



Southwell  
Minster

*The Cathedral and Parish Church  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary*



# REFLECTION AND COMPLINE

*during the season of Epiphany*

## Welcome to this online service from Southwell Minster

The ancient office of Compline derives its name from a Latin word meaning completion (*completorium*). It is above all a service of quietness before rest at the end of the day, but the simplicity of the service also lends itself to reflection and prayerfulness.

Please do join in at home as you are comfortably able: you may wish to stand, sit and kneel as you normally would in church (we have included instructions for posture in this booklet for this reason), and/or to speak along with the congregational elements of the service.

Donations in support of the mission and ministry of the Cathedral are very welcome: for more details, go to <https://www.southwellminster.org/donate/>. Thank you for your support.

### Acknowledgements

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# ORDER OF SERVICE

## GOSPEL READING

## REFLECTION

*Silence is kept.*

## PREPARATION

*Please stand*

## OPENING PRAYERS

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

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

*Silence is kept for reflection on the past day.*

**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. Alleluia.

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.  
Amen.

*Latin, trans. John Mason Neale (1818-66)*

## THE WORD OF GOD

### PSALMODY

*One or more of the following psalms are used:*

Psalm 4

Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness;  
you set me at liberty when I was in trouble; have mercy on me and  
hear my prayer.

**How long will you nobles dishonour my glory;  
how long will you love vain things and seek after falsehood?**

But know that the Lord has shown me his marvellous kindness;  
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.

**Stand in awe, and sin not;**

**commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.**

Offer the sacrifices of righteousness  
and put your trust in the Lord.

**There are many that say, 'Who will show us any good?'**

**Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon us.**

You have put gladness in my heart,  
more than when their corn and wine and oil increase.

**In peace I will lie down and sleep,**

**for it is you Lord, only, who 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 shall be for ever. Amen.]**

Psalm 16

Preserve me, O God, for in you have I taken refuge;

I have said to the Lord, 'You are my lord, all my good depends on you.'

**All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land,  
upon those who are noble in heart.**

Though the idols are legion that many run after,  
their drink offerings of blood I will not offer, neither make mention of  
their names upon my lips.

**The Lord himself is my portion and my cup;  
in your hands alone is my fortune.**

My share has fallen in a fair land;  
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

**I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel,  
and in the night watches he instructs my heart.**

I have set the Lord always before me;  
he is at my right hand; I shall not fall.

**Wherefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices;  
my flesh also shall rest secure.**

For you will not abandon my soul to Death,  
nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.

**You will show me the path of life; in your presence is the fullness of joy  
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.**

[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.]

Psalm 91

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
and abides under the shadow of the Almighty,  
**Shall say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my stronghold,  
my God, in whom I put my trust.'**

For he shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler  
and from the deadly pestilence.

**He shall cover you with his wings and you shall be safe under  
his feathers;**

**his faithfulness shall be your shield and buckler.**

You shall not be afraid of any terror by night,  
nor of the arrow that flies by day;

**Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness,  
nor of the sickness that destroys at noonday.**

Though a thousand fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand,  
yet it shall not come near you.

**Your eyes have only to behold**

**to see the reward of the wicked.**

Because you have made the Lord your refuge  
and the Most High your stronghold,

**There shall no evil happen to you,**

**neither shall any plague come near your tent.**

For he shall give his angels charge over you,  
to keep you in all your ways.

**They shall bear you in their hands,**

**lest you dash your foot against a stone.**

You shall tread upon the lion and adder;

the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

**Because they have set their love upon me, therefore will I deliver them;**

**I will lift them up, because they know my name.**

They will call upon me and I will answer them;

I am with them in trouble, I will deliver them and bring them to honour.

**With long life will I satisfy them**

**and show them my salvation.**

[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.]**

Psalm 134

Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord,  
you that by night stand in the house of the Lord.

**Lift up your hands towards the sanctuary**

**and bless the Lord.**

The Lord who made heaven and earth  
give you blessing 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 shall be for ever. Amen.**

*Please sit*

You, O Lord, are in the midst of us and we are called by your name; leave us not, O Lord our God.

*or*

Titus 2: 11

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

*or*

Revelation 22: 4-5

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.

RESPONSORY *may be used*

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.**

*Please stand*

## NUNC DIMITTIS (SONG OF SIMEON)

**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.

**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

*Please sit or kneel*

*Brief intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered.*

## COLLECT

King of kings and Lord of lords,  
making the true light to shine:  
lighten our darkness now and evermore  
that with our lips and in our lives  
we may praise you;  
for you are our God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

*or*

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 LORD'S PRAYER *may be used*

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
**Amen.****

## THE CONCLUSION

*Please stand*

### RESPONSORY

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.**

### BLESSING

May the living waters of Christ cleanse us,  
may the Spirit descend upon us,  
and the blessing of God be with us  
this night and always.  
**Amen.**

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*The Minster Centre, Church Street, Southwell, NG25 0HD*

Tel.: 01636 812593

office@southwellminster.org.uk

www.southwellminster.org

Facebook: @SouthwellMinster

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