

Compline
Wednesday 1st April

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 62

Read Matthew 25: 14-30

A Thought

So, we've come to our final Lenten reflection as we look to Palm Sunday and to Holy Week.

You will recognise the parable in Matthew 25: 14-30.

This is one of my favourite parables ... every time I read it, I hear something different; I learn something new.

It's another parable that Jesus tells about a master going away and leaving his servants with a job or responsibility... It's about him heading off and then returning to see how the staff have fared in his absence.

Jesus' first hearers would have understood the Master as being representative of God and the servants being representative of Israel. Jesus points to the fact that God had blessed Israel with all the tools it needed to be 'the light of the world;' to be His chosen people, God, through the Prophets had called Israel to be the means of His plan to rescue and redeem all creation. Israel had been given the means to do this. They'd been given the Land, the Temple, the Law, the structure of family and community. Yet, they had failed in their God-given responsibility. And they are failing to recognise the Messiah when He is right in front of them. They, like the third servant, had been given the chance to shine but they had failed to follow through. They, like the third servant, might have well as buried their God-given role and treasure in the ground.

There's a little story I love which talks about a man who wanted to be buried with all his worldly riches. After his funeral, someone asked his wife what it was she had decided to do about her husband's wishes. She replied "well, I wrote him a cheque..." A cheque can't be cashed when it's been buried underground and buried treasure is just that – buried. It's not doing anyone or anything any good buried in the ground.

Each one of us is blessed with a 'talent' or a 'gift.' The words of Jesus here remind us today that He has blessed each one of us with a gift to be used in His service. John Henry Newman said that each one of us is placed here on earth with a particular purpose and calling which only we can do. That purpose and calling is as individual as we are. It could be singing, cooking, playing the trombone, planting trees, treating the sick, providing hospitality, intercession or recording a little sermon video like this!

Jesus calls each one of us to exercise, use and share the beautiful, essential gifts He has given us. And He calls us to use the gifts of the Spirit, to live out the fruit of the Spirit as wise and loving human beings, His marvellous creation. Jesus invites us to be people who love God; celebrate His love for us; forgive; pray; seek justice; to be those who act boldly and wisely and to be those who live to see God's will be done here as it is in Heaven. And we're called to use our gifts – our talents – to serve Him in that.

If we are wise and trustworthy with our good gifts we can hope to hear those words: "well done good and faithful servant." To hear such words from an earthly someone whom we like and respect might bring us a glow of joy and satisfaction. But, to hear them from the Lord of Love, the Lord of Life, our Rock and Salvation? That will be greater than any joy, pleasure and delight we could ever imagine.

Let's pray:

Father we thank you that You are a good God who gives good gifts to His children. We especially thank you in this season of Lent for the gift of Your Son. Bless us with the power and encouragement of Your Holy Spirit and the love and compassion of Your Only Son Jesus Christ. And it is in Your powerful and holy name we pray. 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.

Nunc Dimittis Luke 2: 29-32

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.

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,
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.**

Visit, we beseech thee, O Lord, our homes, and drive away all the snares of the enemy; Let thy holy angels dwell herein 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.**