

# THE ORDER OF COMPLINE

Compiled and edited by

William Renwick

The Gregorian Institute of Canada  
L'Institut Grégorien du Canada  
MMV

## INTRODUCTION

This booklet is intended to facilitate the recitation of Compline in English. It follows the Western (Roman) rite in most aspects. In order to provide a simple order, we have followed the *Antiphonale Monasticum* in providing only a single set of psalms, whereas the *Antiphonale Romanum* provides different psalms for each day of the week.

The text is based upon *The Anglican Breviary*, *The Book of Common Prayer*, the *Sarum Psalter*, and *The Monastic Diurnal Noted*.

Newcomers to Gregorian chant will find it most instructive to sing Compline frequently and to become completely familiar with its structure and content before proceeding to the more variable forms of Matins, Lauds, and Vespers.

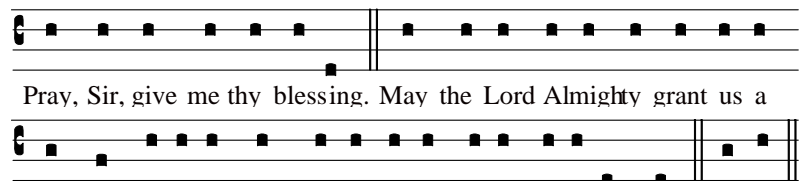
Compline is normally recited standing throughout, except during Lent and Passiontide, when the prayers, pp. 7-10, are said kneeling.

William Renwick,  
Hamilton Ontario,  
St. Matthew's Day, MMV.

# COMPLINE

Lector:

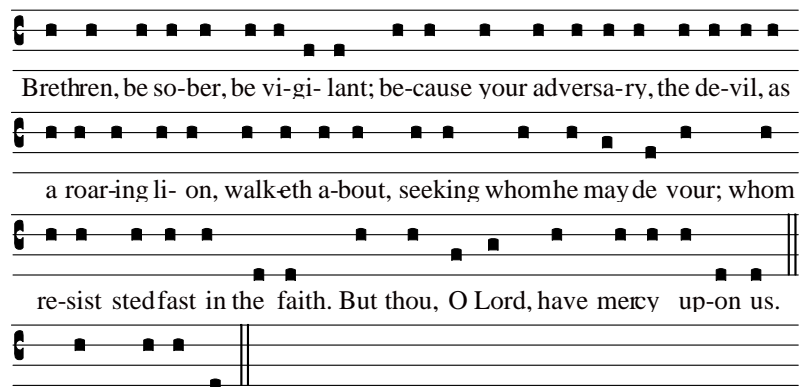
Officiant:



Pray, Sir, give me thy blessing. May the Lord Almighty grant us a

night of quietude, and perfection at the end of all our days. Amen.

Short Lesson. I. Peter 5.

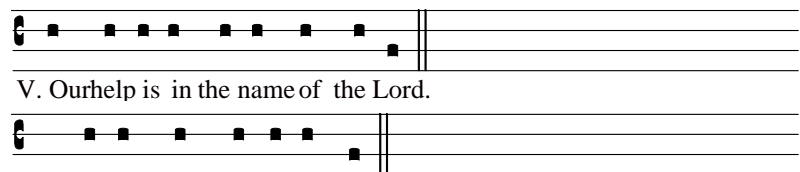


Brethren, be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary, the devil, as

a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour; whom

resist steadfast in the faith. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

R. Thanks be to God.



V. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R. Who hath made heaven and earth.

*Recite in silence.* Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. 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 them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.

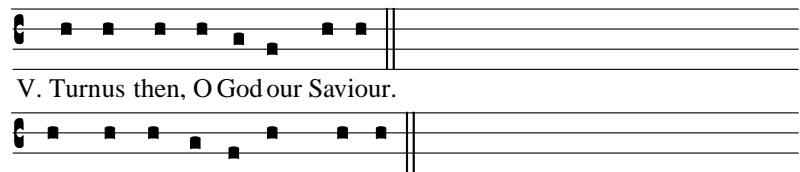
*All bow profoundly and say together.*

I confess to Almighty God, to Blessed Mary Ever-Virgin, to blessed Michael the Archangel, to blessed John Baptist, to the holy Apostles Peter and Paul and to all the Saints, that I have sinned exceedingly in thought, word, and deed, (striking the breast thrice) through my fault, through my own fault, through my most grievous fault. Therefore I beg Blessed Mary Ever-Virgin, blessed Michael the Archangel, blessed John Baptist, the holy Apostles Peter and Paul and all the Saints, to pray to the Lord our God for me.

