Compline (in Latin, Completorium) is the last service of the day, completing the daily work of prayer. In the sixteenth century Thomas Cranmer melded the evening and night offices, Vespers and Compline, into Evensong. The music for Compline is simple; it can be sung in darkness. At its heart is the Gospel canticle Nunc Dimittis.

14th February

Quinquagesima or the Sunday Next before Lent
ORGAN PRELUDE

Chant donné        Jehan Alain (1911-40)

HYMN

Te lucis ante terminum,  Before the ending of the day,
Rerum creator, poscimus,  Creator of the world, we pray,
Ut solita clementia,     That with thy constant favour thou
Sis praesul ad custodiam. Wouldst be our Guard and Keeper now.

Te corda nostra somnient,  Allow our hearts to dream of thee,
Te per soporem sentiant,   Thee through the sleep of night to see,
Tuamque semper gloriem    Then, with the light of dawn, may we
Vicina luce concinant.     Thy glory praise unceasingly.

Vitam salubrem tribue,    O grant us health of life once more;
Nostrum calorem refice,    The warmth of day to us restore,
Taetram noctis caliginem   And pierce the gloomy dark of night
Tua colustret claritas.    With splendid beams of thy pure light.

Praesta, Pater, omnipotens,  O Father, that we ask be done,
Per Iesum Christum Dominum, Through Jesus Christ, thine only Son,
Qui tecum in perpetuum     Who, with the Holy Ghost and thee,
Regnat cum Sancto Spiritu.  Doth live and reign eternally.

LITTLE CHAPTER  1 Corinthians 13.11-13

When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child,
I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.
For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face:
now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.
And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three;
but the greatest of these is charity.

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God
MOTET

O Jesu, nomen dulce  
Heinrich Schütz (1585-1672)
Tenor ~ Sebastian Blount

O Jesu nomen dulce  
O sweet name of Jesus.
Nomen admirabile  
Admirable name.
Nomen confortans  
Comforting name.
Quid enim canitur suaveius  
What truly is sung more sweetly?
Quid auditur jucundius  
What is heard more pleasantly?
Quid cogitatur dulcius  
What is thought of more dear?
Quam Jesus Dei filius.  
Who but Jesus, God’s Son?

O nomen Jesu, verus animae cibus  
O name of Jesus, true food of the soul
In ore mel, in aure melos,  
Honey in my mouth, song in my ear,
in corde laetitia mea  
source of delight in my heart.
Tuum itaque nomen, dulcissime Jesu,  
Therefore your name, sweetest Jesus,
in aeternum in ore meo portabo.  
I will carry in my mouth into eternity.

COLLECT for Quinquagesima

O LORD, who hast taught us
that all our doings without charity are nothing worth;
Send thy Holy Ghost and pour into our hearts
that most excellent gift of charity,
the very bond of peace and of all virtues,
without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before thee;
Grant this for thine only Son Jesus Christ’s sake. Amen.

Tonight’s prayer is drawn from the writings of Jeremy Taylor, Caian

COLLECT for Aid against all perils

LIGHTEN our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord;
and by thy great mercy
defend us from all perils and dangers of this night;
for the love of thy only Son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.
ANTIPHON

Ave Regina Caelorum

Ave, Regina caelorum, Hail, Queen of heaven,
Ave, Domina angelorum: Hail, Lady of the angels:
Salve, radix, salve, porta, We greet you, source and portal:
Ex qua mundo lux est orta: From you light was born for the world.

Gaude, Virgo gloriosa, Rejoice, Virgin glorious,
Super omnes speciosa: Loveliest above all:
Vale, o valde decora, In truth of beauty you prevail,
Et pro nobis Christum exora. And pray to Christ for us.

DR CAIUS’S PRAYER for daily use in the College

Deus pacis et dilectionis maneat semper nobiscum.
The God of peace and love remain with us always.