

Compline 23rd August 2020

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end. **Amen.**

Brethren, be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist, steadfast in the faith. 1 Peter 5: 8, 9.

But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

Thanks be to God.

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.

The Lord's Name be praised.

Psalm 95

- 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord; ♦
let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.
- 2 **Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving ♦
and be glad in him with psalms.**
- 3 For the Lord is a great God ♦
and a great king above all gods.
- 4 **In his hand are the depths of the earth ♦
and the heights of the mountains are his also.**
- 5 The sea is his, for he made it, ♦
and his hands have moulded the dry land.
- 6 **Come, let us worship and bow down ♦
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**
- 7 For he is our God; ♦
we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.
- 8 **O that today you would listen to his voice: ♦
‘Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
on that day at Massah in the wilderness,**
- 9 ‘When your forebears tested me, and put me to the proof, ♦
though they had seen my works.
- 10 **‘Forty years long I detested that generation and said, ♦
“This people are wayward in their hearts;
they do not know my ways.”**
- 11 ‘So I swore in my wrath, ♦
“They shall not enter into my rest.” ’

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit
**as it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Acts 17: 15-34

¹⁵Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as Athens; and after receiving instructions to have Silas and Timothy join him as soon as possible, they left him.

¹⁶ While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and also in the market-place* every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, ‘What does this babbler want to say?’ Others said, ‘He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities.’ (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) ¹⁹So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, ‘May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?’ ²⁰It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means.’ ²¹Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.

²² Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor* he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God* and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said,
“For we too are his offspring.”

²⁹Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

³² When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed; but others said, ‘We will hear you again about this.’ ³³At that point Paul left them. ³⁴But some of them joined him and became believers, including Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

Reflection

Reflective Music

Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
For thou hast redeemed me, O Lord, thou God of truth.

Compline Hymn

1. Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world, we pray
That thou with wonted love wouldst keep
Thy watch around us while we sleep.

2. O let no evil dreams be near,
Or phantoms of the night appear;
Our ghostly enemy restrain,

Lest aught of sin our bodies stain.

3. Almighty Father, hear our cry
Through Jesus Christ our Lord most high,
Who with the Holy Ghost and thee
Doth live and reign eternally. Amen.

Keep me as the apple of an eye.

Hide me under the shadow of thy wings.

**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.**

NUNC DIMITTIS *Luke 2: 29-32*

**Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, „ according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, „ which thou hast prepared before the face of all
people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles „ and to be the glory of thy people Israel. Glory be to the
Father, „ and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, „ is now and ever
shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Keep me as the apple of an eye.

Hide me under the shadow of thy wings.

**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.**

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the
Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the
forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,**

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us
from evil. Amen.**

Blessed art thou, Lord God of our fathers,
to be praised and glorified above all for ever;
Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Let us praise him and magnify him for ever.
Blessed art thou, O Lord, in the firmament of heaven
to be praised and glorified above all for ever.
The Almighty and most merciful Lord guard us and give us his blessing. **Amen.**

CONFESSION

**We confess to God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
That we have sinned in thought, word, and deed,
Through our own grievous fault.
Wherefore we pray God to have mercy upon us.
Almighty God, have mercy upon us,
Forgive us all our sins,
Deliver us from all evil,
Confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
And bring us to life everlasting;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The priest, when present, pronounces the absolution.

May the Almighty and merciful Lord
grant unto you pardon and remission of all your sins, time for amendment of life,
and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Wilt thou not turn again and quicken us
that thy people may rejoice in thee?

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us
and grant us thy salvation.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin.
O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.

O Lord, hear our prayer
and let our cry come unto thee.

Let us pray.

OCCASIONAL PRAYERS AND COLLECTS

O God,
you declare your almighty power
most chiefly in showing mercy and pity:
Mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace,
that we, running the way of your commandments,
may receive your gracious promises,
and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

We will lay us down in peace and take our rest.
For it is thou, Lord, only, that makest us dwell in safety.

The Lord be with you
and with thy spirit.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us this night and for evermore. **Amen.**

Music to finish