

AN ORDER FOR COMPLINE

Normally during Lent we would gather out in Ballyclug for our Lenten Reflections. Hopefully this will reach you by email and you can join with us individually, or, in families. This is the service of Compline from our prayer books and included are chosen readings and a thought for Lent4. God Bless Mark

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.

Read Psalm 19 (The appointed Psalm for Lent 4)

Read Matthew ch15 v.1-20 (Our theme as we journey towards Easter with Matthew's Gospel).

Thought:

The 7 year old was shouting at his Mum – “Germs and Jesus, germs and Jesus! You keep telling me they are so important and I can't see either of them”!

Jews in the ancient world didn't know as much about germs as we do, but, some of them had elevated hand-washing to an art form. A symbolic purity pointing towards a national purity with a complex rule book attached.

The Pharisees were part of this group and took exception when the disciples didn't keep the rules. Well Jesus goes on the attack – it is very convenient when man-made rules and traditions allow us to change and ignore God's truth. The subject matter Jesus uses in order to make his point makes for uncomfortable reading even in the modern western world. How can I pay as little as possible for the care of my elderly relatives!!

Jesus goes on to talk about a deeper, real, purity. That of the heart, founded on faith in Christ alone. A purity that no amount of hand washing nor alcoholic wipes can produce. How God judges and how we often judge one another is laid bare in these words of wisdom.

Perhaps as we move towards Easter in these extraordinary times and as we remain diligent in washing our hands these words will rest with us and penetrate our hearts, that we might seek this great purity of the heart. Amen

Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

For thou hast redeemed me, O Lord, thou God of truth.

HYMN

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.

O let no evil dreams be near, Or phantoms of the night appear; Our ghostly enemy restrain, Lest aught of sin our bodies stain.

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.

The Nunc Dimittis

1 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, ☩ according to thy word. 2 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, ☩ which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; 3 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.

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.

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, and the life everlasting. Amen.

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.

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

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.

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the silent hours of this night, so that we, who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world, may repose upon thy eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Look down, O Lord, from thy heavenly throne, illuminate the darkness of this night with thy celestial brightness, and from the children of light banish the deeds of darkness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, who at this evening hour didst rest in the sepulchre, and didst thereby sanctify the grave to be a bed of hope to thy people: Make us so to abound in sorrow for our sins, which were the cause of thy passion, that when our bodies lie in the dust, our souls may live with thee: who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God world without end. Amen.

Visit, we beseech thee, O Lord, this place (or, our homes), and drive away all the snares of the enemy; Let thy holy angels dwell herein

(or, therein) to preserve us in peace; and may thy blessing be upon us evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.