



## **Compline**

FOR ADVENT  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025 • 6:00 PM

## Compline

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about this community    Trinity Lutheran Church is a diverse Christian community committed to sharing and teaching the Word of God. We welcome all people and serve to provide Christian education, witness and outreach. In response to God's grace, we are called to support and advocate for our dynamic community, care for others, worship God, develop leaders in our faith, and steward the gifts we have been given by God.

Our Values: Love + Community + Inclusion + Service + Creativity + Faithfulness + Learning

livestream notice    To accommodate all our membership, and to provide outreach into the community, this service is being live streamed and made available on YouTube. By attending, you consent to any recording, and its release, publication, exhibition, or reproduction to be used for live streaming and/or any other publication, printed or electronic, of Trinity Lutheran Church.

today's worship    Compline originates in the monastic traditions where monks and nuns would pray the services of the hours—specific times of prayer throughout the day and night meant to sanctify time and mark the rhythms of daily life with worship. Compline, traditionally the final prayer service of the day, is rooted in the practice of ending the day in quiet reflection, confession, and trust in God's protection through the night.

In the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Compline has been adapted from its monastic roots into a form accessible to congregations and individuals alike. It is typically a brief, contemplative service held in the evening or before bedtime, often featuring elements such as Psalm readings, a short scripture passage, hymns and chants, a time for silent prayer, and spoken or sung prayers for protection during the night. The service includes the Song of Simeon, the Nunc Dimittis ("Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace"), echoing the theme of peaceful rest in God's presence.

At Trinity, Compline is offered every quarter, around the equinoxes and solstices, and is increasingly being revived in other churches as part of a broader interest in spiritual disciplines and liturgical practices. Its quiet, meditative character offers a space for stillness and reflection at the close of the day, rooted in centuries of Christian devotion.

*Please silence all electronic devices before the service.*

*You are invited to participate throughout the service with the bold responses and in all hymns.*

## GATHERING

- prelude Dilation on 'Es ist ein Ros' Carson Cooman  
(b. 1982)
- welcome *Pr. Stephanie Jaeger*
- introit Creator of the Stars of Night John Scott  
(1956-2015)

*Creator of the stars of night,  
Thy people's everlasting light,  
O Jesu, Saviour of us all,  
Regard thy servants when they call.*

*Thou, grieving at the bitter cry  
Of all creation doomed to die,  
Didst come to save a ruined race  
With healing gifts of heavenly grace.*

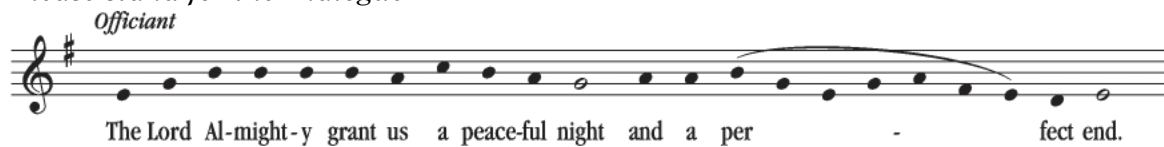
*Thou camest, Bridegroom of the  
bride,  
As drew the world to eventide,  
Proceeding from a Virgin shrine,  
The Son of Man, yet Lord divine.*

*At thy great name, majestic now,  
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow;  
And things in heaven and earth shall own  
That thou art Lord and King alone.*

*To thee, O holy One, we pray,  
Our judge in that tremendous day,  
Preserve us, while we dwell below,  
From every onslaught of the foe.*

*All praise, eternal Son, to thee,  
Whose advent sets thy people free,  
Whom, with the Father, we adore,  
And Spirit blest, forevermore.  
Amen.*

dialogue *Please stand for the Dialogue*



## Compline

prayer The one who made the Pleiades and Orion  
and turns deep darkness into the morning  
and darkens the day into night,  
who calls for the water of the sea  
and pours it out on the surface of the earth,  
the Lord is his name.