Almighty God have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

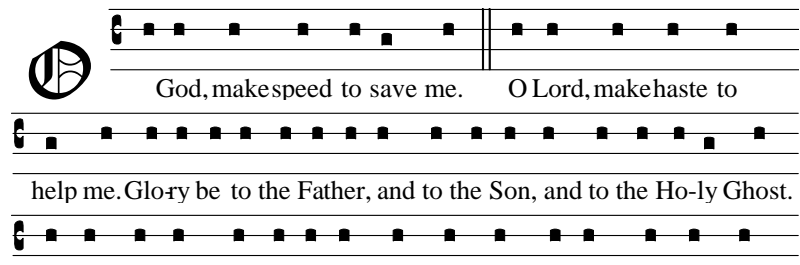
*All rise and say together.*

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, ✠ absolution, and remission of our sins. Amen.



V. Turnus then, O God our Saviour.

R. And let thine anger cease from us.



God, makespeed to save me. O Lord, makehaste to

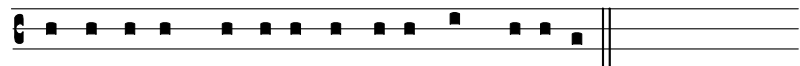
help me. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world



withoutend. Amen. Al le-lu-ia.

*From Septuagesima to Easter, instead of alleluia is sung:*



To thee, O Lord, be glory, King of endless majesty.

During the year.

Ant.

**H**

AVEmercy. e u o u a e

In Eastertide.

Ant.

**A**

L-le-lu-ia. e u o u a e

#### Psalm 4

**H**ear me when I call, O God of my **righteousness**: \* thou hast set me at liberty when I was in trouble; have mercy upon me, and *hearken unto* my prayer.

2. O ye sons of men, how long will ye blaspheme mine **honour**, \* and have such pleasure in vanity, and seek *after leasing*?

3. Know this also, that the Lord hath chosen to himself the man that is **godly**; \* when I call upon the Lord *he will hear* me.

4. Stand in awe, and **sin** not; \* commune with your own heart, and in your *chamber*, **and** be still.

5. Offer the sacrifice of **righteousness**, \* and put *your trust in* the Lord.

6. There be many that **say**, \* Who will *shew us* any good?

7. Lord, lift thou **up** \* the light of thy countenance *upon* us.

8. Thou hast put gladness in my **heart**; \* since the time that their corn and *wine and oil* increase.

9. I will lay me down in peace, and take my **rest**; \* for it is thou, Lord, only, that makest me  *dwell in* **safety**.

10. Glory be to the Father, and to the **Son**, \* and *to the Holy Ghost*.

11. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever **shall** be: \* world *without end*. Amen.

#### Psalm 91

**W**hoso dwelleth under the defence of the **Most High**, \* shall abide under the shadow of *the Almighty*.

2. I will say unto the LORD, Thou art my hope, and my **stronghold**; \* my God, *in him will* I trust.

3. For he shall deliver thee from the snare of the **hunter**, \* and from the *noisome pestilence*.

4. He shall defend thee under his wings, and thou shalt be safe under his **feathers**; \* his faithfulness and truth shall be thy *shield and buckler*.

5. Thou shalt not be afraid for any terror by **night**, \* nor for the arrow that *flieth by* day;

6. For the pestilence that walketh in **darkness**, \* nor for the sickness that destroyeth *in the noon*-day.

7. A thousand shall fall beside thee, and ten thousand at thy **right** hand; \* but it shall *not come nigh* thee.

8. Yea, with thine eyes shalt thou **behold**, \* and see the reward of *the ungodly*.

9. For thou, Lord, art my **hope**; \* thou hast set thine house of *defence* **very** high.

10. There shall no evil happen unto **thee**, \* neither shall any plague come *nigh thy dwelling*.

11. For he shall give his angels charge **over** thee, \* to keep *thee in all* thy ways.

12. They shall bear thee in their **hands**, \* that thou hurt not thy *foot against* a stone.

13. Thou shalt go upon the lion and **adder**: \* the young lion and the dragon shalt thou tread *under thy* feet.

14. Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I **deliver** him; \* I will set him up, because *he hath known* my Name.

