

# Boisil Compline

## for S. Thomas

### The Gathering ...

Welcome

*From our cycle of prayer for this dispersed worshipping community: Tonight's Office Prayer is offered for*

- the priest, clergy team, people and community of Top Church, Dudley, in Worcester Diocese*
- and for the Lichfield Diocese.*

We begin by making the sign of the Cross

### Preparation

We are placing our souls and our bodies  
in thy safe keeping this night, O God,  
in thy safe keeping O Jesus Christ,  
in thy safe keeping, O Spirit of perfect truth.  
The Three who would defend my cause  
be keeping me this night from harm.

We call on you, O God,  
for you will answer us;  
give ear to us and hear our prayer.

Show the wonder of your great love,  
you who save by your right hand  
those who take refuge in you from their foes.

**Amen.**

### Introductory Words

On July the 3rd we celebrate the feast day of St. Thomas the Apostle, so-called 'doubting' Thomas, though really he should be called 'Courageous Thomas', 'Tenacious Thomas', 'Truthful Thomas'!

Either way, thank goodness for Thomas, the one disciple who had the courage to say what everyone else was thinking but didn't dare say, the courage to ask the awkward questions that drew from Jesus some of the most beautiful and profoundly comforting of all his sayings. "We don't know where you're going, how can we know the way"? asked Thomas, and because he had the courage to confess his ignorance, we were given that beautiful saying "I am the way the Truth and the Life"

### Song

*The strangest of Saints,  
the simplest of souls,  
the saddest of all the earth's rejected,  
are chosen to be the people in whose lives  
the goodness of God can be detected.*

Peter, the Rock, whose faith was often talk;  
Thomas who sometimes doubted;  
Martha who fussed, lest Jesus noticed dust,  
and Paul, by whom Christians once were  
routed.

*The strangest of Saints,  
the simplest of souls,  
the saddest of all the earth's rejected,  
are chosen to be the people in whose lives  
the goodness of God can be detected.*

Time can't diffuse the freshness of the news:  
Christ's friends are fully human;  
Failure and fear allow him to come near,  
and understand every man and woman.

*The strangest of Saints,  
the simplest of souls,  
the saddest of all the earth's rejected,  
are chosen to be the people in whose lives  
the goodness of God can be detected.*

Who dare deride those found at Jesus' side,  
welcome despite their weakness?  
Christ who knows all, expresses by his call  
the wonder of everyone's uniqueness.

*Text: The Iona Community  
Tune: 'Wae's me for Prince Chairlie'  
(Heaven Shall Not Wait, p.122)*

## ***Psalmody***

### **Into your hands I commend my spirit**

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame;\*  
deliver me in your righteousness.

Incline your ear to me;\*  
make haste to deliver me.

Be my strong rock, a fortress to save me,  
for you are my rock and my stronghold;\*  
guide me, and lead me for your Name's sake.

**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.**

### **Into your hands I commend my spirit**

*Psalm 31: 1-3*

## ***Scripture reading***

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe."

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

## **Sonnet for S. Thomas**

*"We do not know... how can we know the way?"  
Courageous master of the awkward question,  
You spoke the words the others dared not say  
And cut through their evasion and abstraction.  
Oh doubting Thomas, father of my faith,  
You put your finger on the nub of things  
We cannot love some disembodied wraith,  
But flesh and blood must be our king of kings.  
Your teaching is to touch, embrace, anoint,  
Feel after Him and find Him in the flesh.  
Because He loved your awkward counter-point  
The Word has heard and granted you your wish.  
Oh place my hands with yours, help me divine  
The wounded God whose wounds are healing mine.*

## **Responsory**

Lord, you will keep us safe,  
**and protect us forever.**

Keep us as the apple of your eye;  
**hide us under the shadow of your wings.**

## **Intercession...**

\*

Lighten our darkness, Lord.  
Let the light of your presence  
dispel the shadows of night.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
Holy Three in One,  
Lift these prayers this night  
and hold us and all creation  
always in the circle of your love

## **Collect for S. Thomas**

Almighty and eternal God,  
who, for the firmer foundation of our faith,  
allowed your holy apostle Thomas  
to doubt the resurrection of your Son  
til word and sight convinced him:  
grant to us, who have not seen,  
that we may also believe  
and so confess Christ as our Lord  
and our God;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **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.**

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

**Grant us your light, O Lord,  
that the darkness of our hearts  
being overcome,  
we may receive the true light,  
even Christ our Saviour.**

**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**

**Grant us your light, O Lord,  
that the darkness of our hearts  
being overcome,  
we may receive the true light,  
even Christ our Saviour.**

## ***Blessing and departure***

Christ with us sleeping,  
Christ with us waking,  
Christ with us watching,  
each day and each night.

God with us protecting,  
the Lord with us directing,  
the Spirit with us strengthening  
for ever and for evermore.

In the Name of the Father precious,  
and of the Spirit of healing balm.  
In the Name of the Lord Jesus  
we lay us down to rest.

**May the peace of the Lord Christ  
go with us,  
wherever we may wander,  
may he guide us through the wilderness,  
protect us through the storm.  
May he bring us back rejoicing,  
at the wonders he has shown us,  
may he bring us back, rejoicing,  
once again through those doors.**

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

**Amen**

*Material in this service is from Celtic Daily Prayer, Book One,  
William Collins 2015  
Common Worship  
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Scripture*

Introductory words, and sonnet for S. Thomas  
Fr. Malcolm Guite  
<https://malcolmquite.wordpress.com/2012/07/02/a-sonnet-for-st-thomas-the-apostle/>

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