

*The ancient office of Compline derives its name from a Latin word meaning 'completion' (completorium). It is above all a service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day. Please prepare by lighting a candle, (if you wish), and sitting quietly.*

## **Words of Welcome and Introduction**

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.  
**Amen.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord  
**who made heaven and earth.**

*A period of silence for reflection on the past day may follow.*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess to you,  
before the whole company of heaven and one another,  
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed  
and in what we have failed to do.  
Forgive us our sins,  
heal us by your Spirit  
and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.**

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

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*A suitable hymn or poem may be sung or read.*

*O Sapientia, quae ex ore Altissimi prodiisti,  
attingens a fine usque ad finem,  
fortiter suaviterque disponens omnia:  
veni ad docendum nos viam prudentiae.*

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High,  
reaching from one end of the earth to the other,  
mightily and sweetly ordering all things:  
Come and teach us the way of prudence.

*O Sapientia*      A Poem by Malcolm Guite

The Word of God

Psalmody

*Psalm 84*

**Refrain:** Lord, I love the house of your habitation

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!  
My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the LORD;  
my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

**Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,  
where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts,  
my King and my God.**

Blessed are those who dwell in your house,  
ever singing your praise.

**Blessed are those whose strength is in you,  
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.**

As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs;  
the early rain also covers it with pools.

**They will go from strength to strength;  
the God of gods will be seen in Zion.**

O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;  
give ear, O God of Jacob!

Continued...

**and the place where your glory abides.  
Behold our shield, O God;  
look on the face of your anointed.**

For a day in your courts  
is better than a thousand elsewhere.

**I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God  
than live in the tents of wickedness.**

For the LORD God is a sun and shield;  
he bestows favour and honour.  
No good thing does the LORD withhold  
from those who walk uprightly.

**O LORD of hosts,  
blessed is everyone who trusts in you.**

**Refrain:** Lord, I love the house of your habitation  
and the place where your glory abides.

*At the end of the psalmody, the following is said or sung*  
**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

### **Scripture Reading**

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

Isaiah 11:2-3

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.  
**Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**  
For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.  
**I commend my spirit.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit.  
**Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

Keep me as the apple of your eye.  
**Hide me under the shadow of your wings.**

## Gospel Canticle

*The Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon) is said or sung*

**Come, O Lord, and visit us in peace;  
let us rejoice before you with a perfect heart.**

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: •  
your word has been fulfilled.  
My own eyes have seen the salvation •  
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;  
A light to reveal you to 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 shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Come, O Lord, and visit us in peace;  
let us rejoice before you with a perfect heart.**

## Prayers

*Intercessions and thanksgivings are offered .*

## The Collect

*Silence may be kept.*

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray,  
and drive far from it the snares of the enemy;  
may your holy angels dwell with us and guard us in peace,  
and may your blessing be always upon us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **The Conclusion**

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.**

*We depart in silence*

**Benefice of St George and St John.**

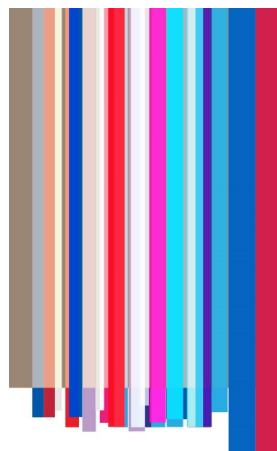
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