

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 51. Below are the first 13 verses of the psalm:

Have mercy up`on me, O God,/ According to Your `lovingkindness;
According to the multitude of Your `tender mercies,/ Blot out `my
transgressions.

² Wash me thoroughly from my `iniquity,/ And cleanse `me from my sin.

³ For I acknowledge `my transgressions,/ And my sin is al`ways before me.

⁴ Against You, You on`ly, have I sinned,/ And done this e`vil in Your sight;
That You may be found `just when You speak,/ And blame`less when You
judge.

⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in `iniquity,/ And in sin my moth`er conceived
me.

⁶ Behold, You desire truth in `the inward parts,/ And in the hidden part You
will make me `to know wisdom.

⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and `I shall be clean;/ Wash me, and I shall be
`whiter than snow.

⁸ Make me hear joy and gladness,/ That the bones You have broken may rejoice.

⁹ Hide Your face from my sins,/ And blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,/ And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

¹¹ Do not cast me away from Your presence,/ And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

¹² Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,/ And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.

¹³ Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,/ And sinners shall be converted to You.

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 19. The text is Matthew 9:1-8. The first verses of the text are cited below:

Behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you."

The devotion:

12. Forgiveness of sins is nothing more than two words, in which the whole kingdom of Christ consists. There must be sins, and if we are conscious of them, we must confess them; when I have confessed them, forgiveness and grace are immediately present. Before forgiveness is present there is nothing but sin. This sin must be confessed that I may feel and know that all that is in me is blindness; otherwise forgiveness of sins could not exist where there is no sin. However, there is no lack of sins to confess, but the lack is in not feeling and knowing our sins to confess them; then only forgiveness of them follows. But it is quite a different thing when God forgives sins, than when one man forgives another. One man forgives another his sins in a way that he thinks of them again tomorrow, or casts them up to him. But when God forgives sins it is quite a different thing than when man forgives. For God condemns no more, he banishes all wrath from him, yea, he no more thinks of the sin, as he himself says in the prophet Isaiah, 43:25. Now if this wrath is gone, then hell, the devil, death and all misfortune that the devil may bring

with him, must also disappear; and instead of wrath God gives grace, comfort, salvation and everything good that he himself is.

13. Sin is pure unhappiness, forgiveness pure happiness. The divine majesty is great, great is also that which it forgives. As the man is, so is also his forgiveness. But you must know in your heart how great these words are in which you know how to trust, yea, for which you can cheerfully die. But only few rightly receive these words, therefore there are but few true Christians.

14. This then is the kingdom of Christ, and he who possesses it thus, possesses it in the right way. Here there is no work, but only the acknowledgment of all our misfortune, and the reception of all the gifts of God. Here there is nothing but simple comfort, here the words are continually heard: Be joyful, let not your conscience be troubled because of sin, or because you have not done a great amount of good; I will forgive you all. Therefore it is not by merit, but it is a simple gift. This is the Gospel, upon which faith depends, through which you grasp and keep these words, so that they may not have been spoken in vain. For we have no other comfort of which God tells us to boast than that God says: "Be of good cheer, be comforted; for I forgive thy sins; and in my forgiveness you can glory and rejoice."

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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