

Wednesday, December 2, 2020– Christ’s Church Cathedral
A SERVICE OF COMPLINE



Officiant: Terry DeForest

Cantors: Michael Bloss and John Janisse.

This ancient prayer hour is prayed at the conclusion of every day and ought to be embraced as a powerful tool and beautiful liturgy. The service itself is not new; it is in fact quite ancient. Dating back to the fourth century, and referenced by St. Benedict, St. Basil, and St. John Chrysostom, Compline has been prayed for century after century and forms part of the whole Daily Office (cf. Liturgy of the Hours). Compline was the last service of the day, to be said by the monks in their dormitories before bed. It was a simple service without flourishes or flashes. These monastic roots are key to understanding the significance of this time of prayer. St. Benedict had this to say about the simplicity of Compline:

Let Compline be limited to the saying of three psalms, which are to be said straightforwardly without antiphons, after which let there be the hymn of that hour, a lesson, a versicle, the Kyrie, and a blessing to conclude.

Compline was a service to close the day, an opportunity to give thanks for the joys and graces experienced, a chance to confess the (many) sins committed throughout the day, and the perfect moment to close the day the same way it started: in doxological prayer. Whatever service you use to begin your day—Compline is designed to end it well. Compline teaches us that God and his Kingdom are first and foremost the reality of our lives and we learn how to view the world through that lens rather than the other way around. Compline, teaches us how to pray and for what we should pray. We learn the language of liturgical prayer as used since the early church; we discover that our prayers are a) directed to the triune God and b) focus on our surroundings as much (if not more) than they do on us; we are daily transformed through the confession of sin and the assurance that God loves us and lovingly calls us to a higher form of living.

Adapted from “What is Compline”, Porter Taylor, Anglican compass. August 3, 2017

THE APPROACH TO NIGHT PRAYER

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

Officiant God, come to our assistance.

All Lord, make haste to help us.

Officiant Our help is in the Name of the Lord;

All **The maker of heaven and earth.**

**Glorify to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as
it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

Examination of conscience

You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

You came to call sinners:

Christ, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us:

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

HYMN - The Advent Prose (*join in the singing of the refrain*)



Pour down O hea- vens, from a - bove, and let the skies rain down right - eous- ness.

Turn your fierce anger from us, O Lord, and remember not our sins forever. Your holy cities have become a desert, Zion a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation our holy and beautiful house, where our ancestors praised you.

PSALMODY

Psalm 4: 1-8

Cum invocarem



- 1 Answer me when I call O God, defender / of my / cause;*
you set me free when I am hard-pressed;
have mercy on / me and / hear my / prayer.
- 2 “You mortals, how long will you dis- / honour ● my / glory;*
how long will you worship mute or silent / idols ● and / run after ● false /
gods?”
- 3 Know that God does wonders / for the / faithful;*
when I call, / my re- / deemer ● will / hear me.
- 4 Tremble then, and / do not / sin;*
speak to your heart in / silence ● u- / pon your / bed.
- 5 Offer the ap- / pointed / sacrifices*
and / put your / trust in / God.
- 6 Many are saying, “Oh, that we might see / bet-ter / times!”*
Lift up the light of your / countenance ● u- / pon us, ● O / God.
- 7 You have put gladness / in my / heart,*
more than when grain and / wine and / oil in- / crease.
- 8 I lie down in peace, at once I / fall as- / leep;*
for only you O God / make me / dwell in / safety.
- 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 / A- / men.

READING Isaiah 9:2

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

RESPONSORY (*small notes denote cantor, large denote all*)



In - to your hands, O Lord, I - com - mend my Spi - rit.



In - to your hands, O Lord, I - com - mend my Spi - rit.



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 Spi - rit.



In - to your hands, O Lord, I - com - mend my Spi - rit.

COLLECT

Be our light in the darkness, O Lord,
and in your great mercy
defend us from all perils and dangers of this night;
for the love of your only Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

CANTICLE OF SIMEON



LORD, NOW you let your servant go **in** peace;*
your word has **been** fulfilled.

