

## Office of Compline

The Versicles and Gloria Patri

P: The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

**C: Amen.**

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord:

**C: Who made heaven and earth.**

P: Restore us again, O God of our salvation.

**C: And put away Your anger toward us.**

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

**C: Make haste to help me, O Lord.**

**All: 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 forevermore. Amen.**

The Confession of Sin

P: Almighty God, heavenly Father, I have sinned against You through my own fault in thought, word and deed. For the sake of the suffering, death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me; forgive me all my sins and bring me to everlasting life.

**C: Amen!**

The Psalm -

Tonight's psalm, Psalm 34, is the appointed psalm for Trinity 7:

I will bless the `Lord at all times;/ His praise shall continually `be in my mouth.

<sup>2</sup>My soul shall make its `boast in the Lord;/ The humble shall hear of `it and be glad.

<sup>3</sup>Oh, magnify `the Lord with me,/ And let us exalt His `name together.

<sup>4</sup>I sought the Lord, `and He heard me,/ And delivered me `from all my fears.

<sup>5</sup>They looked to Him and `were radiant,/ And their faces `were not ashamed.

<sup>6</sup>This poor man cried out, and `the Lord heard him,/ And saved him out of `all his troubles.

<sup>7</sup>The angel of the Lord encamps all around `those who fear Him,/ And `delivers them.

<sup>8</sup>Oh, taste and see that `the Lord is good;/ Blessed is the man `who trusts in Him!

<sup>9</sup>Oh, fear the `Lord, you His saints!/<sup>9</sup> There is no want to `those who fear Him.

<sup>10</sup> The young lions lack and `suffer hunger;/ But those who seek the Lord shall not lack `any good thing.

<sup>11</sup> Come, you children, `listen to me;/ I will teach you the `fear of the Lord.

<sup>12</sup> Who is the man `who desires life,/ And loves many days, that `he may see good?

<sup>13</sup> Keep your `tongue from evil,/ And your lips from `speaking deceit.

<sup>14</sup> Depart from e`vil and do good;/ Seek peace `and pursue it.

<sup>15</sup> The eyes of the Lord are `on the righteous,/ And His ears are o`pen to their cry.

<sup>16</sup> The face of the Lord is against those `who do evil,/ To cut off the remembrance of `them from the earth.

<sup>17</sup> The righteous cry out, `and the Lord hears,/ And delivers them out of `all their troubles.

<sup>18</sup> The Lord is near to those who have `a broken heart,/ And saves such as have a `contrite spirit.

<sup>19</sup> Many are the afflictions `of the righteous,/ But the Lord delivers him `out of them all.

<sup>20</sup> He guards `all his *bones*;/ Not one of `them is broken.

<sup>21</sup> Evil shall `slay the wicked,/ And those who hate the righteous `shall be condemned.

<sup>22</sup> The Lord redeems the soul `of His servants,/ And none of those who trust in Him `shall be condemned.

**All: 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 forevermore. Amen.**

The Devotion:

Today's devotion is from one of Luther's sermons for Trinity 7. The text is Mark 8:1-9:

In those days, the multitude being very great and having nothing to eat, Jesus called His disciples *to Him* and said to them, "I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat. And if I send them away hungry to their own houses, they will faint on the way; for some of them have come from afar."

Then His disciples answered Him, "How can one satisfy these people with bread here in the wilderness?"

He asked them, "How many loaves do you have?"

And they said, “Seven.”

So He commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. And He took the seven loaves and gave thanks, broke *them* and gave *them* to His disciples to set before *them*; and they set *them* before the multitude. They also had a few small fish; and having blessed them, He said to set them also before *them*. So they ate and were filled, and they took up seven large baskets of leftover fragments. Now those who had eaten were about four thousand. And He sent them away,

The devotional reading:

Today’s Gospel treats of temporal and bodily blessings, teaches us the faith of the child, and it is a picture for the weak, in that they should look to God for everything good, and that they might thus later learn to trust God and depend upon him for spiritual blessings. For if we are instructed in the Gospel, how Christ feeds our stomachs, we can then conclude that he will also feed and clothe our souls. For if I cannot trust him to sustain my body, much less can I trust him to sustain my soul forever. For example, if I cannot trust a person that he will give me one dollar, how can I trust him that he will give me ten? If I cannot expect from a person that he will give me a piece of bread; much less could I have any hope, that he would give me a house and yard, and the whole earth.

7. Now, what does Christ do in this case? What attitude does he take to this transaction? He must not have had much tact, for he goes to the disciples and asks, how shall one feed all these? They reply, Oh, who will be able to feed such a great multitude of people with bread in the wilderness? But here you see how little human thoughts and faith harmonize; here you see, the wiser reason is, the less it accomplishes in the works of God. Therefore Christ asked his disciples that everyone might learn to know by experience what reason is, and acknowledge how reason and faith in no way agree. Here we learn to blindfold reason, when we begin to believe, and then give reason a permanent furlough.

8. But if I am a believer then I close my eyes and say: O God, I am thy creature and thy handiwork and thou hast from the beginning created me. I will depend entirely upon you who cares more for me, how I shall be sustained, than I do myself; thou wilt indeed nourish me, feed, clothe and help me, where and when you know best.

11. We have said enough concerning faith through which we entrust the stomach to God for his care, and believe that he will not allow us to come to distress because of the lack of temporal things. Now concerning spiritual blessings, when we are about to die, I wish also to say: then we will find and see before our eyes very death, and yet we would gladly wish to live; then we will see before us very hell, and yet we would gladly wish to possess heaven; then we will see God's judgment, and yet we would gladly see his grace. In brief, we will not see a single one of the things we would like to have. No created thing can help us in the presence of death, hell and the judgment of God; and if I believe, I will say: Yes, faith is the fundamental principle by which I secure what I do not see; hence, if I believe, nothing can harm me. Although I see nothing now but death, hell and the judgment of God before my eyes, yet I must not look at them; but fully trust that God, by virtue of the power of his promise, not because of my worthiness, will give me life, salvation and grace. That is cleaving to God by faith in the right way.

### **Responsory and Lord's Prayer**

P: Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

**P: C: For you have redeemed me, O Lord, God of truth.**

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.

**C: Into Your hand, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

P: Keep us, O Lord, as the apple of Your eye.

**C: Hide us under the shadow of Your wings.**

**All: Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**All: Our Father...**

P: O Lord, hear my prayer:

**C: And let my cry come to You.**

The Collect

P: O Lord, visit this church and our dwellings, and drive far from them all snares of the enemy; let Your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and may Your blessing be upon us evermore; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

The Canticle

P: Preserve us, O Lord, while waking and guard us while sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.

**C: Lord, now You let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your Salvation which You have prepared before the face of all people, a Light to lighten the Gentiles, and the Glory of Your people Israel.**

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

P: Let us bless the Lord:

**C: Thanks be to God.**

P: The almighty and most merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit bless and preserve us.

**C:Amen.**

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