

## 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 68 (selected verses), is the appointed psalm for Trinity 11:

Blessed be the Lord, Who daily loads us `with benefits,/ The God of `our salvation!

<sup>20</sup> Our God is the God `of salvation;/ And to GOD the Lord belong `escapes from death.

<sup>21</sup> But God will wound the head of `His enemies,/ The hairy scalp of the one who still goes on in `his trespasses.

<sup>22</sup> The Lord said, "I will bring `back from Bashan,/ I will bring them back from the `depths of the sea,

<sup>23</sup> That your foot may `crush them in blood,/ And the tongues of your dogs may have their portion from `your enemies."

<sup>24</sup> They have seen Your pro`cession, O God,/ The procession of my God, my King, into the `sanctuary.

<sup>29</sup> Because of Your temple at `Jerusalem,/ Kings will bring `presents to You.

<sup>32</sup> Sing to God, you king`doms of the earth;/ Oh, sing prais`es to the Lord,

<sup>33</sup> To Him who rides on the heaven of heavens, `which were of old!/ Indeed, He sends out His voice, `a mighty voice.

<sup>34</sup> Ascribe `strength to *God*;/ His excellence is over Israel, And His strength `is in the clouds.

<sup>35</sup> O God, You `are more awesome/ than Your `holy places.

The God of Israel is He who gives strength and power `to His people./

Blessed `be *God*!

**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 11. The text is Luke 18:9-14:

Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise *his* eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be [d]humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

The devotion:

3. This has taken place and has been written to the end that we should open our eyes and not judge the people according to their outward appearance. To do this in this instance it is necessary to examine the hearts of both, and not judge according to mere external works. For when the heart is good, the whole man is good. For if I judged the publican according to his works, my judgment would soon be false. For nothing appears in him but sin. Again, if I judge the hypocrite or Pharisee according to his works, I will also miss the

mark. For he stands at the holy place, makes the best prayer imaginable, for he praises and thanks God with grand works, he fasts, gives the tenth of all his goods, harms no one; in short, everything, both outwardly and inwardly, appears well with him.

5. He speaks of the publican as though he must have previously heard a word from God that touched his heart so that he believed it ... as St. Paul says, Rom. 10:17: "So faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ." ... But the Evangelist does not indicate that he now first heard the Gospel here, but that he heard it somewhere, it matters not where. For he says: "God be merciful to me a sinner." This knowledge is above the powers of reason. And yet it must previously have been known to him that God is merciful, gracious and friendly to all those who confess their sins, who call upon him and long for grace. As he heard that God is gracious by virtue of his very nature, to all those who humble themselves and seek comfort in him. But to preach thus is always the pure Gospel.

8. So this publican cares for nothing and speaks freely, though he puts himself to shame before all people and says: "God, be thou merciful to me a sinner!" As though he would say: I now see that I am lost, for I am a bad man, and acknowledge my sins. Unless I believe and hold to God's mercy, and take the cup of the Saviour and call upon God's grace, I will be ruined.

9. Thus faith casts itself on God.

17. Let us now consider the fool, the Pharisee. Here are most beautiful works. In the first place he thanks God, fasts twice in the week, and he gives the tenth of all his goods, nor has he at any time committed adultery, has never done any one violence or robbed him of his goods. Thus he has conducted himself in an exemplary manner. This is a beautiful honest life, and excites our wonder and surprise. Truly, after the fashion of the world no one could find fault with him, yea, one must praise him. Yes, to be sure he does this himself.

19. Well, [then] what is the matter with the good man? Only this, he does not know his own heart.

20. Hence ... unbelief which is in the heart and we cannot see, this is the real sin.

21. Further, because he is unwilling to confess his sins, he falls further and sins against love to his neighbor, in that he says: "Even as this publican." He could not bear his presence without blaming and condemning him. Here all commandments are abolished and transgressed, for he denies God and does his neighbor no good. In this way he goes to ruin, because he has not obeyed a letter of the law.

22. This is set before us that we may beware and guard ourselves against it.

23. Again, on the other hand, examine the heart also of the publican. Here we find that he believes. Hence his works are good and of service to the whole world, for he teaches that a man should humble himself and praise God.

24. Now the works of the publican praise God and benefit the whole world, because they teach us to know, and show us the way of God our Saviour. Therefore they are good because they praise God and benefit our neighbor.

### **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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