

Compline

Poetry and Theology with Christina Rossetti

28th April 2021



Newbury, St George & St John

Welcome to the benefice of St George and 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.

Poem One— Confluents

As rivers seek the sea,
Much more deep than they,
So my soul seeks thee
Far away:
As running rivers moan
On their course alone
So I moan
Left alone...

The Lord most loving 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.

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.**

The following or another suitable hymn may be sung

Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world, we pray
That you, with steadfast love, would keep
Your watch around us while we sleep.

From evil dreams defend our sight,
From fears and terrors of the night;
Tread underfoot our deadly foe
That we no sinful thought may know.

O Father, that we ask be done
Through Jesus Christ, your only Son;
And Holy Spirit, by whose breath
Our souls are raised to life from death.

The Word of God

Psalmody

Psalm 104

Refrain: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live.

Bless the Lord, O my soul. •
O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!

You appointed the moon to mark the seasons, •
and the sun knows the time for its setting.

You make darkness that it may be night, •
in which all the beasts of the forest creep forth.

The lions roar for their prey •
and seek their food from God.

The sun rises and they are gone •
to lay themselves down in their dens.

People go forth to their work •
and to their labour until the evening.

O Lord, how manifold are your works! •
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

There is the sea, spread far and wide, •
and there move creatures beyond number, both small and great.

There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan •
which you have made to play in the deep.

All of these look to you •
to give them their food in due season.

When you give it them, they gather it; •
you open your hand and they are filled with good.

When you hide your face they are troubled; •
when you take away their breath,
they die and return again to the dust.

When you send forth your spirit, they are created, •
and you renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; •
may the Lord rejoice in his works;

Refrain: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live.

*Creator God,
send your Holy Spirit to renew this living world,
that the whole creation,
in its groaning and striving,
may know your loving purpose
and come to reflect your glory;
in Jesus Christ our Lord.*

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 servants of the Lamb shall see the face of God, whose name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night: they will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

Revelation 22.4,5

Second Poem—A Pause for Thought, Christina Rossetti

I looked for that which is not, nor can be,
And hope deferred made my heart sick in truth:
But years must pass before a hope of youth
Is resigned utterly.

I watched and waited with a steadfast will:
And though the object seemed to flee away
That I so longed for, ever day by day
I watched and waited still.

Sometimes I said: This thing shall be no more;
My expectation wearies and shall cease;
I will resign it now and be at peace:
Yet never gave it o'er.

Sometimes I said: It is an empty name
I long for; to a name why should I give
The peace of all the days I have to live??
Yet gave it all the same.

Alas, thou foolish one! alike unfit
For healthy joy and salutary pain:
Thou knowest the chase useless, and again
Turnest to follow it.

A brief reflection on Theology and Poetry

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

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

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.

Luke 2.29-32

**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.**

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

Prayers

Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.

After Communion by Christina Rossetti

Why should I call Thee Lord, Who art my God?

Why should I call Thee Friend, Who art my Love?

Or King, Who art my very Spouse above?

Or call Thy Sceptre on my heart Thy rod?

Lo, now Thy banner over me is love,

All heaven flies open to me at Thy nod:

For Thou hast lit Thy flame in me a clod,

Made me a nest for dwelling of Thy Dove.

What wilt Thou call me in our home above,

Who now hast called me friend? how will it be

When Thou for good wine settest forth the best?

Now Thou dost bid me come and sup with Thee,

Now Thou dost make me lean upon Thy breast:

How will it be with me in time of love?

The Lord's Prayer may be said.

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,

the power and the glory,

for ever and ever.

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.
*[Come with the dawning of the day
and make yourself known in the breaking of the bread.]*

The Lord bless us and watch over us;
the Lord's face shine upon us and be gracious to us;
the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace.
Amen.

We depart in silence listening to the music

Benefice of St George and St John.

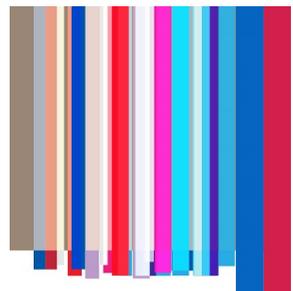
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