**Amen.**

gathering hymn "As the Dark Awaits the Dawn" (ELW 261)

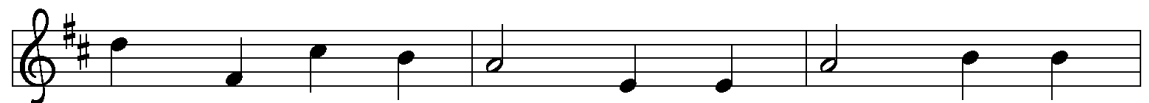
*the choir processes  
to the front of the sanctuary  
as candles are lit*



1 As the dark a - waits the dawn,  
2 As the blue ex - pec - tant hour  
3 As the moon re - flects the sun  
4 Shine your fu - ture on this place,



so we a - wait your light. O Star of  
be - fore the sil - v'ring skies, we long to  
un - til the night's de - crease, may we your  
en - light - en ev - 'ry guest, that through us



prom - ise, scat - ter night, lov - ing and bright, lov - ing  
see your day a - rise, whole and wise, whole and  
heal - ing light re - lease, liv - ing peace, liv - ing  
stream your ho - li - ness, bright and blest, bright and



bright, till shades of fear are gone.  
wise, O lu - cent Morn - ing Star.  
peace, un - to your ho - ly dawn.  
blest; come dawn, O Sun of grace.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, 1953-2021  
Music: Carl F. Schalk, 1929-2021

confession      Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
and forgiveness

*A moment of silence is observed*

I confess to God Almighty,  
before the whole company of heaven,  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have sinned by my own fault  
in thought, word, and deed.

I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me,  
forgive me all my sins,  
and bring me to everlasting life.

**Almighty and merciful God  
grant you healing, pardon,  
and forgiveness of all your sins. Amen.**

**I confess to God Almighty,  
before the whole company of heaven,  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have sinned by my own fault  
in thought, word, and deed.**

**I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me,  
forgive me all my sins,  
and bring me to everlasting life.**

Almighty and merciful God  
grant you healing, pardon, and  
forgiveness of all your sins. Amen.

*Please be seated*

## WORD

psalm 27 *The choir chants the Psalm*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
— whom then shall I fear?

<sup>2</sup>The LORD is the strength of my life;  
of whom then shall I be afraid?

<sup>3</sup>When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh,  
it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.

<sup>4</sup>Though an army should encamp against me,  
yet my heart shall not be afraid;

<sup>5</sup>And though war should rise up against me,  
yet will I put my trust in him.

<sup>6</sup>One thing have I asked of the LORD; one thing I seek:  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my  
life;

<sup>7</sup>To behold the fair beauty of the LORD  
and to seek him in his temple.

<sup>8</sup>For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter;  
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling  
and set me high upon a rock.

<sup>9</sup>Even now he lifts up my head  
above my enemies round about me.

<sup>10</sup>Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation  
with sounds of great gladness;  
I will sing and make music to the LORD.

<sup>11</sup>Hearken to my voice, O LORD, when I call;  
have mercy on me and answer me.

<sup>12</sup>You speak in my heart and say, “Seek my face;”  
Your face, LORD, will I seek.

<sup>13</sup>Hide not your face from me,  
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.

<sup>14</sup>You have been my helper; cast me not away;  
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.

<sup>15</sup>Though my father and my mother forsake me,  
the LORD will sustain me.

*The choir chants the psalm  
seated as would be done in  
monastic settings—symbolizing  
the unity of the choir and the  
congregation and  
communicating that all the choir  
sings is on behalf of the  
congregation.*

<sup>16</sup>Show me your way, O LORD;  
lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.

<sup>17</sup>Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries,  
for false witnesses have risen up against me,  
and also those who speak malice.

<sup>18</sup>What if I had not believed  
that I should see the goodness of the LORD  
in the land of the living!

<sup>19</sup>O tarry and await the LORD's pleasure;  
be strong, and he shall comfort your heart;  
wait patiently for the LORD.

scripture reading    Isaiah 40: 28-31

<sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.

<sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint  
and strengthens the powerless.

<sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted,

<sup>31</sup>but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;  
they shall run and not be weary;  
they shall walk and not faint.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

Compline

hymn "There's a Voice in the Wilderness Calling" (ELW 255)



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a  
 2 O Je - ru - sa - lem, her - ald good tid - ings, as -  
 3 But the word of our Sav - ior is faith - ful, the



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a  
 cend to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late  
 arm of our God is strong, who stands in the midst of the



high - way, a high - way for our God!  
 peo - ple the com - ing of their king.  
 na - tions and soon will right the wrong.



