

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 50 (selected verses)

The Mighty One, God the `Lord, Has spoken/ and called the earth From the rising of the sun to `its going down.

Out of Zion, the perfec`tion of beauty,/ God `will shine forth.

Our God shall come, and shall `not keep silent;/ A fire shall devour before Him, And it shall be very tempestuous `all around Him.

He shall call to the heav`ens from above,/ And to the earth, that He may `judge His people:

Gather My saints to`gether to Me,/ Those who have made a covenant with Me `by sacrifice.”

Let the heavens declare `His righteousness,/ For God `Himself is Judge.

Offer to `God thanksgiving,/ And pay your vows `to the Most High.

Call upon Me in the `day of trouble;/ I will deliver you, and you shall `glorify Me.”

But to the `wicked God says:/ “What right have you to declare My statutes,
Or take My cove`nant in your mouth,

Seeing you `hate instruction/ And cast My `words behind you?

Now consider this, you `who forget God,/ Lest I tear you in pieces, And
there be none `to deliver:

**Whoever offers praise `glorifies Me;/ And to him who orders his
conduct aright I will show the sal`vation of God.”**

**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 24. The text is
Matthew 25:31-46:

31 “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the [a]holy angels
with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. 32 All the nations will
be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a
shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. 33 And He will set the sheep on
His right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those
on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom
prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 for I was hungry and
you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and
you took Me in; 36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you
visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’

37 “Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see
You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 38 When did we
see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? 39 Or when
did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ 40 And the King will
answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to
one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’

41 “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you
cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: 42 for I
was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no

drink; 43 I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'

44 "Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' 45 Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' 46 And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

The devotion:

Notice that he wishes to distinguish the good works of the Christians from the works of the heathen. For he speaks of the works done unto him, of which both parties claim to be ignorant, the wicked excusing themselves, because they had not seen him, etc. But he has most beautifully explained the fifth commandment, that it means, he who fulfills it can be none else than a believing Christian, who did it unto Christ. Thus the woman who anointed his head and feet, Matthew 26:10-13, fulfilled this commandment and is praised by him when he says: "She has wrought a good work upon me. For ye have the poor always with you, and if ye wish ye can always do good unto them, but me ye have not always. Verily I say unto you, wheresoever this Gospel shall be preached in the whole world, that also which this woman hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her." Again in Matthew 10:42: "And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones, who believe in me, a cup of cold water, he shall in no wise lose his reward."

29. We should therefore impress the fact upon our hearts and consider that it is a great and fine thing to do good to a Christian; but on the contrary also, what it is to do evil to him, who take from the feet of Christ [when] they have not given him the food, the drink, the lodging and the support of the poor, who are poor for Christ's sake.

31. But how does it happen that the righteous do not recognize and know that they have done their works unto Christ? They say: Lord, when saw we

thee hungry, or athirst, etc.? The reason is, that to give something to [care for Christ's church] is regarded as a matter altogether of too small significance to be so precious in the sight of God. Yea the world looks upon it as so much money thrown away.

32. But Christ is able to speak and judge rightly in this matter, and he knows how much depends upon it. For it is truly impossible to maintain the Word of God without pulpits. Where these are allowed to fall into disuse, there will be a second Sodom and Gomorrah, which will fare as those of old, who despised the Word of God, and would not listen to nor endure pious Lot.

33. The same conditions now exist everywhere. [Many are] simply gathering dollars, wait[ing] and sav[ing], eat[ing] and drink[ing], [are] insolent and mischievous as though God were nothing at all. No one cares for the despised Jesus in his poverty; nay, he is even tread under foot, until all obedience, discipline and honor are destroyed among us, because all admonition and preaching seem to be of no avail.

35. And now the world will not take heed, nor recognize that it must die and stand before God in judgment, but it rages against recognized truth. Let us give heed and take it to heart, that the wrath of God may not also sweep us away.

36. May God preserve us, and grant us and our little flock that we may escape this terrible wrath, and be found among those who honor and serve our dear Christ, and await the judgment at his right hand joyously and blissfully. Amen.

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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