

# Holy Trinity

## Headington Quarry



Compline for Holy Week

## **Introduction**

The ancient office of Compline derives its name from a Latin word meaning 'completion' (*completorium*). It is above all a service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day. It is most effective when the ending is indeed an ending, without additions, conversation or noise: those present depart in silence.

In this reflective service, our participation is primarily by prayerful, attentive listening to the words we sing. This allows the music and text to lift our prayers, praise and meditation to God. You are invited to join in singing as much or as little as you feel comfortable. The cantor will begin each section, and you are invited to sing the words in bold.

During Passiontide the church becomes the stage on which the Christian community performs the drama of salvation, not as passive spectators of a passion play, but as active participants whose lives are touched and transformed by its saving grace. Such participation is similar to that which Cyril of Jerusalem describes in his second homily to the newly baptized: 'What a strange and astonishing situation! We did not really die, we were not really buried, we did not really hang from a cross and rise again. Our imitation was symbolic, but our salvation a reality'. (Yarnold 1994: p. 78)

*Celebrating Christ's Victory,  
Benjamin Gordon-Taylor and Simon Jones*

## **Picturing the Passion: Holy Week through our Church Building**

Our focus for prayer and reflection this evening is the stained glass Pulpit window: a gift to the memory of Charles Pitman Longland (vicar of Holy Trinity, 1870-91) and his daughter Mary Elizabeth, who died at the aged of 14. The glass depicts the angel Gabriel descending on wings of fire and bearing a scroll with text from John 3:16 'God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son'. As God's messenger proclaims our salvation, may we find reflected in the angels that surround us in glass and stone our participation in the heavenly company of angels, as our worship song blends with theirs.

## The Gathering

*Please stand.*

+ The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.  
**Amen.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord  
**who made heaven and earth.**

Brethren, be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil,  
as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:  
whom resist, steadfast in the faith.

*1 Peter 5:8-9*

But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Please kneel.*

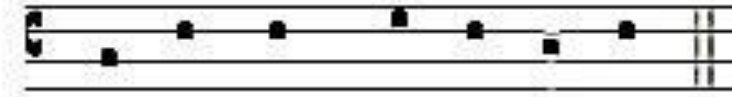
*Silence for reflection.*

**We confess to God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost,  
that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed,  
through our own grievous fault.  
Wherefore we pray God to have mercy upon us.  
Almighty God, have mercy upon us,  
forgive us all our sins,  
deliver us from all evil,  
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,  
and bring us to life everlasting;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

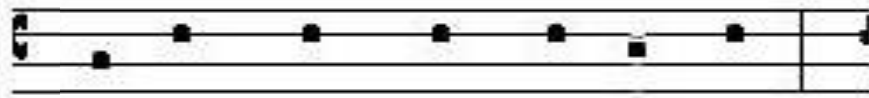
May the Almighty and merciful Lord  
grant unto us pardon and remission of all our sins,  
time for amendment of life,  
and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## The Opening Versicles

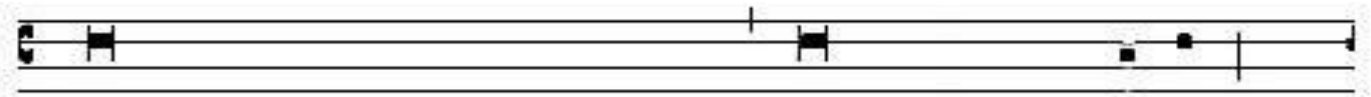
*Please stand. You are invited to sing the responses in **bold**.*



O God, make speed to save us.



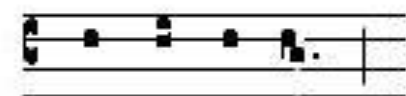
**O Lord, make haste to help us.**



Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost :



**As it was in the beginning, world without end. A-men.  
is now and ever shall be,**



Praise ye the Lord :



**The Lord's name be prai- sèd.**

## The Office Hymn

*Please remain standing as we sing.*



Before the ending of the day,  
**Creator of the world we pray,**  
**that with thy wonted favor thou**  
**wouldst be our guard and keeper now.**

