

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 - Psalm 45 (Selected verses)

⁷ God, Your God, has `anointed You/ With the oil of gladness more than
`Your companions.

⁸ All Your garments are scented with myrrh and a`loes and cassia,/ Out of
the ivory palaces, by which they `have made You glad.

⁹ Kings' daughters are among Your honor`able women;/ At Your right hand
stands the queen in `gold from Ophir.

¹⁰ Listen, O daughter, Consider and `incline your ear;/ Forget your own
people also, and `your father's house;

¹¹ So the King will greatly de`sire your beauty;/ Because He is your Lord,
`worship *Him*.

¹² And the daughter of Tyre will `come with a gift;/ The rich among the
people will `seek your favor.

13 The royal daughter is all glorious with`in the palace;/ Her clothing is
`woven with gold.

14 She shall be brought to the King in robes of `many colors;/ The virgins,
her companions who follow her, shall `be brought to You.

15 With gladness and rejoicing `they shall be brought;/ They shall enter `the
King's palace.

**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 20. The text is
Matthew 22:1-14: Below are a few selected verses from the text:

And Jesus spoke to them again by parables and said: "The kingdom of
heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent
out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding ... saying,
'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and
fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding."

The devotion:

13. Let us now briefly notice what is taught by this marriage feast. [T]he
great love Christ has for us is presented to us in this picture of the wedding
feast. For there are many kinds of love, but none is so ardent and fervent as a
bride's love, the love a new bride has to her bridegroom, and on the other
hand, the bridegroom's love to the bride.

14. This true bride-love God presented to us in Christ, in that he allowed him
to become man for us and be united with our human nature that we might
thus perceive and appreciate his good will toward us. Now, as the bride
loves her betrothed, so also does Christ love us; and we on the other hand
will love him, if we believe and are the true bride ... The only one thing [the
bride] wants is the bridegroom himself; as she says in the Song of Solomon,
2:16: "My beloved is mine, and I am his." She cannot rest until she has her
beloved himself. So is Christ also on the other hand disposed toward me: he
will have me only, and besides nothing. And if I gave him even all I could, it
would be of no use to him. He wants my whole heart, that I say from the

bottom of my heart: I am thine. The union and the marriage are accomplished by faith, so that I rely fully and freely upon him, that he is mine. If I only have him, what can I desire more?

16. Now, what do we bring to him? Nothing but all our heart-aches, all our misfortunes, sins, misery and lamentations. But what does the bridegroom do? He is so fastidious that he will not dwell with his bride until he first adorns her in the highest degree. How is that done? He instituted a washing; that washing is baptism, with which he washes her [Titus 3:5-6]. More than this, he has given to her his Word; in that she believes and through her faith she becomes a bride. The bridegroom comes with all his treasures; but I come with all my sins, with all my misery and heart-griefs. But because this is a marriage and a union, in the sense that they become one flesh, Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5, and they leave father and mother and cleave to one another, they should embrace each other and not disown one another, although one is even a little sick and awkward; for what concerns one, the other must also bear.

17. Therefore, the bride says, I am thine, thou must have me; then he must at the same time take all my misfortune upon himself. Thus then are my sins eternal righteousness, my death eternal life, my hell heaven; for these two, sin and righteousness, cannot exist together, nor heaven and hell. Are we now to come together the one must consume and melt the other in order that we may be united and become one. Now his righteousness is truly incomparably stronger than my sins, and his life unmeasurably stronger than my death; for he is life itself, where all life must be kindled. Therefore my death thus vanishes in his life, my sins in his righteousness and my condemnation in his salvation. [N]ow since my sin, my filth is taken away he must adorn and clothe me with his eternal righteousness and with all his grace until I become beautiful; for I am his bride. Thus then I appropriate to myself all that he has, as he takes to himself all that I have.

18. Now since Christ is mine and I am his: if Satan rages, I have Christ who is my life; does sin trouble me, I have Christ who is my righteousness; do hell and perdition attack me, I have Christ, who is my salvation. Thus, there

may rage within whatever will, if I have Christ, to him I can look so that nothing can harm me. And this union of the divine with the human is pointed out in the picture here of the marriage feast, and the exalted love God has to us, in the love of the bride.

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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