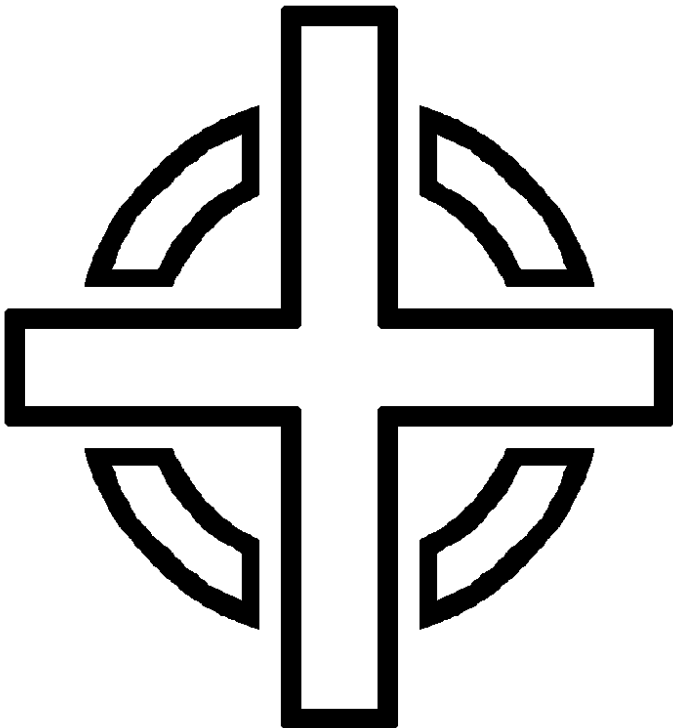


**St Laurence Church Downton**

**An Order for Night Prayer**

# **Compline**



**Common Worship**

*We all say the words in **bold** type. The words in plain type are said by the minister.*

## **Preparation**

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.*

*The following words of penitence are used*

**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.**

*The following hymn is said*

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**

### **Psalm 4**

- 1 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.
- 2 How long will you nobles dishonour my glory;  
how long will you love vain things and seek after  
falsehood?
- 3 But know that the Lord has shown me his marvellous  
kindness;  
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.
- 4 Stand in awe, and sin not;  
commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.
- 5 Offer the sacrifices of righteousness  
and put your trust in the Lord.
- 6 There are many that say, 'Who will show us any good?'  
Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon us.
- 7 You have put gladness in my heart,  
more than when their corn and wine and oil increase.
- 8 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.**

## **Scripture Reading**

*One of the following short lessons is read*

You, O Lord, are in the midst of us and we are called by  
your name; leave us not, O Lord our God. *Jeremiah 14.9*

*(or)*

Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil is  
prowling round like a roaring lion, seeking for someone to  
devour. Resist him, strong in the faith. *1 Peter 5.8,9*

*(or)*

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*

*The following responsory is said*

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 Cantic

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

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

- 1 Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:  
your word has been fulfilled.
- 2 My own eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;
- 3 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 are offered here.*

## 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 Lord's Prayer is 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.**

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.**