

# Compline

EASTERTIDE 2020  
St. Paul's On the Green

## GATHERING REFLECTION

*The opening reflection gives an opportunity to reflect back on the day, bringing it into the light of God's presence. The Leader says,*

*In the stillness of the evening we call to mind the day that is past.  
In silence we open to God the depths and secrets of our hearts.*

*The bell invites us into silence.*

*O God, it is night. The night is for stillness.  
May we be still in your presence.*

*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 in hope to a new day,  
new joys, new possibilities. In your name we pray. Amen.*

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Our help is in the name of the eternal God,  
Who is making the heavens and the earth.*

*Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.  
Amen.*

## THE PSALM

*The Psalms are taken from a translation from the Hebrew by Stephen Mitchell, adapted for local use.*

*The Psalms can be chanted on one note (any note is the right note!)*

### 1 PSALM 16

- A Unnamable God, you are with me at every moment. \*  
You are my food, my drink, my sunlight and the air I breathe.
- B You are the ground I have built on, \*  
and the beauty that rejoices my heart.
- A I give thanks to you at all times, \*  
for lifting me from my confusion,
- B for teaching me in the dark, \*  
and showing me the path of life.
- A I have come to the center of your dwelling \*  
I rest in your perfect love.
- B In your presence there is fullness of joy, \*  
and blessedness forever and ever.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

## **2** PSALM 23

- A O God, you are my shepherd; \*  
I have everything that I need.
- B You make me lie down in green pastures \*  
you lead me beside still waters and revive my soul.
- A You guide me along right pathways \*  
so that I may serve you with love.
- B Though I walk through the darkest valley  
or stand in the shadow of death, \*  
I am not afraid, for I know you are always with me.
- A You spread a table before me even in times of great pain \*  
you feast me with your abundance  
and treat me like an honored guest.
- B Surely your goodness and mercy will follow me  
all the days of my life, \*  
and I will live in your radiance forever and ever.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

### **3** PSALM 34

- A I will bless you O God at all times; \*  
my lips will sing out his praise.
- B I will thank you for the love you have shown me, \*  
and the clarity that gladdens my heart.
- A Sing out with me and give thanks to the Holy One; \*  
be grateful for all God's gifts.
- B Turn to God; let your soul feel the Presence;  
O taste and see that God is good;  
happy are those who trust in the Lord.
- A You who desire true life \*  
and wish to walk on God's path:
- B Depart from evil and do good; \*  
and seek peace with all your soul.
- A O God, you are near to the brokenhearted;  
when their spirits are crushed, you are with them.
- B And though they undergo many hardships,  
you fill them with blessings in the end.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

## **4** PSALM 36

- A Your love, O God is vaster than the sky, \*  
it reaches beyond the stars.
- B Your justice is firmer than the mountains, \*  
deeper than the ocean's depths.
- A You care for all earth's creatures; \*  
infinitely precious is your love.
- B All your children come to you, \*  
and take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
- A They feast upon your abundance; \*  
they drink from the river of your joy.
- B For with you is the fountain of life; \*  
in your light we see light.
- A Let all people know your will, O God; \*  
let the wicked walk on your path.
- B Then we will hear earth's harmony, \*  
and your chorus will be complete.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

## 5 PSALM 39

- A Unnamable God, beyond all thought,  
you are sovereign over the dead and the living, \*
- B Teach us how transient we are,  
and how fragile is everything we love.
- A For all of us flash into being, \*  
as insubstantial as a breath.
- B Our lives are but a fleeting shadow; \*  
then we vanish into the night.
- A And now, O God, what do I wait for? \*  
My only trust is in you.
- B Help me to give up my desires \*  
and let go of who I am.
- A May I receive this existence gratefully; \*  
and gratefully give it back.
- B Turn toward me; touch my spirit; \*,  
stay beside me, now and in the moment  
when I step into the final darkness of your love.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

## **6** PSALM 42

A As a deer longs for flowing streams, \*  
so my soul longs for you, O God.

B I thirst for the living God; \*  
I ache for God day and night.

A Why are you so desolate, my soul? \*  
why weighed down by despair?

B Trust in God, who will save you; \*  
you will sing to God with great joy.

A My soul is heavy with anguish; \*  
my heart keeps longing for God.

B The roar of waterfalls surrounds me, \*  
and the waves crash over my head.

A Why are you so desolate, my soul? \*  
why weighed down by despair?

B Trust in God, who will save you; \*  
you will sing to God with great joy.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

## **7** PSALM 46

- A God is our refuge and strength, \*  
our safety in times of trouble.
- B We are calm though the whole earth trembles, \*  
and the cliffs fall into the sea.
- A Our trust is in the Unnamable One; \*  
the God who makes all things whole.
- B Come see what the Holy One has created, \*  
the miracles done for mortals.
- A God put an end to our wars; \*  
and snaps our weapons like twigs.
- B God offers us abundance, \*  
and peace to the ends of the earth.
- A God whispers to the heart, \*  
"Be still and know that I am within you."
- B Our trust is in the Unnamable One; \*  
the God who makes all things whole.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

## **8** PSALM 65

- A It is fitting to praise you, O God, \*  
giver of all good things,
- B to thank you for your boundless mercy, \*  
which renews us and makes us whole.
- A Every day you appear to us, \*  
and reveal your grandeur on the earth.
- B You care for the earth and nourish her, \*  
filling her rivers with your rain.
- A You make her soil rich and fertile \*  
and ready to bring forth fruit.
- B You crown the year with abundance; \*  
the earth overflows with your goodness.
- A The pastures fill up with lushness, \*  
and the meadows burst into bloom.
- B They shout their exhilaration; \*  
they sing; they are wild with joy.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

## 9 PSALM 84

- A O God, how beautiful you are; \*  
    how radiant the place in which you dwell.
- B My soul yearns for your presence; \*  
    my whole body longs for your light.
- A Even the wren finds a house, \*  
    and the sparrow a nest for herself.
- B Take me to your dwelling, O God; \*  
    guide me to the place of perfect repose.
- A Happy are those whose trust is in you, \*  
    who walk the path of your will.
- B The let go of all desires, \*  
    and give up everything they know,
- A Until they enter the temple, \*  
    the inmost temple of the heart,
- B where there is no self, no other, \*  
    nothing, but only you.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

## 10 PSALM 90

- A O God through all generations \*  
you have been our strength and our home.
- B Before the mountains were born  
or the oceans were brought to life \*  
for all eternity you are.
- A A thousand years in your sight \*  
are like yesterday when it is past.
- B So teach us how short our time is; \*  
let us know it in the depths of our souls.
- A Show us that all things are transient, \*  
as insubstantial as dreams.
- B that after heaven and earth have vanished, \*  
there is only you.
- A Show us how precious each day is; \*  
teach us to be fully here.
- B And let the work of our hands prosper, \*  
may it prosper for our little while.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

## THE SCRIPTURE READING

A short reading from Scripture is read, followed by a short time of reflective silence.

## THE PRAYERS

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

*Keep us, O God, as the apple of your eye.  
Hide us under the shadow of your wings.*

*Lord, have mercy.*

*Christ, have mercy.*

*Lord, have mercy.*

*Let us pray.*

*The Leader prays a prayer for the evening, and invites the People to add their own prayers. The Leader ends the open prayer time by leading in the Lord's Prayer,*

*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, and 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.*

## BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

*Christ be within us to keep us, beside us to guard, before us to lead,  
behind us to protect, beneath us to support, above us to bless. **Amen.***

*The divine Spirit dwells with us.*

*And with those absent from us. (You may stay here to pray, or go in peace.)*