

The United Benefice of  
Lutterworth, with Cotesbach and Bitteswell

# Compline

*A service to end the day.*

*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. It is most effective when the ending is indeed an ending, without additions, conversation or noise. If the service is in church, those present depart in silence; if at home, they go quietly to bed.*



## The Gathering

### Opening Declaration

*Leader* The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

*All* **Amen.**

*Leader* Our help is in the name of the Lord

*All* **who has made heaven and earth.**

*Leader* Let us pray.

*All* **As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,  
so may your mercy come down upon us  
to cleanse our hearts  
and set us free to sing your praise  
now and 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.

**All**

**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 Time to Reflect on the Day**

*Some music will be played.*



## **The Word of God**

### **Bible Reading**

**Leader**

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*

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*

**Leader**

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

**All**

**Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

*Leader* For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.  
*All* **I commend my spirit.**

*Leader* Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

*All* **Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**



## **Meditation**

*The leader gives some words of reflection and application on the journey of Holy Week.*



## **Time for Reflection**

*Some music will be played.*

*Leader* Almighty God,  
*All* **as we stand at the foot of the cross of your Son,  
help us to see and know your love for us,  
so that in humility, love and joy  
we may place at his feet  
all that we have and all that we are;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.**

## Canticle

*Leader* In the shadow of Your wings  
I will sing Your praises, O Lord.

**All** In the shadow of Your wings  
I will sing Your praises, O Lord.

*Leader* The Lord is my light, my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the refuge of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?

**All** In the shadow of Your wings  
I will sing Your praises, O Lord.

*Leader* One thing I ask of the Lord, one thing I seek;  
to dwell in the presence of my God,  
to gaze on Your holy place.

**All** In the shadow of Your wings  
I will sing Your praises, O Lord.

*Leader* I believe I shall see the goodness  
of the Lord in the land of the living.  
O wait for the Lord!  
Have courage and wait, wait for the Lord.

**All** In the shadow of Your wings  
I will sing Your praises, O Lord.



## Hymn



A - men.

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 Dismissal

### Conclusion

*Leader* In peace we will lie down and sleep;  
*All* **for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.**

*Leader* Abide with us, Lord Jesus,  
*All* **for the night is at hand and the day is now past.**

*Leader* As the night watch looks for the morning,  
*All* **so do we look for you, O Christ.**

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

### Blessing

*Leader* Let us seek God's protection and care,  
*All* **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.**

*All leave in silence.*

