

Wednesday, December 23, 2020– Christ’s Church Cathedral
A SERVICE OF COMPLINE
ADVENT FERIA



Officiant: Dan Tatarnic

Cantors: Anne Kae, Mark Russom, 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*)

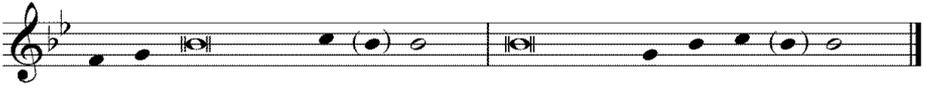


Pour down O hea-vens, from a - bove, and let the skies rain down right - eous - ness.

Comfort my people, comfort them; my salvation shall not be delayed. I have swept your offences away like a cloud; fear not, for I will save you. I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your redeemer.

PSALMODY

Psalm 4
Cum invocarem



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.

“You mortals, how long will you dishonour my **glo-ry**;*
how long will you worship mute or silent idols
and run **af-ter** false gods?”

Know that God does wonders for the **faith-ful**;*
when I call, my re-**deem-er** will hear me.

Tremble then, and **do** not sin;*
speak to your heart in silence **u-pon** your bed.

Offer the appointed sa-**cri-fices***
and **put** your trust in God.

Many are saying, “Oh, that we might see **bet-ter** times!”
Lift up the light of your countenance **u-pon** us, O God.

You have put gladness **in** my heart,*
more than when grain and **wine** and oil increase.

I lie down in peace, at once I **fall** asleep;*
for only you O God **make** me dwell in safety.

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

They shall see the Lord face to face and bear his name on their foreheads. The night shall be no more. They will need no light from lamps or the sun, for the Lord shall give them light, and they shall reign forever.

Revelation 22: 4-5

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.

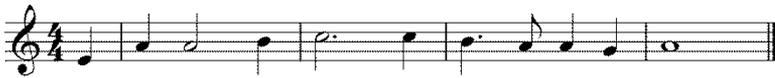
My own eyes have seen the salvation *
which you have prepared in the sight of **ev'ry** people;

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*).



Re - mem - ber, O Lord, your faith - ful - ness and love.

Lord, Jesus, in the mystery of your incarnation, you revealed your glory to the world,
give us new life by your coming

Refrain

You have taken our weakness upon yourself,
grant us your mercy.

HYMN – Lost in the Night



Lost in the night do the peo - ple yet lan - guish,
Must we be vain - ly a - wait - ing the mor - row?
Sor - row - ing wan - d'ers, in dark - ness yet dwell - ing,
Light o'er the land of the need - y is beam - ing;



long - ing for morn - ing the dark - ness to van - quish,
Shall those who have light no light let us bor - row,
dawned has the day of a ra - diance ex - cel - ling,
riv - ers of life through its des - erts are stream - ing,



plain - tive - ly sigh - ing with hearts full of an - guish.
giv - ing no heed to our bur - den of sor - row?
death's deep - est shad - ows for - ev - er dis - pel - ing.
bring - ing all peo - ples a Sav - iour re - deem - ing.



Will not day come soon?	Will not day come soon?
Will you help us soon?	Will you help us soon?
Christ is com - ing soon!	Christ is com - ing soon!
Come and save us soon!	Come and save us soon!

TEXT: Nordic Hymn

MUSIC: Finnish folk tune. LOST IN THE NIGHT

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.

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

O Antiphon for December 23.

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, hope of the nations and their saviour: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

NEXT WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30

A MEDITATION ON THE NATIVITY
LA NATIVITÉ DU SEIGNEUR (Olivier Messiaen)

Michael Bloss, organ.

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