

Compline : Night Prayer for Eastertide

The Gathering ...

Welcome and introduction

Preparation

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night
and a perfect end.

Amen.

Our help is in the Name of the Lord
who made heaven and earth.

Words of sorrow, love, mercy and forgiveness....

We come to God
as one from whom no secrets are hidden,
to ask for his forgiveness and peace.

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

Song / Hymn

Lead, kindly Light, amid th' encircling gloom,
lead thou me on;
the night is dark, and I am far from home,
lead thou me on;
keep thou my feet; I do not ask to see
the distant scene; one step enough for me.

I was not ever thus, nor prayed that thou
shouldst lead me on;
I loved to choose and see my path, but now
lead thou me on;
I loved the garish day, and spite of fears,
pride ruled my will;
remember not past years.

So long thy pow'r has blest me, sure it still
wilt lead me on,
o'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till
the night is gone,
and with the morn those angel faces smile,
which I have loved long since,
and lost awhile.

S. John Henry Newman

Psalmody

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

I love the Lord,
for he has heard the voice of my supplication*
because he inclined his ear to me
on the day I called to him.

The snares of death encompassed me;
the pains of hell took hold of me;*
by grief and sorrow was I held.

Then I called upon the name of the Lord:
'O Lord, I beg you, deliver my soul.'

Gracious is the Lord and righteous;*
our God is full of compassion.

The Lord watches over the simple;*
I was brought very low and he saved me.

Turn again to your rest, O my soul,*
for the Lord has been gracious to you.

For you have delivered my soul from death,*
my eyes from tears and my feet from falling.

Psalm 116 : 1-7

**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.**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Scripture reading

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened, While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognised him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other; 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.

Luke 24: 13 – 16, 30-33

Taken from the Eucharistic Anglican Lectionary gospel reading for the day

Reflection

Taken from Ronald Rolheiser 'The Passion and the Cross: Daily Readings for Lent', Hodder, 2016, pp. 127, 128, 131

In Matthew's gospel, the disciples are sent back, you may remember, to Galilee, where the Lord will meet them....

"What is Galilee? Why go back? In the post-resurrection accounts in the Gospels, Galilee is not simply a physical geography. It is, first of all, a place in the heart. Galilee is the dream, the road of disciple-ship that they had once walked with Jesus, and that place and time when their hearts had most burned with hope and enthusiasm. And now, just when they feel that this all is dead... they are told to go back to the place where it all began... And they do go back... Sure enough Jesus appears to them there... powerful enough to change their lives forever.

Ultimately, that is what the resurrection challenges us to do: to go back to Galilee, to return to the dream, hope, and discipleship that had once inflamed us but that is now crucified, [and to see it through the new eyes of the crucifixion, to understand the old dream in new ways.]

This too, is what it means to "be on the road to Emmaus". In Luke's Gospel, we are told that on the day of the resurrection two disciples were walking away from Jerusalem toward Emmaus, their faces downcast. .. For Luke, Jerusalem [is like Galilee] ... the dream, the hope, the kingdom, the centre ... and the disciples are 'walking away' from this, away from the dream, toward Emmaus. Emmaus was a Roman Spa – a Las Vegas or Monte Carlo of human consolation. Their dream has been crucified and the disciples, discouraged and hope-emptied, are walking away from Jerusalem ... and toward human consolation, muttering 'but we had hoped!'

... [Jesus, of course, meets] them on the road, reshapes their hope in the light of the crucifixion, and turns them back toward Jerusalem.

One of the essential messages of Easter is this: whenever we are discouraged.. whenever our hopes seem to be crucified, we need to go back to Galilee and Jerusalem... [back to the heart and centre of our faith, and if we find ourselves on the road to Emmaus, to be open as] Christ meets us on the road, burns holes in our hearts, explains the latest crucifixion to us... our future is always full of wonderful new possibility. Resurrection [touches all our] daily rising from the many mini-graves within which we so often find ourselves,... [not just by teaching] us how to live, but how to live again, and again, and again!

Responsory

Into your hands, O Lord,
I commend my spirit. Alleluia, Alleuia!
**Into your hands, O Lord,
I commend my spirit. Alleluia, Alleuia!**

For you have redeemed me,
Lord God of truth.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to
the Holy Spirit.

**Into your hands, O Lord, I commend
my spirit. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Keep me as the apple of your eye,
**Hide me under the shadow
of your wings.**

Nunc Dimittis (Gospel Canticle)

**Alleluia. The Lord is risen, alleluia,
as he promised to you. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Now, Lord,
you let your servant go in peace*
your word has been fulfilled.**

**My own eyes have seen the salvation*
which you have prepared
in the sight of every people;**

**A light to reveal you to the nations*
and the glory of your 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 shall be for ever,
world without end.
Amen**

**Alleluia. The Lord is risen, alleluia,
as he promised to you. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Intercession...

*..... intercession.... Bringing to mind those whom we
pray for and holding them in God's love..., bringing
the needs of the world, the church, and those who
have no-one to pray for them...*

Collect for Eastertide

Risen Christ,
you filled your disciples with boldness
and fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life
and fill us with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father,
which 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 them
that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing and departure

In peace we will lie down and sleep;
for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.

Abide with us, Lord Jesus,
for the night is at hand
and the day is now past.

As the night watch looks for the morning,
so do we look for you, O Christ

May the risen Lord bless us.
May he watch over us and renew us
as he renews the whole of creation.
May our hearts and lives echo his love.

**May the Lord bless us, protect us from
all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.**

Amen

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