The val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the  
 Like flow'rs of the field we per - ish, like  
 Lord, feed your flock like a shep - herd, the



loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed  
 grass our works de - cay; the pow'r and the pomp of  
 lambs so gent - ly hold; in pas - tures of peace now



plac - es where God, our God, may go!  
 na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way.  
 lead them, and bring them to your fold.

Text: Stephanie K. Frey, b. 1952, alt., based on the Magnificat  
 Music: Heinrich Schütz, 1585–1672



scripture reading Romans 8:37-39

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Word of God, Word of Life.  
**Thanks be to God.**



*Read by the lector*

I am waiting for my case to come up  
and I am waiting  
for a rebirth of wonder  
and I am waiting for someone  
to really discover America  
and wail  
and I am waiting  
for the discovery  
of a new symbolic western frontier  
and I am waiting  
for the American Eagle  
to really spread its wings  
and straighten up and fly right  
and I am waiting  
for the Age of Anxiety  
to drop dead  
and I am waiting  
for the war to be fought  
which will make the world safe  
for anarchy  
and I am waiting  
for the final withering away  
of all governments  
and I am perpetually awaiting  
a rebirth of wonder

I am waiting for the Second Coming  
and I am waiting  
for a religious revival  
to sweep thru the state of Arizona  
and I am waiting  
for the Grapes of Wrath to be stored  
and I am waiting  
for them to prove  
that God is really American  
and I am waiting  
to see God on television  
piped onto church altars  
if only they can find  
the right channel  
to tune in on  
and I am waiting

for the Last Supper to be served again  
with a strange new appetizer  
and I am perpetually awaiting  
a rebirth of wonder

I am waiting for my number to be called  
and I am waiting  
for the Salvation Army to take over  
and I am waiting  
for the meek to be blessed  
and inherit the earth  
without taxes  
and I am waiting  
for forests and animals  
to reclaim the earth as theirs  
and I am waiting  
for a way to be devised  
to destroy all nationalisms  
without killing anybody  
and I am waiting  
for linnets and planets to fall like rain  
and I am waiting for lovers and weepers  
to lie down together again  
in a new rebirth of wonder

I am waiting for the Great Divide to be crossed  
and I am anxiously waiting  
for the secret of eternal life to be discovered  
by an obscure general practitioner  
and I am waiting  
for the storms of life  
to be over  
and I am waiting  
to set sail for happiness  
and I am waiting  
for a reconstructed Mayflower  
to reach America  
with its picture story and tv rights  
sold in advance to the natives  
and I am waiting  
for the lost music to sound again  
in the Lost Continent  
in a new rebirth of wonder

## Compline

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I am waiting for the day  
that maketh all things clear  
and I am awaiting retribution  
for what America did  
to Tom Sawyer  
and I am waiting  
for Alice in Wonderland  
to retransmit to me  
her total dream of innocence  
and I am waiting  
for Childe Roland to come  
to the final darkest tower  
and I am waiting  
for Aphrodite  
to grow live arms  
at a final disarmament conference  
in a new rebirth of wonder

I am waiting  
to get some intimations  
of immortality  
by recollecting my early childhood  
and I am waiting  
for the green mornings to come again  
youth's dumb green fields come back again  
and I am waiting  
for some strains of unpremeditated art  
to shake my typewriter  
and I am waiting to write  
the great indelible poem  
and I am waiting  
for the last long careless rapture  
and I am perpetually waiting  
for the fleeing lovers on the Grecian Urn  
to catch each other up at last  
and embrace  
and I am awaiting  
perpetually and forever  
a renaissance of wonder

musical reflection    Night of Silence

John Kantor

Natalia Paruz, musical saw  
Leanne Surace, soloist

*Spirit among us,  
Shine like the star,  
Your light that guides shepherds and kings from afar.  
Shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely,  
Rising in the warmth of your Son's love.  
Star unknowing of night and day,  
Spirit, we wait for your loving Son.*

*Silent night, waiting night –  
prophets claim distant sight.  
Valleys lifted and mountains brought low,  
promised to us in words long ago.*

*Comfort, comfort my children;  
comfort, all of the world*

*The congregation is invited to sing the following text, to the tune of  
Silent Night:*

**Silent night, waiting night –  
dark we dwell, trusting light.  
Unto us shall a child be born,  
off'ring peace to a people forlorn –**

**Come, Emmanuel, come.  
Come, Emmanuel, come!**

## Compline

prayers

*Officiant*

In - to your hands, O Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_ com-mend \_\_\_\_\_ my spi - rit.

