

Wednesday, December 9, 2020– Christ’s Church Cathedral  
A SERVICE OF COMPLINE  
MEMORIAL OF THE OLD PROPHETS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT



**Officiant:** Dan Tatarnic  
**Cantor:** Sarah McPherson, 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.*

## 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

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.

*We have sinned and become like one who is unclean; we have all withered like a leaf, and our iniquities like the wind have swept us away. You have hidden your face from us, and abandoned us to our iniquities.*

PSALMODY

Psalm 31: 1-5  
In te domine, speravi



In you O God, I have taken refuge; let me never be **put** to shame;\*  
deliver me in your **right**-eousness.

Incline your **ear** to me;\*  
make haste to de-**liv**-er me.

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,  
for you are my crag and my **strong**-hold;\*  
for the sake of your name, lead **me** and guide me.

Take me out of the net that they have secretly **set** for me,\*  
for you are my **tow'r** of strength.

Into your hands I commend my **spi**-rit,\*  
for you have redeemed me, O God of **truth** and love.

My times are **in** your hand;\*  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,  
and from those who **per**-secute me.

Make your face to shine upon your **ser**-vant,\*  
and in your loving **kind**-ness save me.

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 Isaiah 40: 3-5

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the highway of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”.

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

Be present, O merciful God,  
and protect us through the hours of this night,  
so that we who are wearied by the changes  
and chances of this life  
may rest in your eternal changelessness;  
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

### **Refrain**

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 Brightness of the Immortal

Words: Greek 3<sup>rd</sup> c.

Music: Gerald Near (b.1942). EVENING HYMN

O bright-ness of the'im mor - tal\_\_ Fa - ther's face,  
the sun is sin - king now\_\_ and\_\_ one by one  
Worth - y art thou at all\_\_ times to re - ceive

most ho - ly, heaven - ly blest, Lord Je - sus Christ, in whom his\_\_  
the lamps of eve - ning shine; we hymn the'e - ter - nal Fa - ther,  
our hal - lowed prais - es, Lord. O Son of God, be, thou, in\_\_

truth and grace are\_\_ vi - si - bly ex - pressed.  
and the Son, and\_\_ Ho - ly\_\_ Ghost di - vine.  
whom we live, through all\_\_ the\_\_ world a - dored.

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

We give you thanks, O God,  
for revealing your Son Jesus Christ to us  
by the light of his resurrection:  
Grant that as we sing your glory  
at the close of this day,  
our joy may abound in the morning;  
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.

*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.*

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NEXT WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

A SERVICE OF COMPLINE FOR  
ADVENT EMBER DAY

Terry DeForest, Officiant, Jeremy Ludwig Cantor.

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