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 March

Third Sunday of Lent
ORGAN PRELUDE
Audi benigne conditor (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 gloriæ 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  Ephesians 5.8-11

Ye were sometimes darkness, 
but now are ye light in the Lord: 
walk as children of light: 
(For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) 
proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. 
And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, 
but rather reprove them.

For the word of the Lord 
Thanks be to God
MOTET

Iesu, quadragenariæ Jesus, for us you consecrate
Dicator abstinentiæ An abstinence of forty days,
Qui ob salutem mentium And summon us to make our fast,
Praeceperas ieiunium Healing our minds this Lententide.

Adesto nunc Ecclesiae, Be present with your holy Church
Adesto paenitentiae, Be present in our penitence,
Qua supplicamus cernui When bowing low we offer prayer
Peccata nostra dilui. That all our sins be washed away.

Tu retroacta criminal The wrongs that we have done before
Tua remitte gratia By grace abounding you forgive;
Et a futuris adhibe And from the failings yet to come,
Custodiam mitissime Gentle protector, shield us still.

Ut, expiati annuis The sting of conscience prompts us now
Compunctionis actibus, To careful keeping of these days;
Tendamus ad paschalia Striving to find your atonement
Digne colenda gaudia. The path to Easter’s holy joy.

Te rerum universitas, Your mercy, blessed Trinity,
Clemens, adoret, Trinitas, The whole created world acclaims;
Et nos novi per veniam Renewed and pardoned by your grace
Novum canamus canticum. We sing our new song evermore. Amen

PRAYERS

COLLECT for LENT 3

WE beseech thee, Almighty God,
look upon the hearty desires of thy humble servants,
and stretch forth the right hand of thy Majesty,
to be our defence against all our enemies;
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,   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.

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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.