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.

7th February
ORGAN PRELUDE

_Petit Prélude_  
Joseph Jongen (1873-1953)

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.*  
Amen.

LITTLE CHAPTER  
_Song of Songs 1.2, 4_

Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth:  
for thy love is better than wine.
Draw me, we will run after thee:  
the king hath brought me into his chambers:
we will be glad and rejoice in thee,
we will remember thy love more than wine.
MOTET

O misericordissime Jesu  Heinrich Schütz (1585-1672)
Tenor ~ Sebastian Blount

O misericordissime Jesu,
O dulcissime Jesu,
O gratiosissime Jesu,
O Jesu, salus in te sperantium,
O Jesu, salus in te credentium,
O Jesu, salus ad te confugientium,
O Jesu, dulcis remissio omnium peccatorum,
O Jesu, propter nomen sanctum tuum salve me, ne peream.
O Jesu, miserere, dum tempus est miserendi,
Neque me damnes in tempore judicandi.
Si enim admisi,* unde me damnare potes,
Tu non amisisti,* unde me salvare potes.
Sis ergo mihi Jesus,** propter hoc nomen tuum,
Et miserere mei, fac mihi secundum hoc nomen tuum;
Respiro me miserum invocantem hoc
Nomen amabile tuum: Jesus.**

O Jesus most kind,
O Jesus most gracious,
O Jesus, saviour of those who trust in you,
O Jesus, saviour of those who believe in you,
O Jesus, saviour of those who find refuge in you,
O Jesus, kind forgiveness of every sin,
O Jesus, for the sake of your holy name save me from perdition.
O Jesus, have mercy, before the time for mercy passes,
do not condemn me when the time for judgment comes.
If I have gone astray,* and deserve your condemnation,
You have not strayed from* finding ways to save me.
Be a Jesus** to me, for your name’s sake,
And have mercy on me, treat me in accordance with your holy name;
Have mercy on me in my wretchedness,
when I call upon your beloved name: JESUS.**

*a play on amitto, which can mean ‘send away, let go’ but also ‘forgive.’
**Jesus is a Greek form of the Hebrew name Yeshua (Joshua) meaning ‘The Lord saves’ or ‘Lord, help!’ The same idea is found in the writings of Jeremy Taylor (Caian), ‘O Jesus, be a Jesus unto me.’
COLLECT for Sexagesima

O LORD God, who seest that we put not our trust in any thing that we do; Mercifully grant that by thy power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.