15. He shall call upon me, and I will **hear** him; \* yea, I am with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and bring *him to* **honour**.

16. With long life will I satisfy him, \* and show him *my salvation*.

17. Glory be to the Father, and to the **Son**, \* and *to the Holy Ghost*.

18. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever **shall** be: \* world *without end*. Amen.

#### Psalm 134

**B**ehold now, praise the **Lord**, \* all ye *servants of* the Lord;

2. Ye that by night stand in the house of the **Lord**, \* even in the courts of the *house of our* God.

3. Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, \* *and praise the* Lord.

4. The Lord that made heaven and **earth** \* give thee blessing *out of* **Syon**.

5. Glory be to the Father, and to the **Son**, \* and *to the Holy Ghost*.

6. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever **shall** be: \* world *without end*. Amen.

*During the year.*

Ant.

**H**

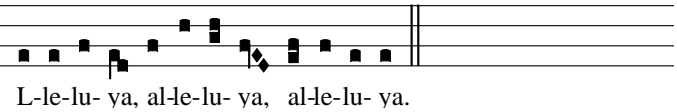


AVEmercy up-on me, O Lord, and hearken unto mypra- yer.

*In Eastertide.*

Ant.

**A**

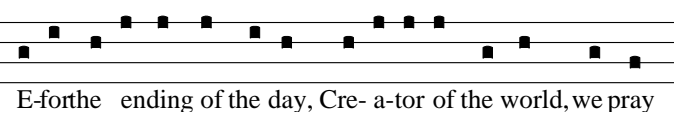


L-le-lu- ya, al-le-lu- ya, al-le-lu- ya.

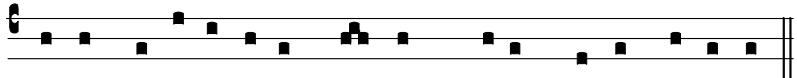
**Hymn.**

Hymn.

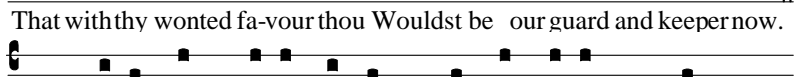
**B**



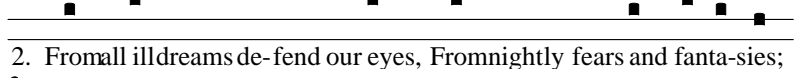
E-forthe ending of the day, Cre- a-tor of the world, we pray



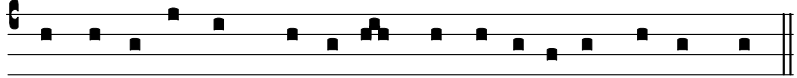
That with thy wonted fa-vour thou Wouldst be our guard and keeper now.



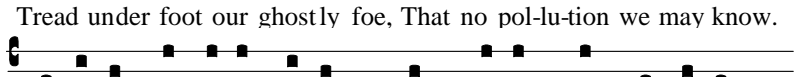
2. From all illdreams de-fend our eyes, From nightly fears and fanta-sies;



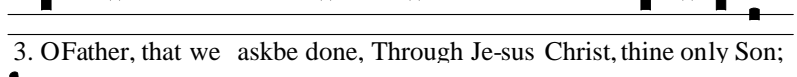
Tread under foot our ghostly foe, That no pol-lu-tion we may know.



3. O Father, that we ask be done, Through Je-sus Christ, thine only Son;



Who, with the Ho-ly Ghost and thee, Doth live and reign e ternal-ly.

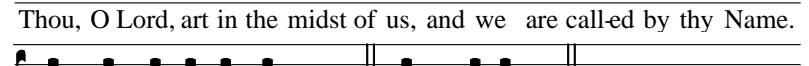


A- men.

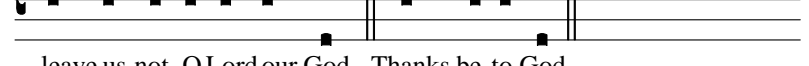
*The Little Chapter. Jer. 14.9.*



Thou, O Lord, art in the midst of us, and we are called by thy Name.



leave us not, O Lord our God. Thanks be to God.

