

# Ebba Compline

## Ss. Monica & Augustine of Hippo



### The Gathering ...

Welcome and introduction

*In the cycle of prayer for this dispersed worshipping community: Tonight's Office Prayer is offered for*

- *S. David, Margam*
- *and for the Southwark Diocese.*

† We begin by making the sign of the Cross

### Preparation

Find rest, O my soul, in God alone:  
my hope comes from him.

Come I this night to the Father,  
come I this night to the Son,  
come I to the Holy Spirit powerful:  
come I this night to God.  
Come I this night with Christ,  
come I with the Spirit of kindness.  
Come I to Thee, Jesus.  
Jesus shelter me.

Lord have mercy  
Christ have mercy  
Lord have mercy

Open now our hearts to you,  
and fill us with the peace  
that only you can give,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Hymn

O thou who camest from above  
the fire celestial to impart,  
kindle a flame of sacred love  
on the mean altar of my heart!

There let it for thy glory burn  
with inextinguishable blaze,  
and trembling to its source return  
in humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire  
to work, and speak, and think for thee;  
still let me guard the holy fire,  
and still stir up the gift in me.

*Charles Wesley*

### Psalmody for the day

*Psalm 127 1-3*

Unless the Lord builds the house, \*  
those who build it labour in vain.

Unless the Lord keeps the city,\*  
the guard keeps watch in vain.

It is in vain that you hasten to rise up early  
and go so late to rest, eating the bread of toil,  
for he gives his beloved sleep.

**Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning,  
is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.**

### Reading from S. Augustine

Late have I loved you, O Beauty so ancient and so new; late have I loved you! For behold, you were within me, and I outside; and I sought you outside and in my ugliness fell upon those lovely things that you have made. You were with me and I was not with you. I was kept from you by those things, yet had they not been in you, they would not have been at all. You called and cried to me and broke open my deafness: and you sent forth your beams and chased away my blindness: you breathed fragrance upon me, and I drew in my breath and do now pant for you: I tasted you, and now hunger and thirst for you: you touched me, and I have burned for your peace.

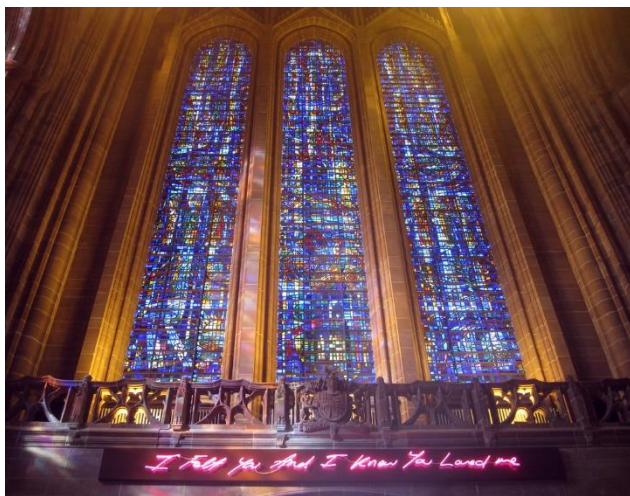
*From the Confessions of S. Augustine*

## Scripture reading

Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

*Ephesians 3: 8-12*

*Taken from the Anglican Eucharistic Lectionary for S. Augustine*



*Tracey Emin 'I felt you and I knew you loved me'  
Liverpool Cathedral, beneath the Benedicite window*

## Responsory

We will lie down and sleep.

**We wake again,  
because the Lord sustains us.**

By day the Lord directs his love;  
**at night his song is with us –  
a prayer to the God of our lives.**

Be strong and take heart,  
**all you who hope in the Lord.**

## Intercession...

*Bringing to mind those whom we pray for and  
holding them in God's love..., bringing the needs of  
the world, the church, and those who have no-one to  
pray for them...*

May God be in our sleep;  
may Christ be in our dreams.  
May the Spirit be in our repose,  
in our thoughts, in our hearts,  
in our souls, always,  
may the Sacred Three dwell.

May the Father of heaven  
have care of our souls,  
his loving arm about our bodies  
through each slumber and sleep of our lives

## Collect for S. Monica

Faithful God,  
who strengthened Monica,  
the mother of Augustine, with wisdom,  
and through her patient endurance  
encouraged him to seek after you:  
give us the will to persist in prayer  
that those who stray from you may be  
brought to faith  
in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## Collect for S. Augustine

Merciful Lord,  
who turned Augustine from his sins  
to be a faithful bishop and teacher:  
grant that we may follow him  
in penitence and discipline  
til our restless hearts find their rest in you;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father,  
which 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 them  
that trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## ***Nunc Dimittis (Gospel Canticle)***

**Save us, O Lord, while waking,  
and guard us while sleeping  
that awake we may watch with Christ,  
and asleep may rest in peace**

**Now, Lord,  
you let your servant go in peace\*  
your word has been fulfilled.**

**My own eyes have seen the salvation\*  
which you have prepared  
in the sight of every people;**

**A light to reveal you to the nations\*  
and the glory of your people, Israel.**

**Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning, is now  
and shall be for ever,  
world without end.  
Amen**

**Save us, O Lord, while waking,  
and guard us while sleeping  
that awake we may watch with Christ,  
and asleep may rest in peace**

## ***Blessing and departure***

**The Son of God be shielding us from harm,  
the Son of God be shielding us from ill,  
the Son of God be shielding us with power.  
The Son of God be shielding us this night.**

**Sleep, O sleep in the calm of each calm.  
Sleep, O sleep in the guidance of all guidance.  
Sleep, O sleep in the love of all loves.  
Sleep, O beloved, in the God of life.**

**May the peace of the Lord Christ  
go with us,  
wherever we may wander,  
may he guide us through the wilderness,  
protect us through the storm.  
May he bring us back rejoicing,  
at the wonders he has shown us,  
may he bring us back, rejoicing,  
once again through those doors.**

**May the Lord bless us, protect us from  
all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.**

**Amen**

**Goodnight ....**

Material in this service is from Celtic Daily Prayer, Book One, William Collins 2015  
Prayeres for all Seasons, Nick Fawcett, Kevin Mayhew, 1998 (adapted)  
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Scripture from the NRSV

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