

#41 What is the Collect for Purity? What happened to the Canticle we were singing each Sunday at the beginning of worship?

When our choir is helping lead worship we incorporate a sung canticle into the entrance rite. During the summer months, we use *The Collect for Purity* as part of our entrance rite, in place of the canticle.

The Collect for Purity is one of the ancient prayers of our liturgy, dating from 10th century. The Sarum missal, a Medieval era church manual from the ancient town of Sarum, directed priests to say this prayer as they were preparing to lead worship services. When the first editions of *The Book of Common Prayer* were written during the 16th century *The Collect for Purity* was incorporated into the worship service itself, and was said by the priest.

In recent years at St. Paul's, as in many other Episcopal congregations, the congregation is invited to join in saying *The Collect for Purity*. In this way we continue a broad movement toward greater participation. Greater participation of the congregation has been made possible by the fact that many more people are able to read, as compared with the low levels of literacy in ancient times.

*If you have a question about something in our liturgy, I will be happy to answer it. Please ask in person, or send an email to me at revmajor@stpaulsyr.org.
Fr. Philip +*