

# Compline : Night Prayer for Holy Monday

*Material in this service is from*

*The Daily Office, SSF, Mowbray 2010*

*Sonnet from Malcolm Guite, 'Sounding the Seasons: Seventy  
Sonnets for the Christian Year', Canterbury Press, Norwich, 2012*

*Poem from Erich Fried*

*Second Collect, Fr. Steven Shakespeare, 'Prayers for an Inclusive  
Church', Canterbury Press, Norwich, 2008*

## 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.**

*Come close with Mary, Martha, Lazarus,  
So close the candles flare with their soft breath,  
And kindle heart and soul to flame within us,  
Lit by these mysteries of life and death.  
For beauty now begins the final movement,  
In quietness and intimate encounter,  
The alabaster jar of precious ointment  
Is broken open for the world's true lover.  
The whole room richly fills to feast the senses  
With all the yearning such a fragrance brings,  
The heart is mourning, but the spirit dances,  
Here at the meeting place of love and loss  
We all foresee and see beyond the cross.*

*Fr. Malcolm Guite,*

## Hymn

Take my life, and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days,  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure-store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee

*Frances Ridley Havergal*

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

○ God make speed to save us,  
**○ 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.**

## Psalmody

Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens\*  
and your faithfulness to the clouds.

Your righteousness stands  
like the strong mountains,  
your justice like the great deep;\*  
you, Lord, shall save both man and beast.

How precious is your loving mercy, O God!\*  
all mortal flesh shall take refuge under the  
shadow of your wings.

They shall be satisfied  
with the abundance of your house;\*  
they shall drink  
from the river of your delights.

For with you is the well of life\*  
and in your light shall we see light.

○ continue your loving-kindness  
to those who know you\*  
and your righteousness to those  
who are true of heart.

Let not the foot of pride come against me,\*  
nor the hand of the ungodly thrust me away.

**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**

## **Scripture reading**

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of the disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' (He said this not because he cared about the poor; but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

*John 12 : 1-8*

*It is madness  
says reason.  
It is what it is says love*

*It may be unhappiness  
Says caution  
Could be nothing but pain  
Says fear  
It has no future  
Says perception  
It is what it is, says love*

*It is ridiculous  
Says intuition  
It is foolish  
Says rationale  
It is impossible  
Says experience  
It is what it is says love*

*Erich Fried*

*It is....  
says, St. Paul,  
all hoping, all bearing, all suffering,  
and it is  
not arrogant, nor rude, nor easily offended.*

*But how easily offended we are.  
Judas, and maybe others, can't see a body that's  
about to be thrown away  
but here  
being anointed and blessed.  
They see something else.  
And how easy it is, to always see something else.*

*But, in truth, there's no agenda, no great claim,  
no ulterior motive;  
it is just the sacrament of solidarity,  
one of those useless acts of prayer and love  
that changes nothing,  
that changes everything,  
that does not stop Jesus being betrayed or  
beaten up or crucified,  
but nevertheless gives him something  
that can never be taken away.*

*Mary dares to reach out in a blessing –  
Pointless, unsound, immodest:  
but, it is what it is, says Jesus.  
A dying, bleeding God, reaching out from the  
cross, and emptying his heart on our world,  
It can't be.  
It won't work.  
It's absurd.  
It has no future.  
Unanswered prayer!  
Unanswered Love!  
anointing a world,  
drowning its ugliness,  
touching its sin,  
filling its night.*

*It is, what it is,  
says God*

*Fr. Jesse Smith*

## **Responsory**

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

For you have redeemed me,  
Lord God of truth  
**I commend my spirit.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit.  
**Into your hands, O Lord,  
I commend my spirit.**

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

### ***Nunc Dimittis (Gospel Canticle)***

**Christ himself bore our sins  
in his body on the tree,  
that we might die to sin  
and live to righteousness.**

**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**

**Christ himself bore our sins  
in his body on the tree,  
that we might die to sin  
and live to righteousness.**

### ***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 Holy Week**

Almighty and everlasting God,  
who in your tender love  
towards the human race  
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ  
to take upon him our flesh  
and to suffer death upon the cross:  
grant that we may follow the example of his  
patience and humility,  
and also be made partakers  
of his resurrection;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever....

**Amen**

Lord, you bring us into being  
and let our lives touch your heart:  
may the fragrance of our worship  
draw us closer to your open heart  
and free us from our clinging  
to the things we can control;  
through Jesus Christ, the passion of God.

**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 God bless us,  
that in us may be found love and humility,  
obedience and thanksgiving,  
discipline, gentleness and peace.  
**Amen.**

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

**Amen**

Goodnight ....