

Wednesday, December 16, 2020– Christ’s Church Cathedral
A SERVICE OF COMPLINE
ADVENT FERIA



Officiant: Michael Bloss

Cantors: Jeremy Ludwig, Michael Bloss

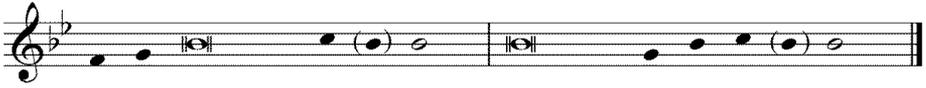
This ancient prayer hour is prayed at the conclusion of every day and ought to be embraced as a powerful tool and beautiful liturgy. The service itself is not new; it is in fact quite ancient. Dating back to the fourth century, and referenced by St. Benedict, St. Basil, and St. John Chrysostom, Compline 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.

PSALMODY

Psalm 91
Qui habitat



- 1 THOSE WHO dwell in the shelter of the **Most** High,*
 abide under the shadow **of** the Almighty.
- 2 They shall say to God, "You are my refuge and **my** stronghold,*
 my God in whom **I** put my trust."
- 9 Because you have made God **your** refuge,*
 and the Most High **your** habitation.
- 10 No evil shall happen **to** you,*
 neither shall any plague **come** near your dwelling.
- 11 For God's angels shall take **care** of you,*
 to keep you **in** all your ways.
- 12 They shall bear you **in** their hands,*
 lest you dash your foot **a**-gainst a stone.
- 13 You shall tread upon the lion **and** adder,*
 you shall trample the young lion and the serpent **un**-der your feet.
- 14 Because you are bound to me in love, therefore I will de-**li**-ver you;*
 I will protect you, because **you** know my name.
- 15 You will call upon me, and I will **an**-swer you;*
 I am with you in trouble; I will rescue you and **bring** you to honour.
- 16 With long life will **I** satisfy you,*
 and **show** you my salvation.
- Glory be to the Father and **to** the Son,*
 and to the **Ho**-ly Spirit.
 As it was in beginning is now and ever **shall** be;*
 world without **end**. Amen.

READING

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.”

Isaiah 35: 1-4

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.

THE COLLECT

Look down, O Lord,
from your heavenly throne,
and illumine this night with your celestial brightness;
that by night as by day
your people may glorify your holy Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

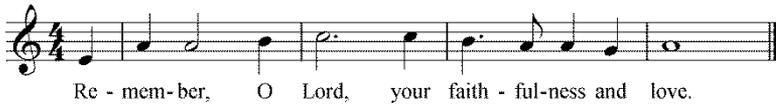
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy **Spirit**: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. **A-men.**

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

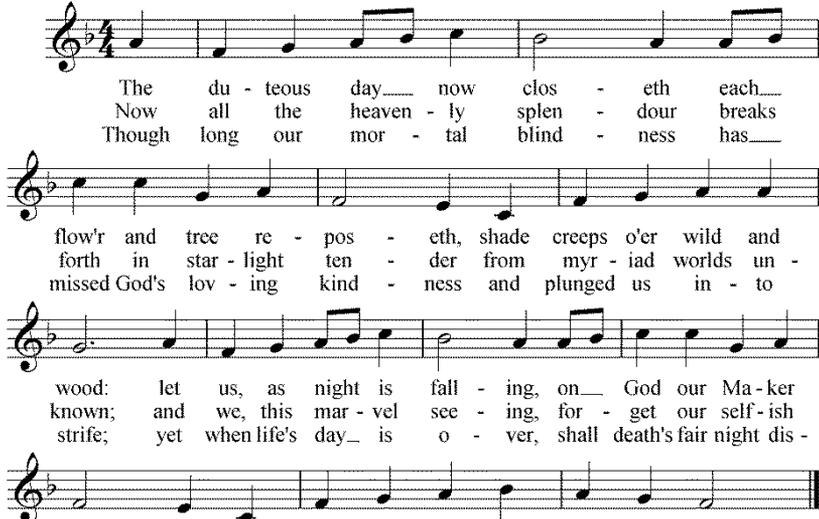
Confident in hope, let us gather our prayers and praises into one,
and pray as our Saviour taught us,

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 – The Duteous Day Now Closeth

TEXT: Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676) tr. Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930)

MUSIC: *O Welt ich muss dich lassen*, melody att. Heinrich Isaac (1450-1517). INNSBRUCK



The du - teous day now clos - eth each
Now all the heaven - ly splen - dour breaks
Though long our mor - tal blind - ness has
flow'r and tree re - pos - eth, shade creeps o'er wild and
forth in star - light ten - der from myr - iad worlds un -
missed God's lov - ing kind - ness and plunged us in - to
wood: let us, as night is fall - ing, on God our Ma - ker
known; and we, this mar - vel see - ing, for - get our self - ish
strife; yet when life's day is o - ver, shall death's fair night dis -
call - ing, give thanks to him, the Giv - er good.
be - ing for joy of beau - ty not our own.
cov - er the fields of ev - er - last - ing life.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

O God,
your unfailing providence
sustains the world we live in
and the life we live:
Watch over those, both night and day,
who work while others sleep,
and grant that we may never forget
that our common life depends upon each other's toil;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

Amen.

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 23

A SERVICE OF COMPLINE FOR
ADVENT EMBER DAY

Dan Tatarnic, Officiant, Anne Kae, Mark Russom, Cantors.

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