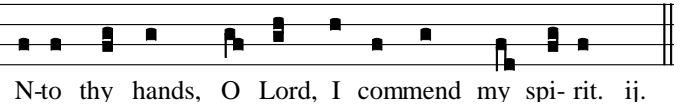


leave us not, O Lord our God. Thanks be to God.


*During the year, short responsory.*

Resp.

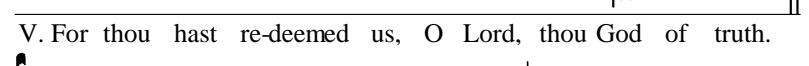
**I**



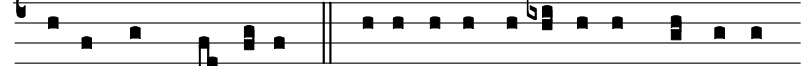
N-to thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spi- rit. ij.



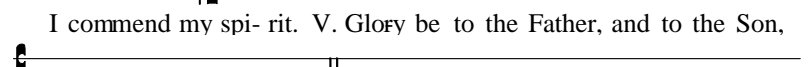
N-to thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spi- rit. ij.



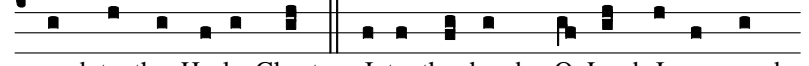
V. For thou hast re-deemed us, O Lord, thou God of truth.



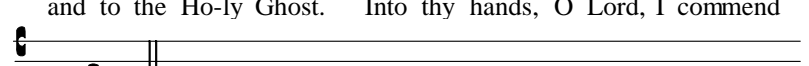
V. For thou hast re-deemed us, O Lord, thou God of truth.



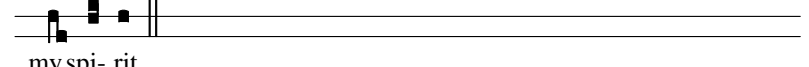
I commend my spi- rit. V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,




I commend my spi- rit. V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,



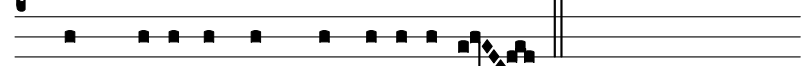
and to the Ho-ly Ghost. Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend



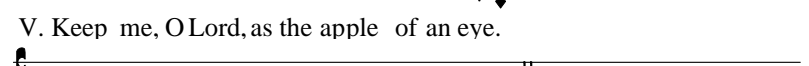
and to the Ho-ly Ghost. Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend



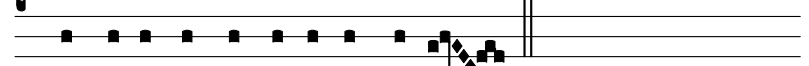
my spi- rit.



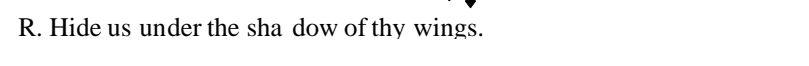
my spi- rit.



V. Keep me, O Lord, as the apple of an eye.



V. Keep me, O Lord, as the apple of an eye.



R. Hide us under the sha dow of thy wings.

Canticle of Simeon. Luke 2.

Ant.

RE-serve us. Ps. Nunc.

**L**ord, now lettest thou thy **servant** depart in peace \* according to thy word.

2. **For** mine eyes *have* seen \* thy *salvation*,

3. *Which* thou **hast** prepared \* before the face of *all* **people**;

4. *To* be a light to **lighten** the *gentiles*, \* and to be the glory of thy **people Israel**.

5. *Glory* be to the **Father**, and *to* the **Son**, \* and to the **Holy** Ghost.

6. *As* it was in the beginning, is now and **ever shall** be: \* world without **end**. Amen.

Ant.

RE-serve us, O Lord while wa-king, and guard us while sleeping: that a-wake we may watch with Christ, and a-sleepwe may rest in peace. T.P. Alle- lu- ya.

Prayers.

ORD, have mercy up-on us. R. Christ have mercy upon us.

