The Service of Compline

Let the reader begin:

Bid, Sir, a blessing.

Officiant

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

R. Amen.

The Officiant continues with the Short Lesson (I. St. Peter, V. 8)

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. But thou, O Lord,

R. Who hath made heaven and earth.

The Our Father is said in secret, then the Officiant makes his confession.

V. I confess to God Almighty...
R. God Almighty have mercy upon thee, forgive thee thy sins, and bring thee to everlasting life. V. Amen.

The people then make their confession.

R. I confess to God Almighty, to Blessed Mary Ever-Virgin, to blessed Michael the Archangel, to blessed John the Baptist, to the holy Apostles Peter and Paul, to all the Saints, and to thee, father, that I have sinned exceedingly in thought, word and deed, by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault. Wherefore I beg blessed Mary Ever-Virgin, blessed Michael the Archangel, blessed John the Baptist, the holy Apostles Peter and Paul, all the Saints, and thee, father, to pray for me to the Lord our God. V. God Almighty have mercy upon you, forgive you your sins, and bring you to everlasting life. R. Amen.
V. The Almighty and merciful Lord grant unto us pardon, absolution, and remission of our sins. R. Amen.

After the Absolution shall be sung
V. Turn us then, O God our Savior.

R. And let thine anger cease from us.

V. * O God, make speed to save us.

R. O Lord, make haste to help us.

V. * Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

Al-le-lu-ia.

or from Septuagesima until Maundy Thursday

Praise be to thee O Lord, King of eternal glory.

The Cantor then sings the Antiphon

... Have mercy upon me, O Lord, and hearken unto my prayer.

PSALM 4 Cum invocarem

Tone VIII 1

HEAR ME when I call, O God of my righteousness: * thou hast set me at liberty when I was in trouble; have mercy upon me, and hearken unto my prayer.

2. O ye sons of men, how long will ye blaspheme mine honor, * and have such pleasure in vanity, and seek after falsehood?

3. Know this also, that the Lord hath chosen to himself the man that is godly; * when I call upon the Lord he will hear me.

4. Stand in awe, and sin not; * commune with your own heart, and in your chamber, and be still.

5. Offer the sacrifice of righteousness, * and put your trust in the Lord.

6. There be many that say, * Who will show us any good?
7. Lord, lift thou up * the light of thy countenance upon us.
8. Thou hast put gladness in my / heart; * yea, more than when
    their corn and / wine and oil increase.
9. I will lay me down in peace, and take my / rest; * for it is thou,
    Lord, only, that maketh me / dwell in safety.
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.

PSALM 91 Qui habitat

WHOSO dwelleth under the defense of the Most / High, * shall abide under the shadow of / the Almighty.
2. I will say unto the Lord, Thou art my hope, and my / stronghold; * my God, in / him will I trust.
3. For he shall deliver thee from the snare of the / hunter, * and from the / noisome pestilence.
4. He shall defend thee under his wings, and thou shalt be safe under his / feathers; * his faithfulness and truth shall be thy / shield and buckler.
5. Thou shalt not be afraid for any terror by / night, * nor for the arrow that / flieth by day;
6. For the pestilence that walketh in / darkness, * nor for the sickness that destroyeth / in the noon-day.
7. A thousand shall fall beside thee, and ten thousand at thy right / hand; * but it shall not come nigh thee.
8. Yea, with thine eyes shalt thou behold * and see the reward of / the ungodly.
9. For thou, Lord, art my / hope; * thou hast set thine house of / defence very high.
10. There shall no evil happen unto / thee, * neither shall any plague come / nigh thy dwelling.
11. For he shall give his angels charge over / thee, * to keep / thee in all thy ways.
12. They shall bear thee in their / hands, * that thou hurt not thy / foot against a stone.

13. Thou shalt go upon the lion and / adder: * the young lion and
    the dragon shalt thou tread / under thy feet.
14. Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I de/liver
    him; * I will set him up, because / he hath known my Name.
15. He shall call upon me, and I will / hear him; * yea, I am with
    him in trouble; I will deliver him, and bring / him to honor.
16. With long life will I satis/fy him, * and show him / my
    salvation.
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.

PSALM 134 Ecce nunc

BEHOLD now, praise the / Lord, * all ye / servants of the Lord;
2. Ye that by night stand in the house of the / Lord, * even in the courts of the / house of our God.
3. Lift up your hands in the sanctu/ary, * - / and praise the Lord.
4. The Lord that made heaven and / earth * give thee blessing / out of Zion.
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.

The Antiphon is repeated. Have mercy upon me, O Lord, and hearken unto my prayer.

Then follows the hymn Te lucis ante terminum, or alternatively during Lent Christe qui lux es et dies, St. Ambrose Hymnal #16.
1. Before the ending of the day, Creator of
2. From all ill dreams defend our eyes, from nightly fears
3. O Father, that we ask be done, through Jesus Christ,

the world, we pray that with thy wonted favor thou
and fantasies; tread under foot our ghostly foe, thine only Son; who, with the Holy Ghost and thee,

wouldst be our guard and keeper now.
that no pollution we may know.
doth live and reign eternal. Amen.

The Chapter is said, as follows:

Thou, O Lord, art in the midst of us, and we are called by thy

Name: leave us not, O Lord our God. R. Thanks be to God.

Then follows the Short Respond:

V. In-to thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spir-it.
R. In-to thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spir-it.
V. For thou hast re-deemed us, O Lord, thou God of truth.
R. I commend my spir-it.
V. Glory be to the Fa-ther and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Ghost.
R. In-to thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spir-it.
V. Keep us, O Lord, as the apple of an eye.
R. Hide us under the shadow of thy wings.
According to the monastic form of the Office, the Nunc dimittis is not sung at Compline. The Nunc dimittis is sung in the Roman form of Compline, however, and if it has not been sung previously at Vespers, it may be sung here with this antiphon.

Preserve us, O Lord, while waking, and guard us while sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep may rest in peace. (In P.T.) Alleluia.

On Doubles and within Octaves, the officiant omits the following Preces and continues with the collect.

The Antiphon is repeated. Preserve us, O Lord, while waking, and guard us while sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep may rest in peace. (In P.T.) Alleluia.

Our Father, * who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

A-men.
Then all shall say The Apostles' Creed.

I believe in God, * the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, * and the life everlasting.

A-men.

V. Blessed art thou, O Lord God of our fathers.
R. And worthy to be praised and glorious for ever.

V. Let us bless the Father and the Son, with the Holy Ghost.
R. Let us praise and magnify Him for ever.
V. O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us.

R. As our trust is in thee.

V. O Lord, hear our prayer.

R. And let our cry come unto thee.

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with thy spirit.

V. Let us pray: Visit, we beseech thee, O Lord, this habitation, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy: let thy holy angels dwell herein to preserve us in peace: and let thy blessing be ever upon us, through Jesus Christ our Lord: who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

R. Amen.
Then follows the Anthem of the Blessed Virgin Mary according to the season.

Advent to Presentation -
Gracious Mother of our Redeemer - SAH #172

Presentation to Wednesday of Holy Week -
Queen of the Heavens, we hail thee - SAH #185

Paschal tide -
O Queen of Heaven, be joyful - SAH #181

Trinity to Advent -
Mary we hail thee - SAH #177