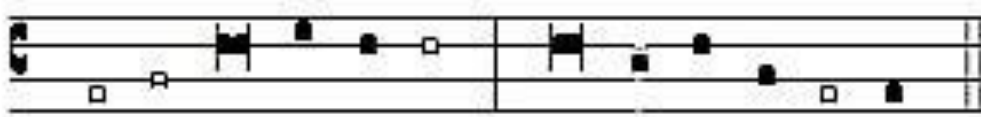
**From all ill dreams defend our eyes,**  
**from nightly fears and fantasies;**  
**tread under foot our ghostly foe,**  
**that no pollution we may know.**

**O Father, that we ask be done,**  
**through Jesus Christ thine only Son:**  
**who, with the Holy Ghost and thee,**  
**doth live and reign eternally.**

**Amen.**

## The Psalm

*Please sit. The cantor will sing the odd-numbered verses: you are invited to join in with the even-numbered verses.*



### Psalm 139.1-18 (Domine, probasti)

O LORD, | thou hast searched me out, and known me :  
thou knowest my down-sitting, and mine up-rising; \*  
thou understandest my thoughts long be<sup>^</sup>fore.

**2 Thou art about my path, and about my bed :  
and spiest out all my ways.**

3 For lo, there is not a word in my tongue :  
but thou, O Lord, knowest it al-to-geth-er.

**4 Thou hast fashioned me behind and be-fore :  
and laid thine hand up-on me.**

5 Such knowledge is too wonderful and excellent for me :  
I cannot at-tain un-to<sup>^</sup> it.

**6 Whither shall I go then from thy Spi-rit :  
or whither shall I go then from thy pre-sence?**

7 If I climb up into heaven, thou art there :  
if I go down to hell, thou art there al-so.

**8 If I take the wings of the morn-ing :  
and remain in the uttermost parts of the sea;**

9 Even there also shall thy hand lead me :  
and thy right hand shall hold me.

**10 If I say, Peradventure the darkness shall co-ver<sup>^</sup> me :  
then shall my night be turned to day.**



## Scripture Reading

*Isaiah 63:1-9*

'Who is this that comes from Edom,  
from Bozrah in garments stained crimson?  
Who is this so splendidly robed,  
marching in his great might?'

'It is I, announcing vindication,  
mighty to save.'

'Why are your robes red,  
and your garments like theirs who tread the wine press?'

'I have trodden the wine press alone,  
and from the peoples no one was with me;  
I trod them in my anger  
and trampled them in my wrath;  
their juice spattered on my garments,  
and stained all my robes.

For the day of vengeance was in my heart,  
and the year for my redeeming work had come.

I looked, but there was no helper;  
I stared, but there was no one to sustain me;  
so my own arm brought me victory,  
and my wrath sustained me.

I trampled down peoples in my anger,  
I crushed them in my wrath,  
and I poured out their lifeblood on the earth.'

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,  
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,  
because of all that the Lord has done for us,  
and the great favour to the house of Israel  
that he has shown them according to his mercy,  
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

For he said, 'Surely they are my people,  
children who will not deal falsely';  
and he became their saviour  
in all their distress.

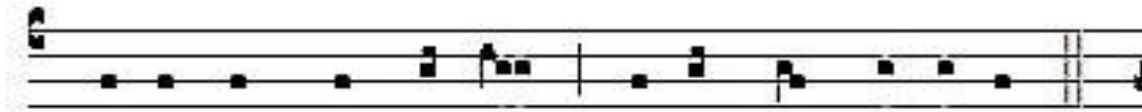
It was no messenger or angel  
but his presence that saved them;  
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;  
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

**Thanks be to God.**

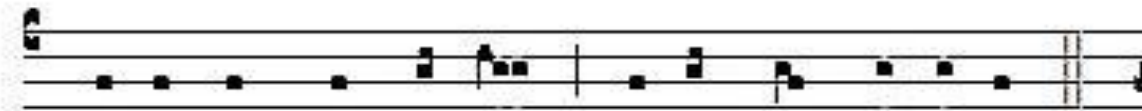


## The Responsory

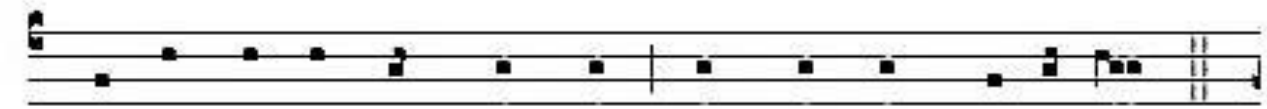
Please remain seated. You are invited to sing the responses in **bold**.



