

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 115

Not unto us, O Lord, `not unto us,/ But to Your `name give glory,
Because `of Your mercy,/ Be`cause of Your truth.

² Why should `the Gentiles say,/

“So `where is their God?”

³ But our God `is in heaven;/ He does whatev`er He pleases.

⁴ Their idols are `silver and gold,/ The `work of men’s hands.

⁵ They have mouths, but `they do not speak;/ Eyes they have, but `they do not see;

⁶ They have ears, but `they do not hear;/ Noses they have, but `they do not smell;

⁷ They have hands, but they `do not handle;/ Feet they have, but they do not walk;

Nor do they mut`ter through their throat.

⁸ Those who make `them are like them;/ So is everyone `who trusts in them.

⁹ O Israel, `trust in the Lord;/ He is their `help and their shield.

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 23. The text is Matthew 22:15-22:

Then the Pharisees went and plotted how they might entangle Him in *His* talk. And they sent to Him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that You are true, and teach the way of God in truth; nor do You care about anyone, for You do not [a]regard the person of men. Tell us, therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?"

But Jesus [b]perceived their wickedness, and said, "Why do you test Me, *you* hypocrites? Show Me the tax money."

So they brought Him a denarius.

And He said to them, "Whose image and inscription *is* this?"

They said to Him, "Caesar's."

And He said to them, "Render[c] therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." When they had heard *these words*, they marveled, and left Him and went their way.

The devotion:

23. With these words [Jesus] also confirms the worldly sword or government. They had hoped he would condemn it and speak against it; he does not do it, however, but praises earthly government and commands to render unto it what is due to it. It is therefore his desire that there should be magistrates, princes and masters, whom we are to obey, be they what they may... [W]hen at times you are oppressed by princes and tyrants, who abuse the power they have from God: some day they will surely have to answer for it. The abuse of a thing does not make it bad, if it was good in itself.

25. But what if they would take the Gospel from us or forbid us to preach it? Then you are to say: The Gospel and Word of God I will not give up to you. This is not within your power, for your rule is a temporal rule, over worldly matters; but the Gospel is a spiritual, heavenly treasure, and therefore your authority does not extend over the Gospel and God's Word. We recognize the emperor as a master of temporal affairs, not of God's Word; this we shall not suffer to be torn from us, for it is the power of God, Romans 1:16, against which not even the gates of hell shall prevail.

26. Therefore, the Lord beautifully summarizes these two things, and in one saying distinguishes them from each other: "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's." This honor is due to God, that we are to hold him as a true, almighty and wise God, and attribute to him all the good things that can be named. And even if I do not render him this honor, he still keeps it; nothing is added to or subtracted from it. But in me he is true, almighty and wise, if I consider him as such, and believe him to be such as he proclaims himself. To the emperor, however, and to all in power, are due reverence, taxes, revenue and obedience. God will have the heart; body and possessions are the government's, which is to rule over them in God's stead.

This St. Paul says to the Romans in round and clear words, Romans 13:1-7: "Let every soul be in subjection to the higher powers: for there is no power but of God; and the powers that be are ordained of God. Therefore he that resisteth the power, withstandeth the ordinance of God: and they that 271 withstand shall receive to themselves judgment. For rulers are not a terror to the good work, but to the evil. And wouldest thou have no fear of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise from the same: for he is a minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is a minister of God, an avenger for wrath to him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be in subjection, not only because of the wrath, but also for conscience' sake. Hence for this cause ye pay tribute also; for they are ministers of God's service, attending continually upon this very thing. Render to all their dues: tribute to whom

tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.”

27. And for this reason also has government been ordained by God, that it may uphold general peace.

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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