SUNDAY EVENING COMPLINE

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 March

Fourth Sunday of Lent
ORGAN PRELUDE

Vexilla Regis (Le Tombeau de Titelouze) Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)

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 gloriam 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   John 6.11-12

Jesus took the loaves;
and when he had given thanks,
he distributed to the disciples,
and the disciples to them that were set down;
and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.
When they were filled, he said unto his disciples,
Gather up the fragments that remain,
that nothing be lost.

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God
MOTET

Vexilla Regis prodeunt; The standards of the King go forth;
Fulget crucis mysterium, The mystery of the cross shines out –
Qua Vita mortem pertulit, The cross on which Life suffered death,
Et morte vitam protulit. And which, by his death, gave us life.

Quae vulnerata lanceae, Life bore the wounding of a spear,
Mucrone diro, criminum Pierced by a hard and cruel blade:
Ut nos lavaret sordibus, To wash from us the taint of sin,
Manavit unda et sanguine. Came blood and water pouring forth.

Implecta sunt quae concinit And so it came to be fulfilled,
David fidelis carmine, As David told in faithful song,
Dicendo nationibus: Proclaiming to the nations all:
Regnavit a ligno Deus. Our God is reigning from the tree.

Arbor decora et fulgida, O fair, effulgent-shining tree,
Ornata Regis purpura, Purpled and signed by royal blood,
Electa digno stipites Chosen as worthy for your stock
Tam sancta membra tangere. To touch the limbs of holiness.

Beata, cujus brachiis O blessed tree, for from your arms
Pretium pependit saeculi, Hung one who ransomed all the world,
Statera facta corporis, The pivot-point of mortal flesh
Tulitque praedam tartari. Who paid the hostage-fee to Hell.

O crux, ave, spes unica, Hail, holy cross, hail, only hope,
Hoc passionis tempore And in this passion-season now
Piis adauge gratiam, Forge purest grace for faithful souls
Reisque dele crimina. And wipe the slates of sinners clean.

Te, fons salutis. Trinitas, O source of safety, Holy Three,
Collaudet omnis spiritus; Let faithful spirits join in praise,
Qui bus crucis victoriam Graced with the victory of the cross,
Largiris, adde praemium. Amen. To take from you our faith’s reward. Amen.

PRAYERS

We wait for your lovingkindness, O Lord, in the midst of your temple.
Soon the standards of the King will go forth:
so we prepare for the mystery of our redemption.
Life will endure death, to bring us from death to life–
suffering will Cross into sublimity,
grace abounding will remake us
as the Easter fire is kindled –
if not in our churches then in our hearts.
O blessed tree, for from your arms
hung one who ransomed all the world...
COLLECT for LENT 4
GRANT, we beseech thee, Almighty God,
that we, who for our evil deeds do worthily deserve to be punished,
by the comfort of thy grace may mercifully be relieved;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

COLLECT for ASH WEDNESDAY
ALMIGHTY and everlasting God,
who hatest nothing that thou hast made
and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent;
Create and make in us new and contrite hearts,
that we, worthily lamenting our sins,
and acknowledging our wretchedness,
may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy,
perfect remission and forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Calling to mind any who have asked for our prayers,
and those we love,
and commending to God those who have no-one
to pray for them by name,
we ask him to gather up the broken,
that none of us be lost, by praying together:

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,
Ave, Domina angelorum:
Salve, radix, salve, porta,
Ex qua mundo lux est orta:
Gaude, Virgo gloriosa,
Super omnes speciosa:
Vale, o valde decora,
Et pro nobis Christum exora.
Hail, Queen of heaven,
Hail, Lady of the angels:
We greet you, source and portal:
From you light was born for the world.
Rejoice, Virgin glorious,
Loveliest above all:
In truth of beauty you prevail,
And pray to Christ for us.

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DR CAIUS'S PRAYER for daily use in the College
Deus pacis et dilectionis maneat semper nobiscum. Amen.
The God of peace and love remain with us always. Amen.