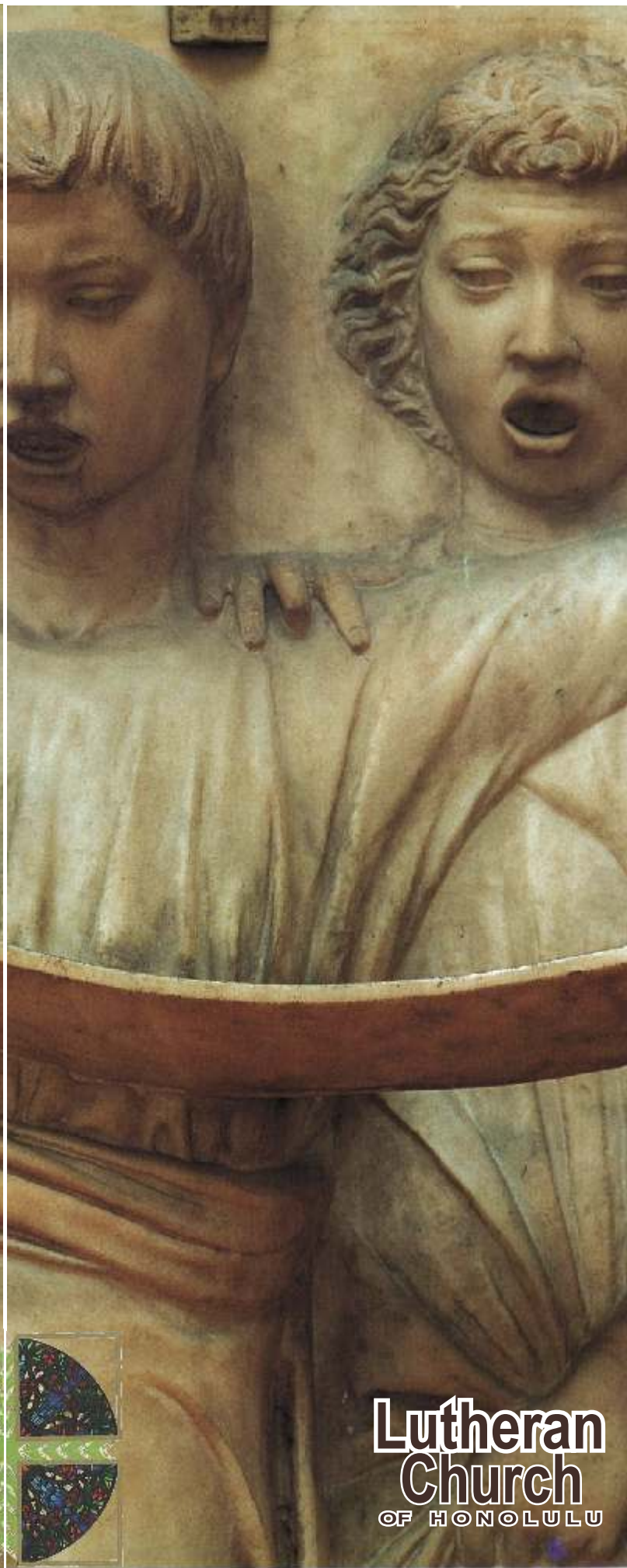




Compline
at the



Lutheran
Church
OF HONOLULU

AN ORDER FOR THE COMPLINE SERVICE					
ELEMENTS of the SERVICE	DEFINITION or FUNCTION In the SERVICE	FORM of DELIVERY or MUSICAL MODE	PERFORMED BY	OPENING STANZA	WRITTEN SOURCE, HISTORICAL ORIGIN or MUSICAL PERIOD
processional	music to accompany the ceremonial entrance of choir, cantor and officiant	usually a monophonic chant	choir, often w/ bells		hymn /monastic / early church (e.c.)
bidding prayer	a formal petitionary prayer befitting the church calendar	spoken	officiant	unique to each service	officiant's composition / present / seasonal
orison	a sung prayer befitting the church calendar	sung / harmonic	choir		hymns by various composers such as Tallis,
Salutation	greeting from the traditional Gregorian Compline service	spoken	officiant	"The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night..."	monastic
Chapter	a short scriptural quotation	spoken	officiant	"Be sober, be vigilant..."	1 Peter 5-8&9 / e.c.
Preces	an invocation	monophonic chant/ polyphonic response	cantor/choir		monastic Gregorian
Psalter	selections from the Book of Psalms the Bible's hymnal	chant/response	cantor/choir		pre-Christian Jewish / e.c.
Chapter	a short scriptural quotation; rotates among passages from the New Testament	spoken	officiant		Bible / tied to church year
Responsary	a response to the "chapter" drawn from Psalm 31:5	monophonic chant & response	cantor/choir	"Into thy hands O Lord..."	Psalm 31:5
Office Hymn	a hymn linked to a particular daily office	plain song monophonic chant & response	choir	"Te lucis ante terminum" / "to thee before the close of day..."	monastic, usually attributed to St. Ambrose / 4th C
Versicle	a verse said or sung by the officiant	monophonic chant & response	cantor/choir	"Keep me Lord as an apple..."	
Antiphon and Nunc Dimittis	a Biblical song with a verse of praise sung before and after the Canticle	chant with some harmonized verses	choir	"Lord, Guide us while waking....preserve us while sleeping..Now lettest thy servant depart in peace..."	Luke 2-29 to 32 / e.c., several translations
Creed	a formula of Christian religious beliefs; The Apostles Creed	chant	choir	"I believe in God the Father..."	Apostles Creed / e.c.
Suffrages	Petitions for Support.		cantor/choir		
	Kyrie	monophonic chant/ response		"Lord have mercy..."	
	Pater Noster "Lord's Prayer"	monophonic chant / response		"Our father who art in heaven..."	Bible, Matthew / 2nd C
	Benedictus es Domine	monophonic chant / response		"Blessed art thou..."	prayers
Confession	confession of sin, then absolution	spoken		"...we have sinned ...have mercy..."	
Collects	three brief prayers selected on a rotating basis from nine standard prayers	chant/response	cantor/choir		
Anthem	weekly choice of ecclesiastical music, often from the Renaissance.	sung	choir		Palestrina, Handl & Tallis / Renaissance Davies, Hallock/Contemporary
Final Preces	a summary petition of belief	monophonic chant & polyphonic song	cantor/choir	.. "We will lay us down in peace" ... "Let us bless the Lord"	Psalm 4:8
Blessing	three brief prayers selected on a rotating basis from nine standard prayers	spoken	officiant	"The almighty and merciful Lord bless us and preserve us..."	monastic
recessional	a formal closing procession	silent	choir and officiant		