*People*

In - to your hands, O Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_ com-mend \_\_\_\_\_ my spi - rit.

*Officiant*

For you have re-deemed me, O Lord, O God \_\_\_\_\_ of truth.

*People*

In - to your hands, O Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_ com-mend \_\_\_\_\_ my spi - rit.

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

personal prayer and  
mindfulness meditation

*A sound bowl calls us into a time of prayer. We will begin with a guided mindfulness meditation. Following the meditation, you are invited into time for personal prayer. The prayer time will close again with the ringing of the sound bowl.*



*During personal prayer time, the choir sings the following*

anthem    Advent “O” Carol

Joanna Forbes L’Estrange  
(b. 1971)

*We long for your coming, O Lord.*

*We long for your coming, O Wisdom;  
teach us the way of understanding.  
You are the living Word.*

*We long for you, O Lord and Ruler;  
stretch out your arms and redeem us.  
You are the living Word.*

*We long for you, O Root of Jesse;  
come to deliver us and do not tarry.  
You are the living Word.*

*We long for you, O Key of David;  
bring forth the captive from his prison,  
who sits in the shadow of death.*

*O Dawn of the East,  
lighten those who sit in darkness  
and in the shadow of death.*

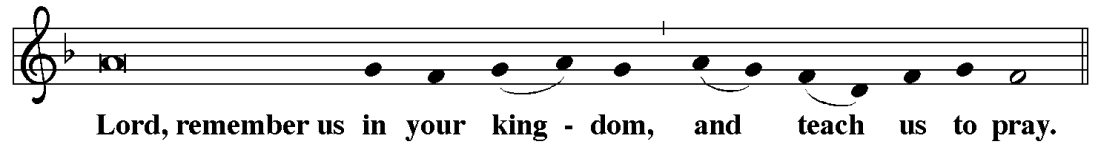
*We long for you, O King of the Gentiles;  
come and deliver man  
whom you formed out of the dust of the earth.*

*O Emmanuel!  
When will you come?  
Come to us.*

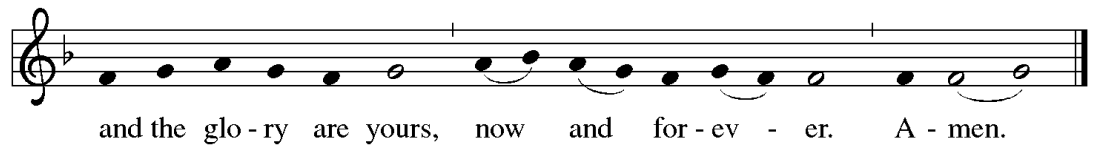
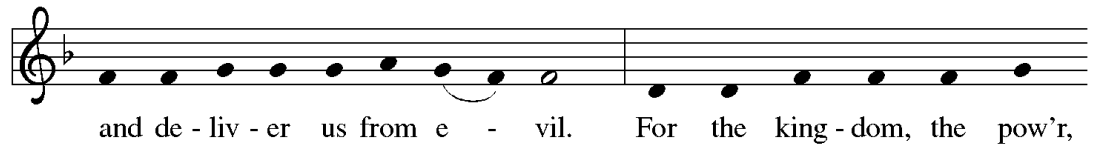
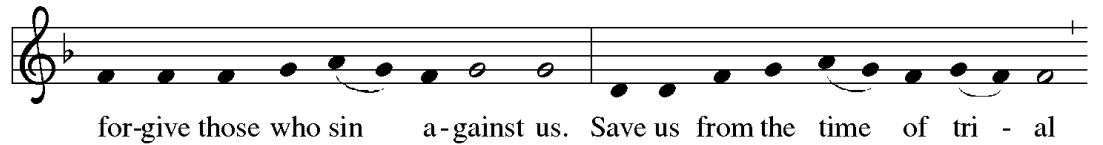
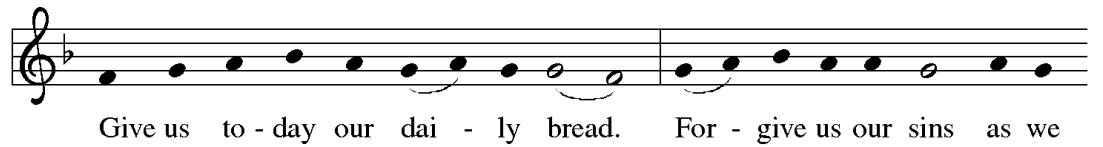
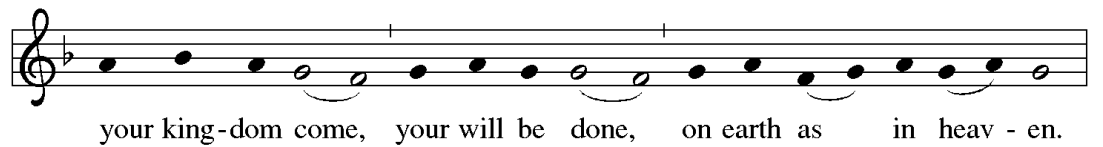
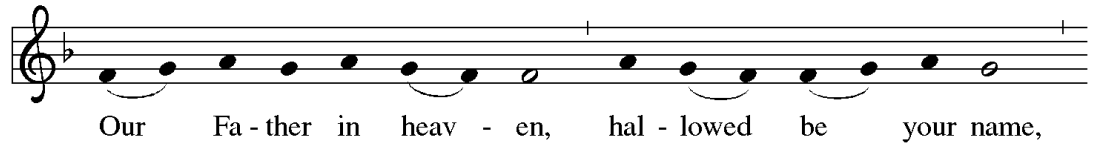
*Save us, O Lord our God.  
Tomorrow I will come.*