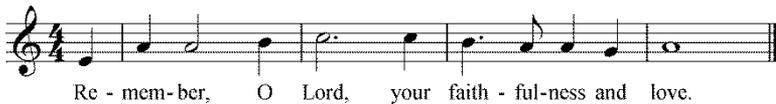
My own eyes have seen the salvation *
which you have prepared in the sight of **ev'**ry people;

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

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy **Spirit**: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. **A-men.**

THE LITANY

Refrain (*All sing the Refrain.*)



Christ the splendour of God's glory, enlightens us with his word.
With deep love we call upon him



Blessed are you, the alpha and the omega of our faith,
for you called us out of darkness into your marvellous light.

Refrain

You enabled the blind to see, and the deaf to hear,
help our unbelief.

Refrain

Lord, keep us in your love, preserve our community,
do not let us become separated from one another.

Refrain

Give us strength in temptation, endurance in trial,
and gratitude in prosperity.

Refrain

THE LORD'S PRAYER

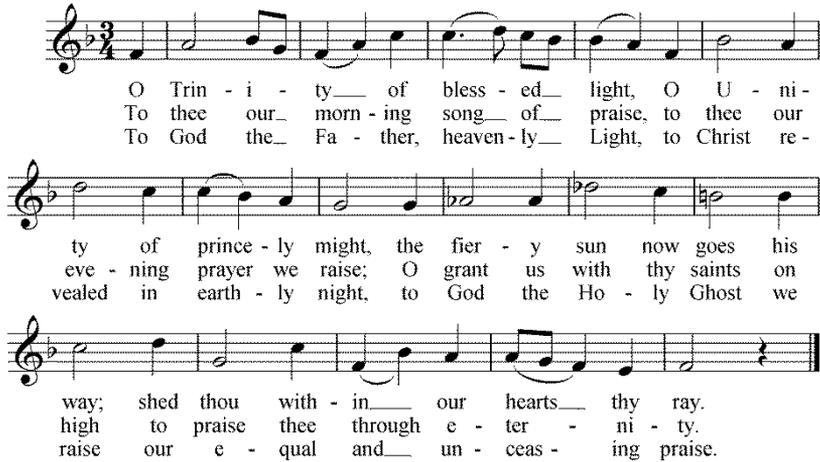
Confident in hope, let us gather our prayers and praises into one,
and pray as our Saviour taught us,

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN – O Trinity of Blessed Light

Words: Latin 6th c.

Music: Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809). BROMLEY



O Trin - i - ty of bless - ed light, O U - ni -
To thee our morn - ing song of praise, to thee our
To God the Fa - ther, heaven - ly Light, to Christ re -
ty of prince - ly might, the fier - y sun now goes his
eve - ning prayer we raise; O grant us with thy saints on
vealed in earth - ly night, to God the Ho - ly Ghost we
way; shed thou with - in our hearts thy ray.
high to praise thee through e - ter - ni - ty.
raise our e - qual and un - ceas - ing praise.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Keep watch, dear Lord,
with those who work, or watch,
or weep this night,
and give your angels charge over
those who sleep.
Tend the sick, Lord Christ;
give rest to the weary,
bless the dying, soothe the suffering,
pity the afflicted,
shield the joyous;
and all for your love's sake.

Amen

BLESSING

Guide us waking, O Lord,
and guard us sleeping;
that awake we may watch with Christ,
and asleep we may rest in peace.

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Advent song in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

*Alma Redemptoris Mater, quae
pervia caeli porta manes,
et stella maris, succurre cadenti surgere qui
curat populo:
Tu quae genuisti, natura mirante, tuum
sanctum Genitorem:
Virgo prius ac posterius, Gabrielis ab ore
sumens illud Ave, peccatorum miserere.*

*Loving Mother of the Redeemer, who
remains the gate by which we mortals enter,
and star of the sea, help your fallen people
who strive to rise:
You who gave birth, amazing nature, to
your sacred Creator:
Virgin prior and following, taking from the
mouth of Gabriel that Hail! have mercy on
our sins.*

NEXT WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

A SERVICE OF COMPLINE FOR
MEMORIAL OF THE PROPHETS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

Dan Tatarnic Officiant; Sarah McPherson, Cantor.

Music and Hymn Texts reprinted as well as podcasts rights covered under OneLicense.net A-707055.