

WEDNESDAY, 21 APRIL 2021: COMPLINE

PREPARATION

APPROACH

The angels of God guard us through the night,
and quieten the powers of darkness.

The Spirit of God be our guide
to lead us to peace and to glory.

It is but lost labour that we haste to rise up early
and so late take rest, and eat the bread of anxiety.
For those beloved of God are given gifts even as they sleep.

Silence

My brothers and sisters,
Our help is in the name of the eternal God,
who is making the heavens and the earth.

Dear God,
thank you for all that is good,
for our creation and for our humanity,
for the stewardship you have given us of this planet earth,
for the gifts of life and of one another,
for your love which is unbounded and eternal.

O thou, most holy and beloved,
my Companion, my Guide upon the way,
my bright evening star.

PENITENCE

We repent the wrongs we have done:

Silence

We have wounded your love.
O God, heal us.

We stumble in the darkness.
Light of the world transfigure us.

We forget that we are your home.
Spirit of God, dwell in us.

Eternal Spirit, living God,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
all that we are, have been, and shall be is known to you,

to the very secret of our hearts
and all that rises to trouble us.
Living flame burn into us,
Cleansing wind, blow through us,
Fountain of water, well up within us,
that we may love and praise in deed and in truth.

INVOCATION

Eternal Spirit, flow through our being and open our lips,
that our mouths may proclaim your praise.

Let us worship the God of love.
Alleluia, alleluia.

THE WORD OF GOD

PSALM

Psalm 135

- 1 Praise the Lord!
Praise the name of the Lord;
give praise, O servants of the Lord,
- 2 you that stand in the house of the Lord,
in the courts of the house of our God.**
- 3 Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good;
sing to his name, for he is gracious.
- 4 For the Lord has chosen Jacob for himself,
Israel as his own possession.**

- 5 For I know that the Lord is great;
our Lord is above all gods.
- 6 Whatever the Lord pleases he does,
in heaven and on earth,
in the seas and all deeps.**
- 7 He it is who makes the clouds rise at the end of the earth;
he makes lightnings for the rain
and brings out the wind from his storehouses.

- 8 He it was who struck down the firstborn of Egypt,
both human beings and animals;**
- 9 he sent signs and wonders
into your midst, O Egypt,
against Pharaoh and all his servants.
- 10 He struck down many nations
and killed mighty kings—**
- 11 Sihon, king of the Amorites,
and Og, king of Bashan,
and all the kingdoms of Canaan—

**12 and gave their land as a heritage,
a heritage to his people Israel.**

13 Your name, O Lord, endures for ever,
your renown, O Lord, throughout all ages.

**14 For the Lord will vindicate his people,
and have compassion on his servants.**

15 The idols of the nations are silver and gold,
the work of human hands.

**16 They have mouths, but they do not speak;
they have eyes, but they do not see;**

17 they have ears, but they do not hear,
and there is no breath in their mouths.

**18 Those who make them
and all who trust them
shall become like them.**

19 O house of Israel, bless the Lord!

O house of Aaron, bless the Lord!

20 O house of Levi, bless the Lord!

You that fear the Lord, bless the Lord!

21 Blessed be the Lord from Zion,
he who resides in Jerusalem.

Praise the Lord!

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.

A READING

Mark 16: 9-18

Now after he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. She went out and told those who had been with him, while they were mourning and weeping. But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it.

After this he appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them.

Later he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were sitting at the table; and he upbraided them for their lack of faith and stubbornness, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. And he said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: by using my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.'

ADDRESS

HYMN (SAID)

Glory to Thee, my God, this night,
For all the blessings of the light!
Keep me, O keep me, King of kings,
Beneath Thine own almighty wings.

Forgive me, Lord, for Thy dear Son,
The ill that I this day have done,
That with the world, myself, and Thee,
I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.

O may my soul on Thee repose,
And with sweet sleep mine eyelids close,
Sleep that may me more vigorous make
To serve my God when I awake.

When in the night I sleepless lie,
My soul with heavenly thoughts supply;
Let no ill dreams disturb my rest,
No powers of darkness me molest.

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

VERSICLES AND RESPONSES

Into your hands, O God, I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me O God of truth and love.

Keep me, O God, as the apple of an eye;
hide me under the shadow of your wings.

Preserve us, O God while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ,
and asleep may rest in your peace.

THE GOSPEL CANTICLE

NUNC DIMITTIS *The Song of Simeon Luke 2: 29-32*
Praise be to God, I have lived to see this day.
God's promise is fulfilled, and my duty done.

At last you have given me peace,
for I have seen with my own eyes

the salvation you have prepared for all nations –
a light to the world in its darkness,
and the glory of your people Israel.

Glory be to God, sustaining, redeeming, sanctifying,
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever.
Amen.

Preserve us, O God while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ,
and asleep may rest in your peace.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

OPEN PRAYER

Those who have requested prayer or who are on our minds are mentioned.

THE ENDING

DISMISSAL

I will lay down in peace and take my rest,
for it is in God alone that I dwell unafraid.

Let us bless the Earth-maker, the Pain-bearer, the Life-giver,
Let us praise and exalt God above all for ever.

May God's name be praised beyond the farthest star,
glorified and exalted above all for ever.

Be present, Spirit of God,
within us, your dwelling place and home,
that this house may be one where
all darkness is penetrated by your light
all troubles calmed by your peace,

**all evil redeemed by your love,
all pain transformed in your suffering,
and all dying glorified in your risen life. Amen.**

BLESSING

O God,
strengthen your servants with your heavenly grace,
that we may continue yours for ever,
and daily dwell in your Holy Spirit more and more,
until we come to your everlasting home.

The divine Spirit dwell in us.
Thanks be to God.