In-to thy hands, O Lord : I com-mend my spi-rit.



**In-to thy hands, O Lord : I com-mend my spi-rit.**



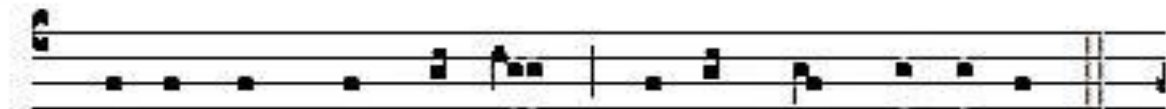
For thou hast re- deem- ed me : O Lord, thou God of truth.



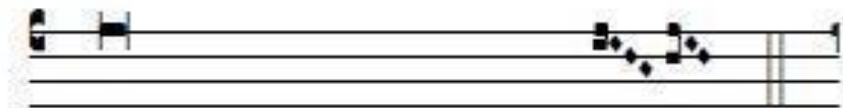
**I com-mend my spi-rit.**



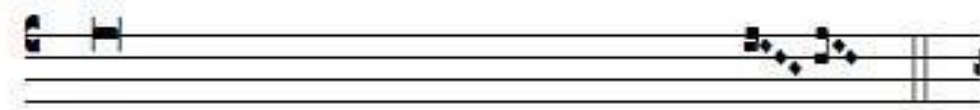
Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son : and to the Ho-ly Ghost.



**In-to thy hands, O Lord : I com-mend my spi-rit.**



Keep me as the apple of an eye\_\_\_\_\_.



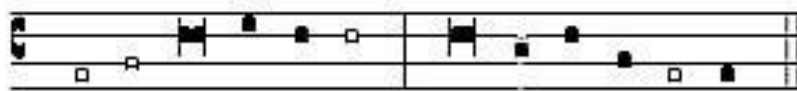
**Hide me under the shadow of thy wings\_\_\_\_\_.**

## Nunc Dimittis

*Please stand. The cantor will begin each chant and you are invited to join in.*



Pre-serve us, **O Lord while wa-king, and guard us while sleep-ing : that a-wake we may watch with Christ, and a-sleep we may rest in peace.**



+ Lord, now | lettest thou thy servant de-part in peace :  
**ac-cord-ing to thy^ word.**

**2 For mine eyes have seen :  
(-) thy salvation,**

**3 Which thou hast pre-par-ed :  
before the face of all people;**

**4 To be a light to lighten the Gen-tiles :  
and to be the glory of thy peo-ple Is-ra^el.**

*Luke 2:29–32*

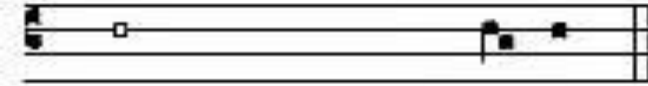
**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :  
and to the Ho-ly^Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :  
world with-out end. A-men.**

*The **Antiphon** is repeated.*

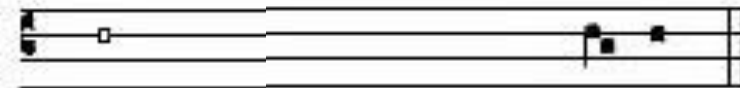
## Prayers

Let us pray.

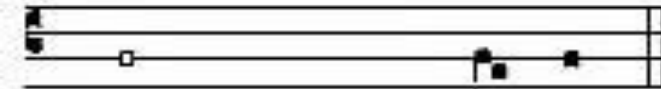
*Please kneel.*



Lord, have mercy up-on us.

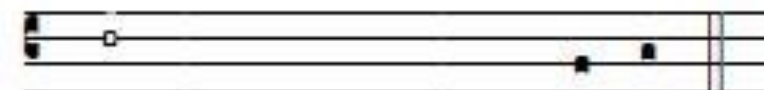


**Christ, have mercy up- on us.**



Lord, have mercy up-on us.

