

A LATE EVENING OFFICE – Wednesday 24th March 2021

Blessed be our God for all time, now and for evermore. Amen.

Glory to you, our God, glory be to you, Holy Spirit, Comforter, treasure of all goodness and giver of life, come and dwell in us, cleanse us from all sin, and in your love bring us to salvation.

Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

PSALM 56 - When the Philistines had seized David in Gath.

- ¹ Be merciful to me, my God, for my enemies are in hot pursuit;
all day long they press their attack.
- ² My adversaries pursue me all day long; in their pride many are attacking me.
- ³ When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.
- ⁴ In God, whose word I praise— in God I trust and am not afraid.
What can mere mortals do to me?
- ⁵ All day long they twist my words; all their schemes are for my ruin.
- ⁶ They conspire, they lurk, they watch my steps, hoping to take my life.
- ⁷ Because of their wickedness do not let them escape; in your anger,
God, bring the nations down.
- ⁸ Record my misery; list my tears on your scroll — are they not in your record?
- ⁹ Then my enemies will turn back when I call for help.
By this I will know that God is for me.
- ¹⁰ In God, whose word I praise, in the LORD, whose word I praise—
- ¹¹ in God I trust and am not afraid. What can man do to me?
- ¹² I am under vows to you, my God; I will present my thank offerings to you.
- ¹³ For you have delivered me from death and my feet from stumbling,
that I may walk before God in the light of life.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever, Amen.

READING - John 12 v 34 – 50

The crowd answered him, “We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?” Jesus said to them, “The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.”

After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them. Although he had performed so many signs in their presence, they did not believe in him. This was to fulfil the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah:

“Lord, who has believed our message, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?” And so they could not believe, because Isaiah also said,

“He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, so that they might not look with their eyes, and understand with their heart and turn— and I would heal them.”

Isaiah said this because he saw his glory and spoke about him. Nevertheless many, even of the authorities, believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they did not confess it, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved human glory more than the glory that comes from God.

Then Jesus cried aloud: “Whoever believes in me believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness. I do not judge anyone who hears my words and does not keep them, for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my word has a judge; on the last day the word that I have spoken will serve as judge, for I have not spoken on my own, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment about what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I speak, therefore, I speak just as the Father has told me.”

Meditation.

HYMN 216

Alleluia, my Father, for giving us your Son;

Sending him into the world to die for everyone,

Knowing we would bruise him and smite him from the earth.

Alleluia, my Father, in his death is my birth.

Alleluia, My Father, in his life is my life.

PRAYERS - Let us pray to the Lord with all our heart and with all our soul.

Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray for all Christian people, that they may live in love and truth.

Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray for all ministers of the Church, for our Bishop Michael, Rev Jack and Rev Ken and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray for peace throughout the world, particularly areas of violence and unrest and for all governments and those in positions of authority.

Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray for the abundance of the fruits of the earth, and that the poor and hungry may receive a just share.

Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray for our neighbours and for all our friends.

Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray for those who hate us as we pray for those who love us.

Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray for all sick people, for the sorrowful and the dying, particularly those affected by the pandemic at this time,

Lord, have mercy.

Let us remember our brothers and sisters who have entered into eternal rest.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

Let us continue praying in silence (Silence is kept)

THE LORD'S PRAYER – we sum up all our prayers in the words Jesus himself taught us -

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

COMMON COLLECT

Lord Almighty, come and scatter the darkness of our hearts by the light of your presence; that we may know you the Light of the world and the one true God, blessed this night and for evermore. Amen.

BLESSING

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

May the Almighty and merciful God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us. Amen.