

---

*An Order of Compline for Lent*



*St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Piney Parish  
Waldorf, MD*

4535 Piney Church Road, Waldorf, MD 20602  
301-645-5000 | [stpaulswaldorf.org](http://stpaulswaldorf.org)

---

## *An Order for Compline*

*The ancient office of Compline derives its name from a Latin word meaning 'completion' (completorium). It is above all a service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day. It is most effective when the ending is indeed an ending, without additions, conversation or noise.*

### *Approach*

The Lord Almighty grant us a peaceful night and a perfect end. **Amen.**

Our help is in the Name of the Lord.

**The maker of heaven and earth.**

### *Confession*

Let us confess our sins to God.

*Officiant and People*

**Most merciful God,**

**we confess to you,**

**before the whole company of heaven and one another,**

**that we have sinned in thought, word and deed**

**and in what we have failed to do.**

**Forgive us our sins,**

**heal us by your Spirit**

**and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.**

### *Officiant*

May the Almighty God grant us forgiveness of all our sins,  
and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### *Invocation*

O God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

---

Before the ending of the day,  
Creator of the world, we pray  
That you, with steadfast love, would keep  
Your watch around us while we sleep.  
From evil dreams defend our sight,  
From fears and terrors of the night;  
Tread underfoot our deadly foe  
That we no sinful thought may know.  
O Father, that we ask be done  
Through Jesus Christ, your only Son;  
And Holy Spirit, by whose breath  
Our souls are raised to life from death.

*Psalm*

*One or more of the following psalms is said.*

**Psalm 4**

- 1 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.
- 2 "You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; \*  
how long will you worship dumb idols  
and run after false gods?"
- 3 Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful; \*  
when I call upon the LORD, he will hear me.
- 4 Tremble, then, and do not sin; \*  
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.
- 5 Offer the appointed sacrifices \*  
and put your trust in the LORD.
- 6 Many are saying,  
"Oh, that we might see better times!" \*  
Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O  
LORD.
- 7 You have put gladness in my heart, \*  
more than when grain and wine and oil increase.
- 8 I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; \*  
for only you, LORD, make me dwell in safety.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as  
it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

---

**Psalm 31** *In te, Domine, speravi*

- 1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame: \*  
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 Incline your ear to me; \*  
make haste to deliver me.
- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,  
for you are my crag and my stronghold; \*  
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
- 4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,  
for you are my tower of strength.
- 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, \*  
for you have redeemed me,  
O LORD, O God of truth.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

**Psalm 91** *Qui habitat*

- 1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High \*  
abides under the shadow of the Almighty.
- 2 He shall say to the LORD,  
"You are my refuge and my stronghold, \*  
my God in whom I put my trust."
- 3 He shall deliver you from the snare of the hunter \*  
and from the deadly pestilence.
- 4 He shall cover you with his pinions,  
and you shall find refuge under his wings; \*  
his faithfulness shall be a shield and buckler.
- 5 You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, \*  
nor of the arrow that flies by day;
- 6 Of the plague that stalks in the darkness, \*  
nor of the sickness that lays waste at mid-day.
- 7 A thousand shall fall at your side  
and ten thousand at your right hand, \*  
but it shall not come near you.
- 8 Your eyes only have to behold \*  
to see the reward of the wicked.
- 9 Because you have made the LORD your refuge, \*  
and the Most High your habitation,

- 
- 10 There shall no evil happen to you, \*  
neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.
- 11 For he shall give his angels charge over you, \*  
to keep you in all your ways.
- 12 They shall bear you in their hands, \*  
lest you dash your foot against a stone.
- 13 You shall tread upon the lion and the adder; \*  
you shall trample the young lion and the serpent  
under your feet.
- 14 Because he is bound to me in love,  
therefore will I deliver him; \*  
I will protect him, because he knows my Name.
- 15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; \*  
I am with him in trouble;  
I will rescue him and bring him to honor.
- 16 With long life will I satisfy him, \*  
and show him my salvation.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as  
it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

### **Psalm 134**

We your servants bless you, O God,  
as we stand by night in your house.  
We lift up our hands towards the holy place,  
and give you thanks and praise.  
Bless us from all places where you dwell,  
O God, creator of the heavens and the earth.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as  
it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

### *Reading*

Lord, you are in the midst of us, and we are called by your  
Name: Do not forsake us, O Lord our God.