Compline

the lord's prayer *All chant the introduction and The Lord's Prayer*



*All continue chanting, despite being non-bold*





nunc dimittis

Paul Smith  
(b. 1981)

Latin:

*Nunc dimittis servum tuum, Domine,  
secundum verbum tuum in pace:*

*Quia viderunt oculi mei salutare tuum,  
quod parasti ante faciem omnium  
populorum:*

*Lumen ad revelationem gentium,  
et gloriam plebis tuae Israel.*

*Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto,  
sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et  
semper,  
et in saecula saeculorum.  
Amen.*

English Translation:

*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:*

*A light to lighten the Gentiles,  
and 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.*

*Please stand for the Blessing and Sending Hymn*

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

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,  
Keep our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.  
**Amen.**

# Compline

closing hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (ELW 257)

- 1 *Choir Only*
- 2 *Upper Voices*
- 3 *Lower Voices*
- 4 *All*



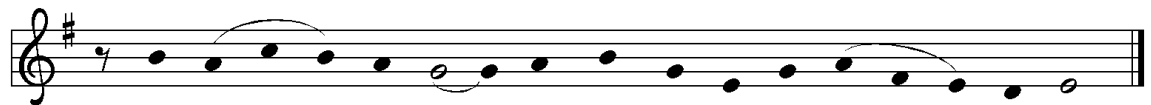
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr.  
 composite

Music: French processional, 15th cent.

*Candles are extinguished while the organ plays a postlude; the assembly is  
 invited to stay and pray if they wish*

postlude Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland

Johann Pachelbel  
 (1653-1706)

IN OUR PRAYERS

Justin Solomon, Cindy Roberti, Pat Zulch, Sean Reardon, Lori Homan, Dianne Bombardi, Joseph Campitiello, Barbie Parker, Amy Fittapaldi, Vincent Pizzolo, Gonca Latif-Schmitt and her family, Rita Fowler, Josie Honus, David Dowling, Jörg and Madeline Dreusicke, Jasmine Drake, Joanna Smith, Perry Summerford, Denise Melious, Maria Alvarez Castro, Friends and Family of Phillip Herbst, Angel Luis Rios, Marlies Meyer, Glen Danischewski, Ronnie Bero, Mary Bruno, Pennington Family, Carmen Cognetta, Deacon Margaret Ann O'Donnell, Migdalia Jimenez, Jessica Desens, Edith Piazza, Alice Evensen, Sean C. Sweeney, Janet A. Cleary, George Turner, Christopher Jarrett, Meah Guzman, Carmen Aponte, and James Ciccolella

For those in our armed services, especially  
Joshua Lentini, Sgt George E Turner, and the US Army

## Compline

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### CHURCH COUNCIL

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