

Ebba Compline

for Thursdays in advent

S Francis Xavier



The Gathering ...

Welcome and introduction

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

- *S. John the Evangelist Perry Barr in the Birmingham Diocese*
- *and for the Blackburn Diocese.*

S. Francis Xavier was born in 1506 , and became one of the first Jesuit priests. He work in Asia, particularly India and Japan, learning the languages, and spreading the news of the gospel, and teaching the faith, and fighting against exploitation of the native population by Europeans. He died of fever and exhaustion in China in 1552

"... The native Christians are without any priest... there is no one to offer mass for them; no one to teach them the creed, the Our Father, the Hail Mary, the Commandments. So since I came here, I have had no rest. I have been going from village to village and every child not yet baptised I have baptised. ... but the children would not let me say my office or

eat or rest til I had taught them some prayer. It was then that I really began to feel that of such is the kingdom of heaven.

I could not reject so religious a request without myself being irreligious. I made a start with the sign of the cross, and taught them the Apostles' Creed, the Our Father and the Hail Mary....."

from the letters of S. Francis Xavier to S. Ignatius Loyola

✠ We begin by making the sign of the Cross

Preparation

Find rest, O my soul, in God alone:
my hope comes from him.

Veni Creator (come, Lord)

Come Lord
Come down
Come in
Come among us

Come as the wind
to move us
Come as the light
to prove us
Come as the night
to rest us
Come as the storm
to test us
Come as the sun
to warm us
Come as the stillness
to calm us

Come Lord
Come down
Come in
Come among us

When the Lord comes,
he will bring to light
the things now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.
Therefore in the light of Christ,
Let us confess our sins...

Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy

Absolution

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon *you*,
pardon and deliver *you* from all *your* sins,
confirm and strengthen *you* in all goodness,
and keep *you* in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Ring

Song

Advent candles tell their story
as we watch and pray,
longing for the Day of Glory,
'Come, Lord, soon', we say.
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness
changed for gladness on that day.

Text: Revd. Mark Earey

*Music: 'Angel Voices' Edwin George Monk
STF 165*

God of Abraham and Sarah,
and all the patriarchs of old,
you are our Father too.
Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ,
Son of God, and Son of David.
Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth
to make our hearts ready for your Holy Spirit
to make her home among us.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who is coming into the world.

Amen.

Maranatha – Come, Lord, Jesus

Come, Lord Jesus,
When this world's as dark as night
you are the One we call the light.
Come, Lord Jesus

When we are tempted to go astray
you are the One we call The Way
Come, Lord Jesus

When we are falling in the strife
you are the One who is the life
Come, Lord Jesus

When troubles to our lives bring harm
you are the One who brings us calm
Come, Lord Jesus

When the storms of life increase
you are the One who is our peace
Come, Lord Jesus

When our lives are full of woe
you are the One to whom we go
Come, Lord Jesus

When we are down and all forlorn
come as the resurrection morn
Come, Lord Jesus

Song

Into the darkness of this world,
into the shadows of the night;
into this loveless place you came,
lightened our burdens, eased our pain,
and made these hearts your home.
Into the darkness once again –
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

*Come with your love
to make us whole,
come with your light to lead us on,
driving the darkness far from our souls:
O Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

Into the longing of our souls,
into these heavy hearts of stone,
shine on us now your piercing light,
order our lives and souls aright,
by grace and love unknown,
until in you our hearts unite –
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

Come with your love.....

O Holy Child, Emmanuel,
hope of the ages, God with us,
visit again this broken place,
til all the earth declares your praise
and your great mercies own.
Now let your love be born in us,
O come, Lord Jesus, Come.

Come with your love....

*Text and music: Maggie Dawn
(STF 173)*

Psalmody for the day

Psalm 127 1-3

Unless the Lord builds the house, *
those who build it labour in vain.

Unless the Lord keeps the city,*
the guard keeps watch in vain.

It is in vain that you hasten to rise up early
and go so late to rest, eating the bread of toil,
for he gives his beloved sleep.

**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.**

Scripture reading

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock.

And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!”

*Matthew 7: 24 - 27
Taken from the Anglican Eucharistic Lectionary for today*

Responsory

We will lie down and sleep.
**We wake again,
because the Lord sustains us.**

By day the Lord directs his love;
**at night his song is with us –
a prayer to the God of our lives.**

Be strong and take heart,
all you who hope in the Lord.

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...

May God be in our sleep;
may Christ be in our dreams.
May the Spirit be in our repose,
in our thoughts, in our hearts,
in our souls, always,
may the Sacred Three dwell.

May the Father of heaven
have care of our souls,
his loving arm about our bodies
through each slumber and sleep of our lives

Collect for Advent One

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin
to the light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ

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)

**Come, O Lord, and visit us in peace;
that we may rejoice before you
with a perfect heart**

**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**

**Come, O Lord, and visit us in peace;
that we may rejoice before you
with a perfect heart**

Blessing and departure

The Son of God be shielding us from harm,
the Son of God be shielding us from ill,
the Son of God be shielding us with power.
The Son of God be shielding us this night.

Sleep, O sleep in the calm of each calm.
Sleep, O sleep in the guidance of all guidance.
Sleep, O sleep in the love of all loves.
Sleep, O beloved, in the God of life.

**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

Goodnight

Material in this service is from Celtic Daily Prayer, Book One, William Collins 2015
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