



Saint Paul's

An Episcopal Church For
The City of Milwaukee

✠ The Office of Compline ✠

The Office of Compline is the last of the four services in the Daily Office (Book of Common Prayer, p. 127). It is descended from the night prayers said before bed at the end of the monastic round of daily prayer.

Compline is a simple office including a confession of sins, one or more psalms, a short reading from scripture, versicles and responses, the Lord's Prayer, collects which ask for God's protection during the night to come, and the canticle *Nunc dimittis*.

The Office of Compline is a fitting and proper service of prayer and meditation for New Year's Eve. The plea for "a quiet night and perfect end" is salutary as one reflects on the events of the past year and the hopes for the year ahead.

These two collects are especially appropos of the reflective mood as one stands on the threshold of a new year.

O Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Oh, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose years never fail and whose mercies are new each returning day: let the radiance of your Spirit renew our lives, warming our hearts and giving light to our minds, that we may pass into the new year in joyful obedience and firm faith; through him who is the beginning and the end, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Voluntary *Symphonie Gothique: Andante sostenuto* Charles Marie Widor

versicle The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

response **Amen.**

versicle Our help is in the Name of the Lord.

response **Who hath made heaven and earth.**

All kneel and say together the Confession.

We confess to God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, through our own grievous fault. Wherefore we pray God to have mercy upon us.

officiant ***Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us all our sins and deliver us from all evil, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and bring us to life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

All Stand.

versicle O God, make speed to save us;
response **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost*
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.
Alleluia. (Omitted in Lent.)

All are seated for the chanting of the psalms and lessons.

Psalm 4 *Cum invocarem*

- 1 Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness*
thou hast set me at liberty when I was in trouble;
have mercy upon me, and hearken unto my prayerresponse
 - 2 O ye sons of men, how long will ye blaspheme mine honour*
and have such pleasure in vanity, and seek after leasing?
 - 3 Know this also, that the Lord hath chosen to himself the man that is godly*
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.
 - 4 Stand in awe, and sin not*
commune with your own heart, and in your chamber, and be still.
 - 5 Offer the sacrifice of righteousness*
and put your trust in the Lord.
 - 6 There be many that say*
Who will shew us any good?
 - 7 Lord, lift thou up*
the light of thy countenance upon us.
 - 8 Thou hast put gladness in my heart*
since the time that their corn, and wine, and oil, increased.
 - 9 I will lay me down in peace, and take my rest*
for it is thou, Lord, only, that makest me dwell in safety.
- Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost***
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Psalm 31:1-5 *In te, Domine, speravi*

- 1 In thee, O Lord, have I put my trust*
let me never be put to confusion, deliver me in thy righteousness.
 - 2 Bow down thine ear to me*
make haste to deliver me.
 - 3 And be thou my strong rock, and house of defence*
that thou mayest save me.
 - 4 For thou art my strong rock, and my castle*
be thou also my guide, and lead me for thy name's sake.
 - 5 Draw me out of the net, that they have laid privily for me*
for thou art my strength.
- Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost***
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Psalm 134 *Ecce nunc*

- 1 Behold now, praise the Lord*
all ye servants of the Lord;
 - 2 Ye that by night stand in the house of the Lord*
even in the courts of the house of our God.
 - 3 Lift up your hands in the sanctuary*
and praise the Lord.
 - 4 The Lord that made heaven and earth*
give thee blessing out of Sion.
- Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost*
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Psalm 91 *Qui habitat*

- 1 Whoso dwelleth under the defence of the most High*
shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
 - 2 I will say unto the Lord, Thou art my hope, and my stronghold*
my God, in him will I trust.
 - 3 For he shall deliver thee from the snare of the hunter*
and from the noisome pestilence.
 - 4 He shall defend thee under his wings,
and thou shalt be safe under his feathers*
his faithfulness and truth shall be thy shield and bucklerresponse
 - 5 Thou shalt not be afraid for any terror by night*
nor for the arrow that flieth by day;
 - 6 For the pestilence that walketh in darkness*
nor for the sickness that destroyeth in the noon-day.
 - 7 A thousand shall fall beside thee, and ten thousand at thy right hand*
but it shall not come nigh thee.
 - 8 Yea, with thine eyes shalt thou behold*
and see the reward of the ungodly.
 - 9 For thou, Lord, art my hope*
thou hast set thine house of defence very high.
 - 10 There shall no evil happen unto thee*
neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.
 - 11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee*
to keep thee in all thy ways.
 - 12 They shall bear thee in their hands*
that thou hurt not thy foot against a stone.
 - 13 Thou shalt go upon the lion and adder*
the young lion and the dragon shalt thou tread under thy feet.
 - 14 Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him*
I will set him up, because he hath known my name.
 - 15 He shall call upon me, and I will hear him*
yea, I am with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and bring him to honouresponse
 - 16 With long life will I satisfy him*
and shew him my salvation.
- Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost*
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Then shall be sung the lessons.

Jeremiah 14:9

Thou, O Lord, art in the midst of us, and we are called by thy name. Leave us not, O Lord our God.

response **Thanks be to God.**

St. Matthew 11:28-30

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Response **Thanks be to God.**

I St. Peter 5: 8,9

Brethren, be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist, steadfast in the faith. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

response **Thanks be to God.**

Hebrews 13:20, 21

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever

response **Thanks be to God.**

All stand.

versicle Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit;

response **Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit;**

versicle For thou hast redeemed me, O Lord, thou God of truth;

response **Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

versicle Keep us, O Lord, as the apple of an eye;

response **Hide us under the shadow of thy wings.**

versicle Lord, have mercy upon us.

response **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

all **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done; On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil.

versicle O Lord, hear our prayer;

response **And let our cry come unto thee.**

versicle Let us pray.

All kneel. Then shall be sung these collects:

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord, and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the silent hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world, may repose upon thy eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Look down, O Lord, from thy heavenly throne, illuminate the darkness of this night with thy celestial brightness, and from the sons of light banish the deeds of darkness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Visit, we beseech thee, O Lord, this place, and drive from it all the snares of the enemy; let thy holy angels dwell herein to preserve us in peace; and may thy blessing be upon us evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give thine 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 thy love's sake. **Amen.**

All stand.

Antiphon

Preserve us, O Lord, while waking, and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may be with Christ, and in peace we may take our rest.

Nunc dimittis

LORD, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace*
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation*
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles *
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost*
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

(The Antiphon is repeated.)

versicle Let us bless the Lord;

response **Thanks be to God.**

versicle The Almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, + and the Holy Ghost,
bless and preserve us. **Amen.**

Voluntary *Postlude pour l'Office des Complies*

Jehan Alain

Presider: The Reverend W. Bradley Toebben, Rector

Versicles: Deme Hellwig

Lector: Gabriel Olaciregui

Musicians: Choral Scholars of St. Paul's Church

Fauxbourdons for psalms and canticle: Canon Joseph A. Kucharski, Director of Liturgy and Music

Tedd L. King, Associate Organist

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