THE COMPLINE SERVICE

The Compline Service and the Benedictines

The origins of the Compline Service are found in the sixth century work of St. Benedict, the founder of the first western monastic order. That order emerged as the greatest of the monastic orders founded in the West. St. Benedict established prayer—both spoken and plain-song chanted—at eight “hours” or “offices” which structured each monastic day.

These “offices” derived from services of Jewish priests in the Temple in pre-Christian Jerusalem as well as the desert traditions of the first monks, of Pachomius and of Basil the Great.

The office-hours of this formal reflection time of prayer were:

- *Matins at 3 am*
- *Lauds at daybreak*
- *Prime in mid-morning*
- *Tierce at noon*
- *Sext in mid afternoon*
- *None at supper*
- *Vespers in the early evening*
- *Compline in late evening*

In each monastic week, the complete Psalter of 150 Psalms was sung.

Pope Gregory and the “Gregorian Chants”

Early in the early Seventh Century, a monk named Gregory emerged from St. Benedict’s order to become one of the great popes of the Christian church. Among Pope Gregory’s instructions was a directive that the Benedictine chants be recorded and made part of the daily monastic offices. Thus emerged the “Gregorian Chants.”

“Reawakening” of the Compline Service at St. Mark’s Cathedral, Seattle.

In 1954 Dr. Peter Hallock established a Compline Service at St. Mark’s Cathedral. Dr. Hallock had spent two years at Canterbury Cathedral and wanted to provide a similar service to the mystical

chants that had so captivated him in England. Thru the ‘50s there was sparse attendance, but with the youth movement in the early ‘60s attendance grew dramatically into hundreds of regular attendees each Sunday evening. This has remained the pattern to the present.

A Compline Service is formed at the Lutheran Church of Honolulu

Carl Crosier as a young student at the University of Washington was one of these attendees at St. Mark’s. In early 1972 Carl came to Honolulu as organist at the LCH. Carl started the Compline Service at LCH on August 1, 1976. At that time there was no other choral evening service being regularly sung in Honolulu. (*Editor’s Note. We discovered in 2001 that even in Southern California, there were no choral services sung on a regular basis.*)

The Elements of the Compline Service

The abstract in the fold-out defines the “anatomy” of each of the twenty elements of the service. Included are:

- The “liturgical” definition of each element or the function in the service.
- The “presenter” of each portion (the choir, the officiant or the cantor).
- The “significance” of that element in the Christian or Jewish Church.
- The “musical or spoken nature” of the element.
- The “historical or musical origin” of the element.

Notes. There are two versions of the Compline Service, Compline I and Compline II. The differences between the two versions are the order of some elements and the language used. Compline I uses Elizabethan from the original 6th Century Benedictine Service while Compline II uses contemporary language.

The Setting.

The service takes place in the sanctuary of the Lutheran Church of Honolulu and lasts thirty minutes. It is conducted in a darkened nave with candles providing the only illumination, in keeping with early Christian monastic tradition. Thus the service provides a quiet, contemplative end of the week past and a peaceful beginning of the new week. The choir enters singing the processional and proceeds to pre-set music stands, a candle on a post adjacent to each.

The Music.

The individual musical elements range from Gregorian plainsong chants to polyphonic works for various Psalms and ending in an anthem chosen for the particular season. The anthems are generally selected from the work of Renaissance composers such as Palestrina, Jacob Handl and Thomas Tallis or contemporary composers such as Peter Hallock.

Glossary.

Anthem. Derived from “antiphon” or hymn of praise.

Canticle. Taken from the Latin “canticum” or song.

Cantor. The leader of church singing
Chant. A short monophonic melody
Compline (From the Latin for “complete”). The last “Office” of eight offices in the monastic day

Modes. The eight different arrangements of the diatonic tones of an octave.

Monophony. A musical style of a single melody without accompaniment
Plainsong. Monophonic vocal music from the Early Church

Polyphony. Music having two or more independent parts, each with its own harmonized melody