

Compline: Night Prayer for Epiphanytide

S. Wulfstan

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The Gathering ...

Welcome and introduction

S. Wulfstan was born in 1009 and died on this day in 1095. He was a Benedictine monk at Worcester Cathedral priory, in 1062 he reluctantly became bishop of Worcester in addition to continuing as prior of the priory. He was instrumental in abolishing the slave trade between Bristol and Viking Ireland, a lover of literature and culture, he was also a church reformer, rebuildier, and defender and lover of the poor. He was the first English bishop known to have made a systematic visitation of his diocese. For those of Claines Church who Pray Together tonight, he was also responsible for replacing the wooden chapelry at Claines with the first church...

A rather lovely story tells how one day, whilst at prayer, S. Wulfstan was distracted by the scent of roasting goose from the neighbouring kitchen. This may be why he is patron saint of Vegetarians... and also why he is our brother in faith, so human and distractable we all are. S. Wulfstan, pray for us.

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

- *the priest, people and community of the United Benefice Holy Trinity Freckleton and warton S. Pauls, in the Blackburn Diocese*
- *and for the Worcester Diocese.*

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.

A period of reflection on the past day...

Prayer of penitence and thanksgiving...

Attributed to S. Wulfstan, from an Anglo-Saxon Prayer Book owned by him. (found in The Heart in Pilgrimage, edited by Eamon Duffy, Bloomsbury, 2013)

We pray together...

O Lord, have mercy upon me, a sinner.
Establish my heart in your will.
Grant me true repentance for my sins:
give a right faith and true charity,
patience in adversity,
and moderation in prosperity.
Help me,
and all my friends and relatives,
all who ask for and trust in my prayers.
Show mercy to all who have done me good
and helped me to the knowledge of good,
and grant everlasting forgiveness
to all who have spoken or thought evil
against me.
To you, my God, and to all your holy ones,
Be praise and glory for ever
for all the benefits
which you have granted me,
and for all your mercies
shown to me a sinner. Amen

O God make speed to save us,
O 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. Alleluia**

Hymn

Hear the call of the kingdom,
lift your eyes to the King;
let his song rise within you
as a fragrant offering,
of how God rich in mercy,
came in Christ to redeem
all who trust in his unfailing grace.

*King of heaven, we will answer the call,
we will follow, bringing hope to the world,
filled with passion,
filled with power to proclaim
salvation in Jesus' Name*

Hear the call of the kingdom
to be children of light
with the mercy of heaven,
the humility of Christ;
walking justly before him,
loving all that is right,
that the life of Christ may shine through us.

King of heaven, we will answer the call....

Hear the call of the kingdom
to reach out to the lost
with the Father's compassion
in the wonder of the cross,
bringing peace and forgiveness,
and a hope yet to come:
let the nations put their trust in him!

King of heaven, we will answer the call....

*Words and music: Keith & Kristyn Getty & Stuart Townend
(STF 407)*

Psalmody

The Lord is at my right hand, I shall not fall

Psalm 16

Preserve me, O God,
for in you have I taken refuge;*
I have said to the Lord, 'You are my Lord,
all my good depends on you.'

All my delight
is upon the godly that are in the land,*
upon those who are noble in heart.

Though the idols are legion
that many run after,*
their drink offerings of blood I will not offer,
neither make mention
of their names upon my lips.

The Lord himself is my portion and my cup;*
in your hands alone is my fortune.

My share has fallen in a fair land;*
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

I will bless the Lord
who has given me counsel,*
and in the night watches
he instructs my heart.

I have set the Lord always before me;*
he is at my right hand; I shall not fall.

Wherefore my heart is glad,
and my spirit rejoices,*
my flesh also shall rest secure.

For you will not abandon my soul to Death,*
nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.

You will show me the path of life;
in your presence is the fullness of joy*
and in your right hand
are pleasures for evermore.

**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.**

**The Lord is at my right hand,
I shall not fall**

Scripture reading

When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought,
"Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord."

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The Lord has not chosen this one either." Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The Lord has not chosen these."

So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered. "He is tending the sheep."

1 Samuel : 6- 11

From the Anglican Eucharistic readings for this Lesser Festival

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

**Into your hands, O Lord,
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)

**Alleluia, Christ the light of the world,
Alleluia
has manifested his glory.
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, Christ the light of the world,
Alleluia
has manifested his glory.
Alleluia, Alleluia**

Intercession...

Holy God, in whom we live and move
and have our being,
we make our prayer to you, saying,
Lord hear us.

*holding each other in God's love ..., bringing the
needs of the world, the church, and those who have
no-one to pray for them... prayers for those who are
unwell, those who have died, and those who mourn*

Collect for S. Wulfstan

Fill us, we pray you, Lord our God,
with that spirit of charity
which burned in the heart
of S. Wulfstan, your bishop,
that as he honoured you
by the faithful serve of your poor,
so by the help of his prayers
we may live lives of service and of charity,
and attain to the blessed life of your kingdom.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever
Amen

*from The Divine Office, the Liturgy of the Hours
Published Collins, 2016*

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

S. Wulfstan
Pray for us....

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