

## 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 102, is the appointed psalm for Trinity 16. Below are selected verse of the psalm:

Hear `my prayer, O Lord,/ And let my `cry come to You.

<sup>2</sup> Do not hide Your face from me in the day `of my trouble;/

Incline Your ear to me; In the day that I call, answer `me speedily.

<sup>3</sup> For my days are `consumed like smoke,/ And my bones are `burned like a hearth.

<sup>24</sup> I said, "O my God, Do not take me away in the `midst of my days;/ Your years are throughout all `generations.

<sup>25</sup> Of old You laid the founda`tion of the earth,/ And the heavens are the `work of Your hands.

<sup>26</sup> They will perish, but `You will endure;/ Yes, they will all grow old `like a garment;

Like a cloak `You will change them,/ And `they will be changed.

<sup>27</sup> But You `are the *same*,/ And Your years `will have no end.

<sup>28</sup> The children of Your servants `will continue,/ And their descendants will be esta`blished before 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 16. The text is Luke 7:1-11:

Now it happened, the day after, *that* He went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd. And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.” Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried *him* stood still. And He said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.” So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother.

Then fear [b]came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has risen up among us”; and, “God has visited His people.” And this report about Him went throughout all Judea and all the surrounding region.

The devotion:

This woman has two misfortunes around her neck. First, she is a widow. This is misfortune enough for one woman, that she is forsaken and alone, and has no one to whom she dare look for comfort. And therefore God in the Scriptures is often mentioned as the Father of the widow and orphans, as in Psalm 68:6 and Psalm 146:9: “God setteth the solitary in families. The Lord preserveth the strangers and orphans, he delivers the widow.” Again: she has an only son about to die, who should have been her comfort. Now, God comes and takes away her husband and son.

9. For before she turns around, and she thinks she is the safest, God comes, tries the wife a little and teaches her certain things, takes her husband and her son. This all has been written for us that we might have an example and

learn to acknowledge God when he blesses us with a healthy body, a bright countenance, and bestows upon us other blessings. He does not give them to the end that you should rejoice in them; but that you may know what to think of him. When he takes a member out of your family, permits your wife to die, or destroys one of your eyes, all this is done that you may see what you have enjoyed from him.

10. And this is now the common teaching through all the Gospels, that we may see what kind of a God we have. It is also shown us here in this Gospel that God will forsake no one; therefore he permits the wife to see in a new light what kind of a God she has. For when she was forsaken and had neither son nor husband, then Christ manifests himself to her and says: Learn to believe, trust God, know him to whom death and life are alike: have a good heart, be of good courage, weep not, there is no need of it. He then goes and awakens the dead, and gives him again to his mother.

11. This and like miracles God does that the heart may learn how it should be disposed to him and what it may expect from him. As now this wife was fully convinced that there was no hope for her son, that it was impossible for her to receive him back alive again; yea, if one had said to her: Before an hour your son will be alive again, she would have regarded it as impossible and said: It is more possible for the heavens to fall than for my son to live again. Behold, here comes God before she looks around, and does what she never dared to ask of him, as it is impossible, and he restores her son alive to her again.

But why does God do this? He permits man to fall so deeply into danger and anxiety, until no help or advice is within reach, and still he desires that we should not doubt, but trust in him who out of an impossible thing can make something possible, and make something out of nothing. If you are so deep in sin that your heart denies you all grace and the mercy of God and makes you think there is no hope for you, as many consciences are ensnared by such anxiety and distress; then turn about and look here how friendly and graciously God allows himself to be pictured by Christ in this Gospel; that you may observe that he means it well with you from his heart; and that he is

not here either to condemn or excommunicate you, but to preserve your soul forever. For this purpose such miracles and wonderful works are held before our eyes, and they also serve to the end, that we may see. As God here helps this widow in a temporal way through Christ, so he will help us not only bodily, but much more spiritually, and our soul forever, if we only put our hope in him.

### **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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