

Wednesday, March 17, 2021– Christ's Church Cathedral  
A SERVICE OF COMPLINE  
MEMORIAL – PATRICK,  
MISSIONARY BISHOP IN IRELAND, 461



**Officiant:** The Dean

**Cantors:** Jeremy Ludwig and 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.*

*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.*

*Today we honour Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, who brought Christianity to the northern tribes of that country in the early fifth century. A native of Cornwall or Devon, he was kidnapped by Irish pirates who sold him into slavery in their homeland. Six years later he fled his Irish masters, returned to Britain, and was eventually ordained to the priesthood. He had a vision that he would return to the land of his former captivity, and around the year 438 the vision came true. He was made a bishop and given charge over the mission to the Irish. Despite his chronic sense of personal unworthiness, Patrick proved to be an effective organizer, and his mission quickly evolved into a vibrant institution. He also encouraged the growth of Irish monasticism, and within a few generations of his death monks and nuns had replaced warriors as the heroes of the Irish people.*

## 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.**

*Officiant* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

**All** **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

### Examination of conscience

Lord Jesus,  
you came to reconcile us to one another and to God:

Lord, have mercy

**Lord, have mercy**

Lord Jesus,  
you heal the wounds of sin and division:

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 Lent Prose (*join in the singing of the refrain*)



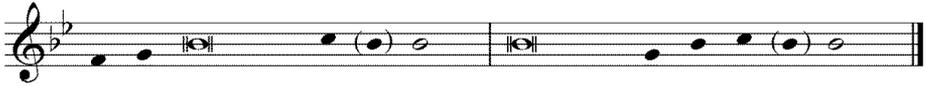
Hear us, O Lord, have mer-cy u-pon us: for we have sinned— a-gainst you.

*Sins oft committed, now we lay before you, with true contrition now no more we veil them:  
grant us, Redeemer, loving absolution.*

PSALMODY

Psalm 119: 121-144

*Feci iudicium, Mirabilia, Justus es, Domine*



I have done what is **just** and right;\*  
do not deliver me **to** my oppressors.

Be surety for your **ser**-vant's good;\*  
do not **let** the proud oppress me.

My eyes have failed from watching for your sal-**va**-tion\*  
and **for** your righteous promise.

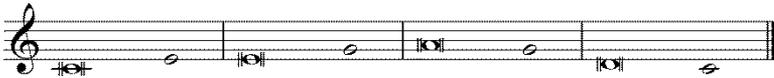
Deal with your servant according to your loving **kind**-ness\*  
and **teach** me your statutes.

I am your servant; grant me under-**stan**-ding,\*  
that I may **know** your decrees.

It is time for you to act, **O** God,\*  
for they have **bro**-ken your law.

Truly, I love your com-**mand**-ments\*  
more than **gold** and precious stones.

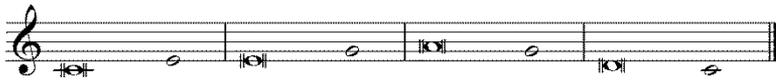
I hold all your commandments to be **right** for me;\*  
all paths of **false**-hood I abhor.



Your decrees are **wonderful**;\*  
therefore I obey them with all my **heart**.

When your word goes forth it gives **light**;\*  
it gives understanding to the **simple**.

I open my mouth and **pant**;\*  
I long for your com-**mand**ments.



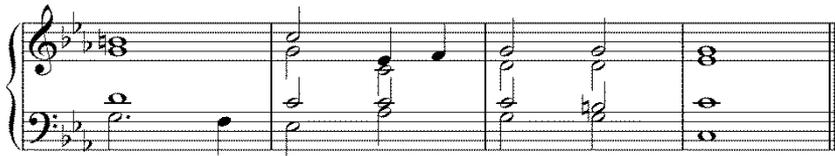
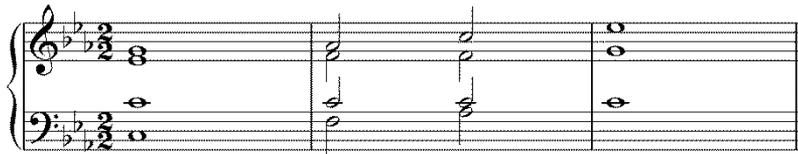
Turn to me in **mercy**,\*  
as you always do to those who love your **name**.

Steady my footsteps in your **word**;\*  
do not let iniquity have dominion over **me**.

Rescue me from those who op-**press** me,\*  
and I will keep your com-**mandments**.

Let your countenance shine upon your **servant**\*  
and teach me your **statutes**.

My eyes shed streams of **tears**,\*  
because people do not keep your **law**.