**Our Father, which art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy will be done in earth,  
As it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive them that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
But deliver us from evil. Amen.**



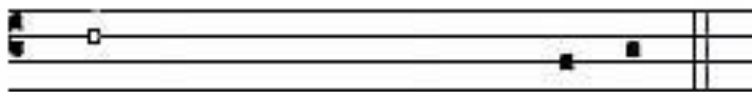
Blessed art thou, Lord God of our fath-ers;  
**To be praised and glorified above all for ev-er;**

Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Ho-ly Ghost;  
**Let us praise him and magnify him for ev-er.**

Blessed art thou, O Lord, in the firmament of heav-en;  
**To be praised and glorified above all for ev-er.**



*Silence is kept.*

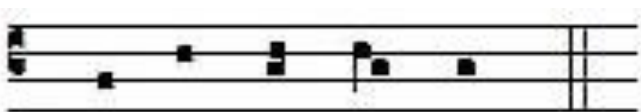


We will lay us down in peace and take our rest:  
**For it is thou, Lord, only that makest us dwell in safe-ty.**

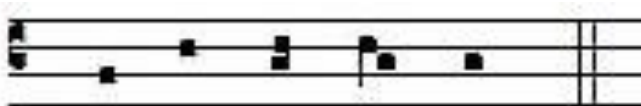
Abide with us, O Lord:  
**For it is toward evening and the day is far spent.**

As the watchmen look for the morn-ing:  
**So do we look for thee, O Christ.**

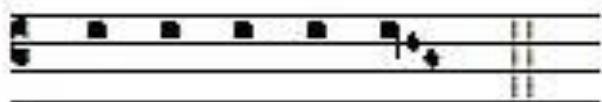
## The Conclusion



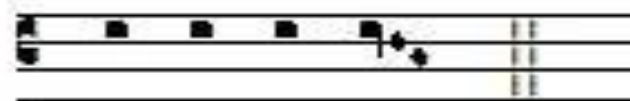
The Lord be with you



**And with thy Spi - rit.**



Let us bless the Lord:

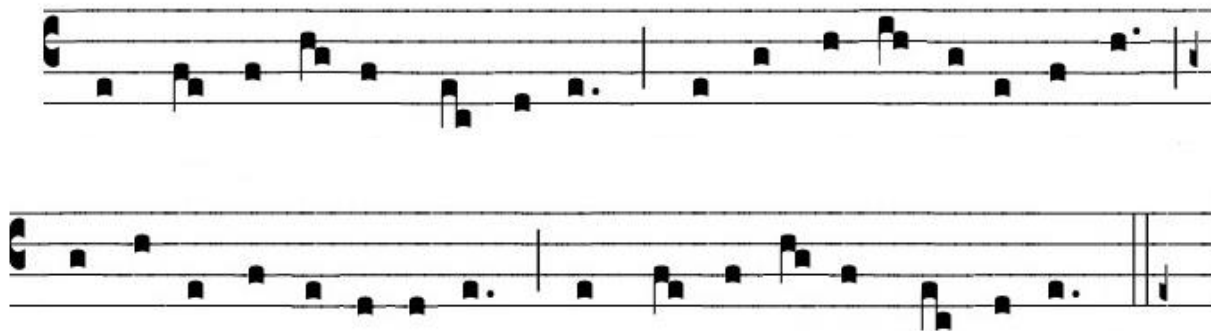


**Thanks be to God.**

May the divine assistance remain with us always:  
**Amen.**

## **The Anthem**

*Please remain kneeling or seated. You are invited to join in singing the anthem.*



*Vexilla Regis prodeunt*

The royal banners forward go,  
**The cross shines forth in mystic glow;  
Where he is in flesh, our flesh who made,  
Our sentence bore, our ransom paid.**

**Fulfilled is all that David told  
In true prophetic song of old,  
The universal Lord is he,  
Who reigns and triumphs from the tree.**

**O Tree of beauty, Tree of light,  
O Tree with royal purple dight,  
Elect on whose triumphal breast  
Those holy limbs should find their rest!**

**To thee, eternal Three in One,  
Let homage meet by all be done:  
Whom by thy Cross thou dost restore,  
Preserve and govern evermore.  
Amen.**

*Latin, Venantius Fortunatus (530-609)  
tr. J.M. Neale (1818-1866)*

*Please depart in silence.*

The fruit that silence brings is known to him who has experienced it. At first, we may find silence a burden; however, if we are faithful, there will gradually be born within us, of our silence itself, something that will draw us into an even *greater* silence.

*Statutes of the Carthusian Order (iv.3)*



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