

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 , is the appointed psalm for Trinity 14. Below are the first five verses of the psalm:

It is good to give `thanks to the Lord,/ And to sing praises to Your `name, O Most High;

²To declare Your lovingkindness `in the morning,/ And Your faithfulness `every *night*,

³On an instrument of ten strings, `On the *lute*,/ And on the harp, With `harmonious sound.

⁴For You, Lord, have made me `glad through Your work;/ I will triumph in the `works of Your hands.

⁵O Lord, how `great are Your works!/⁵Your thoughts `are very deep.

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.

Today's devotion is from one of Luther's sermons for Trinity 15. The text is Luke 17:11-17:

Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up *their* voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" So when He saw *them*, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.

And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on *his* face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where *are* the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

The devotion:

33. We see here that the lepers began to believe, and expected help from Christ, who then further awakens their faith and tries it, does not immediately make them well, but speaks a word to them, to show themselves to the priests. If there had been no faith in them their reason and natural fancy would have spoken thus and immediately murmured: What is this? We expected great kindness from him, and heartily believed in him, that he would help us; but now he does not touch us, as is his custom, and as he did to others, but only looks at us and passes on. Perhaps he despises us, besides he neither promises nor denies whether he will cleanse us or not, but leaves us in doubt, and says no more than that we should show ourselves to the priests. Why should we show ourselves to them, they already know we are lepers?

We see that nature would thus become angry and lukewarm against him, because he does not immediately do her bidding, and he does not with certainty tell what he will do. But here is faith, that strengthens itself and only increases through such temptation, and cares naught how unkind or uncertain the actions and words of Christ sound, but clings fast to his goodness, and does not permit itself to be frightened away. And of a truth, there was in them a strong, rich faith, that upon his word they promptly went forth; for had they doubted they certainly would not have gone, and yet they had here no clear promise.

35. And this is the method God employs with us all to strengthen and prove our faith, and he treats us so that we know not what he will do with us. This he does for the reason, that man is to commend himself to him and rely on his mere goodness, and not doubt that he will give what we desire or something better.

36. Such trials continue as long as we live, therefore we must also continue to grow just as long. For when he tries us in one instance in which he makes us uncertain how he will treat us, he afterwards always takes another and continually enlarges our faith and confidence, if we only remain unmovably steadfast...This is nothing else than in this manner to become strong in faith, when God conceals his kindness and appears as Christ does here to the lepers, so that we do not know what to expect of him. For faith must be an argument not an appearance, and be certain and not doubt in the things that are concealed and are not experienced. Heb. 11, 1.

37. Therefore observe that when God appears to be farthest away he is nearest. This word of Christ reads as though we cannot know what he will do, he does not refuse nor promise anything, so that the lepers, who previously certainly relied on his kindness for all things, might have become offended at it, and begun to doubt, and taken quite a different sense of it than Christ meant. Christ speaks it out of an overflowing kindness that he thinks it unnecessary to tell them that they have already obtained what they want.

38. All this is done that we may not remain in weakness when we first begin to believe, but grow and ever increase until we be able to take the strong nourishment and become satisfied and full of the Spirit, that we may not only despise and triumph over riches, honor and friends, but also over death and hell.

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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