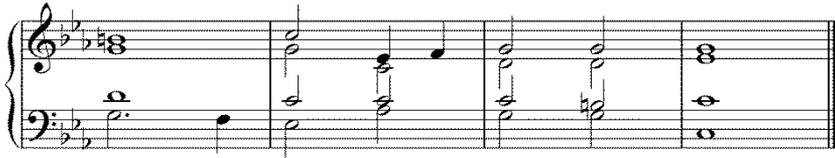
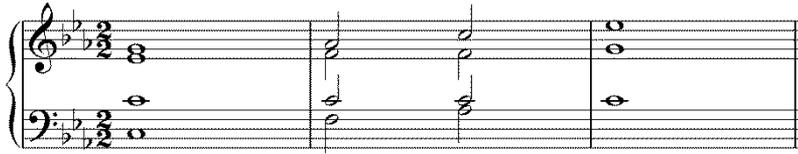
You are / righteous, O / God,\*  
--- / and teach / me your / statutes.

You have issued / your de- / crees\*  
with justice / and in / perfect / faithfulness.

My indignation / has con- / summed me,\*  
because my / enemies ● for- / get your / words.

Your word has been tested / to the / uttermost,\*  
and your / servant / holds it / dear.

I am small and of / little ● ac- / count,\*  
yet I do / not for- / get your ● com- / mandments.



Your justice is an / ever- • lasting / justice\*  
and / your law / is the / truth.

Trouble and distress have / come up- / on me,\*  
yet your com- / mandments / are my • de- / light.

The righteousness of your decrees is / ever- / lasting,\*  
grant me under- / standing • that / I may / live.

Glory be to the Father and / to the / Son,\*  
and / to the / Holy / Spirit.

As it was in beginning is now and / ever / shall be;\*  
world without / end-- / A-- / men.

## READING

Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

*John 6: 35-40*

**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.

**MEDITATIVE PRAYER**

We will lay us down in peace and take our rest.  
**For it is you, Lord, only that makes us dwell in safety.**

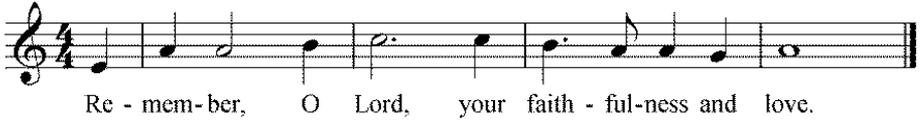
Abide with us, O Lord,  
**for it is toward evening and the day is far spent.**

As watchmen look for the morning,  
**so do we look for you, O Christ.**

Come with the dawning of the day  
**and make yourself known in the breaking of the bread.**

## CANTICLE OF SIMEON





Preserve the covenant which you have ratified in your blood,  
cleansing and sanctifying your Church.

REFRAIN

Guide travelers along the path of peace and prosperity,  
so that they may reach their destinations in safety and joy

REFRAIN

Receive the souls of the dead, Lord,  
grant them your favour and the gift of eternal glory,

REFRAIN

**THE COLLECTS**

Most merciful God, by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, you created humanity anew.

May the power of his victorious cross transform those who turn in faith to him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

O God, we thank you for Patrick, whom you took into your service, to bring within the freedom of your household

those who once enslaved him. Encourage us through his example, that we may know your power made perfect in our weakness, and delight in serving others for the sake of him who became servant of all,

your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever..

**Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

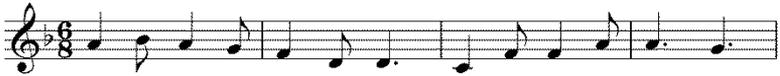
Confident in hope, let us gather our prayers and praises into one,  
and pray as our Saviour taught us,

**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.**

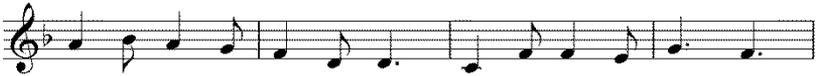
## HYMN – Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross

TEXT: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

MUSIC: William H. Doane 1832-1915



Je - sus keep me near the cross    there a pre - cious foun - tain,  
Near the cross, a trem - bling soul,    love and mer - cy found me  
Near the cross O Lamb of God,    bring its scenes be - fore me  
Near the cross I'll watch and wait,    Hop - ing trust - ing ev - er



free to all a heal - ing stream,    flows from Cal - v'rys moun - tain  
there the bright and morn - ing star,    sheds its beams a - round me.  
help me walk from day to day    with its sha - dows o'er me.  
till I reach the prom - ised Land    just bey - ond the riv - er.



In the cross,    in the cross,    be my glo - ry ev - er,



till my rap - tured soul shall find    rest, bey - ond the riv - er.

## AT THE CONCLUSION

The Lord be with you:  
**and with your spirit.**

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

SOLO

Evening Prayer

Henry Purcell

*Now, now that the sun hath veil'd his light  
And bid the world goodnight;  
To the soft bed my body I dispose,  
But where shall my soul repose?  
Dear, dear God, even in Thy arms,  
And can there be any so sweet security!  
Then to thy rest, O my soul!  
And singing, praise the mercy  
That prolongs thy days.*

*Hallelujah!*

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NEXT WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24

A SERVICE OF COMPLINE IN LENT  
FERIA

EVE OF THE ANNUNCIATION

Officiant, *The Dean*; Cantor: *Mark Russom*

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