

## 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 70, is the appointed psalm for Trinity 12:

Make haste, O God, to `deliver me! / Make haste to `help me, O Lord!

<sup>2</sup> Let them be ashamed and confounded `Who seek my life; / Let them be turned back and confused Who `desire my hurt.

<sup>3</sup> Let them be turned back be `cause of their shame, / Who say, `“Aha, aha!”

<sup>4</sup> Let all `those who seek You / rejoice and `be glad in You;

And let those who love Your salvation say `continually, / “Let God `be magnified!”

<sup>5</sup> But I am `poor and needy; / Make haste `to me, O God!

You are my help and my `deliverer; / O Lord, `do not delay.

**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 12. The text is Mark 7:31-37:

Again, departing from the region of Tyre and Sidon, He came through the midst of the region of Decapolis to the Sea of Galilee. Then they brought to Him one who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech, and they begged Him to put His hand on him. And He took him aside from the multitude, and put His fingers in his ears, and He spat and touched his tongue. Then, looking up to heaven, He sighed, and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened."

Immediately his ears were opened, and the [l]impediment of his tongue was loosed, and he spoke plainly. Then He commanded them that they should tell no one; but the more He commanded them, the more widely they proclaimed *it*. And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

The devotion:

1. As the Gospel everywhere shows Christ our Lord to be a merciful and gracious man, ready to help every one by word and deed, in body and soul, so does this Gospel lesson picture to us how willingly he helped this poor man, who was deaf and [mute], in order that we might be invited to believe, trusting to obtain from him all that is good.

4. We must not, as it were, confine Christ too narrowly as though he had regard to [this deaf mute] only; we must regard him more highly than that he would help only this man. For all the Holy Scriptures, and particularly the prophets and psalms, declare, that he was sent to have deep compassion on all the misery and need of the whole human race, and that Christ was the person, chosen particularly above all saints, to be so minded toward us as surely to take upon himself all our need and sorrow as though they were his own, as in Psalm 40:12 he says of our sins, "Mine iniquities have overtaken me, so that I am not able to look up," and in Psalm 41:4, "O Lord, have mercy upon me, heal my soul, for I have sinned against thee." Here our

merciful Lord speaks in our person, bearing our sins as though they were his own, and as though he had committed them himself. And again, Psalm 69:5: “O God, thou knowest my foolishness, and my sins are not hid from thee”; again, Isaiah 53:6’ “The Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all”; and vs. 4-5: “He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; the chastisement of our peace was upon him,” etc. And other passages of Scripture bear witness to this.

5. For the Lord Christ must be painted in such a manner that he is the only person who takes upon himself the misfortune, not of one country, or of one city, but of the whole world; even as St. John names him, John 1:29: “Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world.” But if he bears the sins, it follows that he must also have borne whatever belongs to sin, and what follows sin, as the devil, death and hell.

6. That is the reason he sighs so here, as the person who was to do it, of whom the prophets had long before announced that he would have deep compassion upon all the evils of the whole human race. He was not alone concerned about the tongue and the ears of only this poor man; but it was a common sigh over all tongues and ears in general, yea, over all hearts, bodies, and souls, and all men, from Adam to the last human being, who is yet to be born. Hence he does not chiefly sigh because this man would in the future commit many sins; but the chief reason is that he, Christ the Lord, viewed the entire mass of flesh and blood which the devil afflicted with a fatal hurt in Paradise, making mankind deaf and dumb, and thus thrust them into death and hell fire. This view being before the eyes of Christ, he looked far about him, seeing how great the damage was, inflicted in Paradise by the devil through the fall of one man. He looks not upon those two ears, but upon the whole number of men who had come from Adam, and were yet to come. Therefore this Gospel lesson sets forth Christ as being the man who is concerned about you and me.

## **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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