

Compline : Night Prayer on Thursdays *Hildegard de Bingen*

Material in this service is taken from MethodistPrayer.org

The Gathering ...

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

- *Fr. Bamidele and Revd. Steve, and the people and community of S. Stephen, Rednal, in the Birmingham Diocese*
- *and for the Llandaff Diocese*

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 love and penitence...

**Most merciful God,
we confess to you,
before the whole company of heaven
and one another,
that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed
and in what we have failed to do.
Forgive us our sins,
heal us by your Spirit
and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.**

Favour us Lord, and deliver us
Lord, come quickly and help us.

Psalm 16

**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.**

Hymn

Angel voices ever singing
round thy throne of light,
angel harps, forever ringing,
rest not day nor night;
thousands only live to bless thee
and confess thee Lord of might.

Thou who art beyond the farthest
mortal eye can see,
can it be that thou regardest
our poor hymnody?
Yes, we know that thou art near us
and wilt hear us
constantly

Yea, we know thy love rejoices
o'er each work of thine;
Thou didst ears and hands and voices
for thy praise combine;
craftsman's art and music's measure
for thy pleasure didst design.

Honor, glory, might, and merit
Thine shall ever be,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
blessed Trinity:
of the best that thou hast given
earth and heaven render thee.

*Text: Francis Pott
Music: 'Angel Voices' Edwin George Monk
(HON Anglican Edition 33)*

Psalmody

You, Lord, are my portion, my cup

Protect me, God,
because I take refuge in you.
I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord.
Apart from you, I have nothing good."

Now as for the "holy ones" in the land,
the "magnificent ones"
that I was so happy about;
let their suffering increase
because they hurried after a different god.

I won't participate in their blood offerings;
I won't participate in their blood offerings;
I won't let their names cross my lips.

You, Lord, are my portion, my cup;
You control my destiny.

The property lines
have fallen beautifully for me;
yes, I have a lovely home.
I will bless the Lord who advises me;
even at night I am instructed
in the depths of my mind.

I always put the Lord in front of me;
I will not stumble
because he is on my right side.

That's why my heart celebrates
and my mood is joyous;
Yes, my whole body will rest in safety
because you won't abandon my life
to the grave;
you won't let your faithful follower
see the pit.

You teach me the way of life.
In your presence is total celebration.
Beautiful things are always in your right hand.

**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.**

You, Lord, are my portion, my cup

Psalm Prayer

Give to us, Lord Christ,
the fullness of grace,
your presence and your very self,
for you are our portion and our delight
now and forever.

Scripture reading

Then turning toward the woman, Jesus said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little."

Luke 7: 44-48

Poem

When she learned where Jesus had gone,
the woman raced home,
grabbed scarves and jewels,
ran to pawn them.
bought the biggest jar of nard she could buy,
and flew to the house of Simon the Pharisee.

In the doorway she stopped to catch her
breath and to let her eyes adjust to the dark.
The room was filled with men,
some of whom had known her more than
once. She felt lewd eyes undressing her again.
But then she saw Jesus.

Those others didn't matter anymore.
In a second she was on the floor,
breaking open the alabaster floor,
pouring out the nard, anointing his ankles,
his hard soles, his long straight toes,
kissing them, wiping them with her hair.

Only then did she remember the Law –
By touching him, she had made him unclean!
Self-loathing sobbed in her as she saw herself
grovelling for bread when she was too young
for her woman's trade, and later, being tossed
like a toy, devoured quickly in the dark

She felt his quiet hand on her head,
heard him speaking to his host,
"Simon, I have something to say to you."
She poured out more oil, slowly, deliberately,
Held the jar upside down and poured it all out,
Her tears falling all the while unto his feet.

"Do you see this woman?" Jesus continued.
"She has shown great love."
When she dared look up at him, his kind eyes
anointed her from head to foot.

"Your sins are forgiven," he solemnly assured her. "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." She wiped the excess oil from between his toes, stood up and left the room, carrying with her the fragrance of forgiveness.

Remember that you are a beautiful alabaster jar with a purpose, for you carry within you the fragrance of love and forgiveness, you are a beautiful alabaster jar broken for Jesus, restored in his love.

'She has shown great love' Irene Zimmerman, Incarnation: new and selected poems for spiritual reflection, (Cambridge, Mass: Cowley Publications, 2004)

Responsory

Lord, I entrust my spirit into your hands.
Lord, I entrust my spirit into your hands.

For you, Lord, God of faithfulness – you have saved me.
Lord, I entrust my spirit into your hands.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit
Lord, I entrust my spirit into your hands.

Keep me, O God, as the apple of an eye:
hide me under the shadow of your wings.

Nunc Dimittis (Gospel Canticle)

Save us, O Lord, while waking and guard us while sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep may rest in peace.

Now, Master, let your servant go in peace according to your word, because my eyes have seen your salvation.

You prepared this salvation in the presence of all peoples.

It's a light for revelation to the Gentiles and a glory for 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 ever shall be; world without end. Amen.

Save us, O Lord, while waking and guard us while sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep may rest in peace.

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...

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.

Collect

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray and drive far from it the snares of the enemy; may your holy angels dwell with us and guard us in peace, and may your blessing be always upon us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Blessing and departure

We will lie down and fall asleep in peace,
**because you alone, Lord,
let us live 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 Lord bless us, protect us from
all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.**

Amen

Goodnight