*Jeremiah 14:9, 22*

**Thanks be to God.**

---

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? *Isaiah 58.6-7*

**Thanks be to God.**

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and those who are afraid are not perfected in love. We love because God first loved us. If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother or sister, that person is a liar; for those who do not love their brothers and sisters whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. *1 John 4:18-20*

**Thanks be to God.**

I will pour out a spirit of compassion and supplication on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that, when they look on the one whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.

*Zechariah 12.10*

**Thanks be to God.**

According to the riches of God's glory, may you be strengthened with the might through the Holy Spirit in your inner being, and may Christ dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge; that you may be filled with the fullness of God. *Ephesians 3:16-19*

**Thanks be to God.**

---

*Prayers*

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

Keep me, O God, as the apple of an eye;  
**hide me under the shadow of your wings.**

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.

Almighty God, may we, by the prayer and discipline of Lent,  
enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings; that by following  
in the Way, we may come to share in the glory; through Jesus  
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Officiant then says one of the following Collects*

Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy  
defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the  
love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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.**

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.**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, who at this evening  
hour lay in the tomb and so hallowed the grave to be a bed of  
hope for all who put their trust in you: give us such sorrow  
for our sins, which were the cause of your passion, that when  
our bodies lie in the dust, our souls may live with you for  
ever. **Amen.**

---

Visit this place, O Lord, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let your blessing be upon us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*One of the following prayers may be added*

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

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.**

*Silence may be kept, and free intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered.*

Lord,  
it is night.

The night is for stillness.

Let us be still in the presence of God.

It is night after a long day.

What has been done has been done;  
what has not been done has not been done; let it be.

The night is dark.

Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives rest in you.

The night is quiet.

Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,  
all dear to us, and all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn.

Let us look expectantly to a new day,  
new joys,  
new possibilities.

In your name we pray. **Amen.**

---

---

*The service concludes with the Song of Simeon and this Antiphon, which said by all.*

**Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that  
awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we  
may rest in peace.**

**Lord, you now have set your servant free to go in peace  
as you have promised;**

**For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, whom you  
have prepared for all the world to see:**

**A Light to enlighten 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 for  
ever. Amen.**

**Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that  
awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may  
rest in peace.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*One of the following may be said,*

May God bless us, that in us may be found love and humility,  
obedience and thanksgiving, discipline, gentleness and peace.  
The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy  
Spirit, bless us and keep us. **Amen.**

To God the Creator,  
who loved us first and gave this world to be our home, to  
God the Redeemer,  
who loves us and by dying and rising  
pioneered the way of freedom,  
to God the Sanctifier,  
who spreads the divine love in our hearts,  
be praise and glory for time and for eternity. **Amen.**

---

---

Sources:

The Episcopal Church, *The Book of Common Prayer* © 1979

The Church of England, *Common Worship* © 2000

The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, *The New Zealand Prayer Book* © 1989

---

# HOLY WEEK <sup>20</sup><sub>19</sub>

## **PALM SUNDAY**

**8:00 & 10:15 AM**

Procession of Palms and Dramatic  
Reading of the Passion Gospel

## **HOLY WEDNESDAY**

**6:30 PM**

Rite of Reconciliation (Confession) and Healing Prayers

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

**6:15 & 7:00**

Agape (Love) Supper  
Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar

## **GOOD FRIDAY**

**12:00 & 7:00 PM**

Good Friday Liturgy & Adoration of the Cross

## *The Feast of the Resurrection Easter Sunday!*

APRIL <sup>21</sup>

*8:00 am*

*Festival Eucharist & Music*

*10:15 am*

*Festival Eucharist & Brass Fanfare*

*9:00 am Reception*

*11:30 am Egg Hunt*

---