Lord have mercy up-on us. V. Our Father. silently until

who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. 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 them that trespass against us.

And lead us not into-tempta-tion. R. But de-li-ver-us frome-vil.

V. I be-lieve in God. silently until

the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary: Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell: The third day he rose again from the dead: He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty: From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost: The holy Catholic Church; The Communion of Saints: The Forgiveness of sins:

The re-surrection of the bo-dy. R. And the lifee-ver-last-ing. Amen.

V. Blessèd art thou, O Lord God of our fathers. V. And to be

prais-ed and ex-al-ted a-bove all for ev-er.

V. Let us bless the Father, and the Son, and the Ho-ly Ghost.

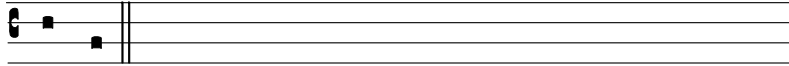
R. Let us praise and magni-fy him for ev-er.

V. Blessèd art thou, O Lord, in the firmament of heaven. R. And to be

prais-ed and ex-al-ted a-bove all for ev er.



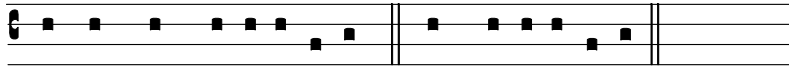
V. The Lord Almighty and merciful vouch safe to bless and pre-serve us.



R. A-men.



V. Vouchsafe O Lord this night. R. To keep us without sin.



V. O Lord, have mercy up-on us. R. Have mercy up-on us.



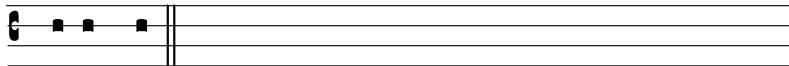
V. O Lord, let thy mercy lighten up-on us. R. As our trust is in thee.



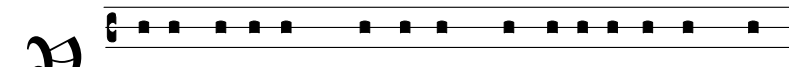
V. Lord, hear my pray-er. R. And let my cry come unto thee.



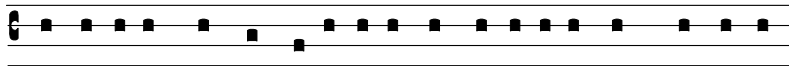
V. The Lord be with you. R. And with thy spi- rit.



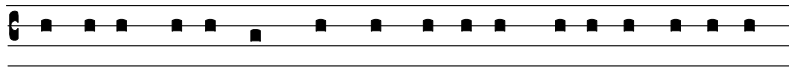
V. Let us pray.



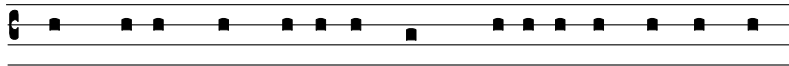
IS-it, we be-seech thee, O Lord, this ha-bi- ta-tion, and drive



far from it all snares of the e-nemy: let thy ho-ly Angels dwell here in,



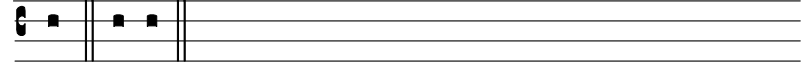
to pre-serve us in peace; and let thy blessing be always up-on us.



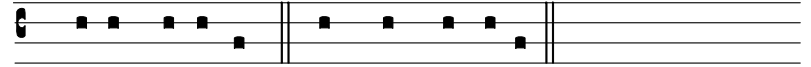
Through Je-sus Christ, thy Son our Lord. Who liv-eth and reigneth with



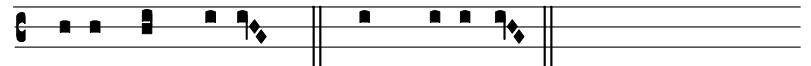
thee, in the u-ni-ty of the Ho ly Ghost, ev-er one God, world without



end. Amen.



V. The Lord be with you. R. And with thy spi- rit.  
or Lord Hear my prayer etc.



V. Let us bless the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

V. May the Lord Almighty and merciful, the Father, + the Son, and  
the Holy Ghost, vouchsafe to bless and keep us. R. Amen.