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*.

28th February

*Second Sunday of Lent*
ORGAN PRELUDE

Melody (Triptyque)    Jean Langlais (1907-91)

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.
Amen.

LITTLE CHAPTER     Mark 8.34-6

Jesus called to him the multitude with his disciples,
and said to them, “If any one would come after me,
let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.
For whoever would save their life will lose it;
and whoever loses their life for my sake, and the gospel’s,
will save it. For what does it profit anyone,
to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God
MOTET

Audi benigne Plainsong

Audi benigne conditor, O merciful Creator, hear; 
nostras preces cum fletibus, In tender pity bow Thine ear: 
in hoc sacro jejunio, Accept the tearful prayer we raise 
fusas quadragenario. In this our fast of forty days.

Scrutator alme cordium, Each heart is manifest to Thee; 
informa tu scis virium, Thou knowest our infirmity: 
ad te reversis exhibe Repenant now we seek Thy face; 
remissionis gratiam. Impart to us Thy pardoning grace.

Multum quidem peccavimus, Our sins are manifold and sore, 
se sufficere in vittibus, But spare Thou them who sin deplore; 
ad nominis laudem tui, And for Thine own Name’s sake make whole 
confer medelam languidis. The fainting and the weary soul.

Concede nostrum conteri, Grant us to mortify each sense 
corpus per abstinentiam, By means of outward abstinence, 
culpaes ut relinquant parbulum, That so from every stain of sin 
jejuna corda criminem. The soul may keep her fast within.

Praesta beata Trinitas, Blest Three in One, and One in Three 
concede simplex unitas, Almighty God, we pray to Thee, 
ut fructuosae sint tuis, That Thou wouldst now vouchsafe to bless 

PRAYERS

Scrutator alme cordium/infirma tu scis virium/ad te reversis exhibe/remissionis gratiam.

You test our hearts, but kindly so; 
you know our seeming strength is weak; 
grant us, when we return to you, 
forgiveness through amazing grace.

COLLECT for LENT 2

ALMIGHTY God, 
who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves; 
Keep us both outwardly in our bodies, 
and inwardly in our souls; 
that we may be defended from all adversities 
which may happen to the body, 
and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; 
through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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, we pray 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: Hail, Queen of heaven,
Salve, radix, salve, porta, Hail, Lady of the angels:
Ex qua mundo lux est orta: We greet you, source and portal:

Gaude, Virgo gloria, From you light was born for the world.
Super omnes speciosa: Rejoice, Virgin glorious,
Vale, o valde decora, Loveliest above all:
Et pro nobis Christum exora. 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.