Night Songs
from the Chapel of St Catharine’s College, Cambridge

Christians have gathered for prayer in the night time for hundreds of years to mark the completion of the day. This service draws on that tradition and from the ancient service of Compline, which derives its name from a Latin word meaning 'completion' (completorium). Traditionally the service was the last of the monastic ‘offices’ (set times of prayer) and was the beginning of the ‘Greater Silence’ lasting until the first prayers of the following day.

In our own context, we offer it as a relaxed, prayerful and reflective space at the end of the day that everybody can feel comfortable attending no matter what their familiarity with church services or the Christian tradition. You are welcome to join in where you feel able or wish to do so by participating in the responses printed in bold; please also feel free simply to think, pray or reflect upon the day, and to enjoy the music.

Opening Music
Frank Bridge: Adagio in E

Preparation

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.
Amen.

A time of silence is kept for reflection upon the day

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 Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord’s name be praised.

The Psalm: 4

Ending with:
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning; is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Scripture Reading

This or another short sentence of scripture is read

You, O Lord, are in the midst of us, and we are called by your name.
Leave us not, O Lord our God.
The reading is followed by two minutes of silence for reflection and prayer.

**Responsory**

**Gospel Canticle: The Nunc Dimittis**
The Antiphon is repeated

Prayers

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon 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.
Officiant  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.

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the silent hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world, may repose upon thy eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Conclusion

Concluding Anthem

Wylkynson: Jesus autem transiens

Jesus autem transiens.
Credo in Deum, Patrem omnipotentem, creatorem caeli et terrae.
Et in Jesum Christum Filium ejus unicum, Dominum nostrum,
qui conceptus est de Spiritu Sancto, natus ex Maria Virgine,
passus sub Pontio Pilato, crucifixus, mortuus et sepultus.
Descendit ad inferna.
Tercia die resurrexit a mortuis.
Ascendit ad caelos, sedet ad dexteram Patris omnipotentis.
Inde venturus est judicare vivos et mortuos.
Credo in Spiritum Sanctum, Sanctam ecclesiam catholicam, sanctorum communionem,
remissionem peccatorum, carnis resurrectionem et vitam aeternam. Amen.

Jesus passed among them. I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.