

Compline : Night Prayer for S. Martha

Material in this service is taken from the Plainsong and Mediaeval Music Society, Faith Press Ltd

The Gathering ...

Welcome and introduction

Intercession...

For this office, a time of stillness, to bring to mind those whom we pray for and hold them in God's love..., the needs of the world, the church, and those who have no-one to pray for them... and to offer thanksgiving. Keep these in your mind and heart during the Office, and let the music wrap and lift.

Preparation

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night
and a perfect end.

Amen.

Brethren be sober, be vigilant,
because your adversary the devil,
as a roaring lion, walketh about,
seeking whom he may devour:
whom resist, steadfast in the faith.

But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

Thanks be to God.

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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 Ghost;
**as it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be;
world without end. Amen**

Praise ye the Lord;
the Lord's Name be praised.

Psalmody

Hear me when I call, O God
of my *right-eousness*:
thou hast set me at liberty
when I was in trouble;
have mercy upon me,
and hearken un-to my prayer.

O ye sons of men,
how long will ye blaspheme mine *ho-nour*:
and have such pleasure in vanity
and seek af-ter leasing?

Know this also,
that the Lord hath chosen to himself
the one that is *god-ly*:
when I call upon the Lord, he *will* hear me.

Stand in awe, and *sin*, not:
commune with your own heart,
and in your cham-ber, and be still.

Offer the sacrifice of *right-eousness*:
and put your *trust* in the Lord.

There be many that *say*:
who will shew *us* any good?

Lord, lift thou *up*:
the light of thy countenance *up-on* us.

Thou hast put gladness in my *heart*:
since the time that their corn and wine
and oil *in-creased*.

I will lay me down in peace and take my *rest*:
for it is thou, Lord only,
that makest me dwell *in* safety.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be:
world without end.
Amen.**

Scripture reading

Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary sat still in the house. Then said Martha unto Jesus, LORD, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee. Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day. Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? She saith unto him, Yea, LORD: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.⁷

*John 11: 20 - 27
(King James Version)*

Thanks be to God.

A reflection: sonnet

Fr. Malcolm Guite

How can you be the final resurrection?
That resurrection hasn't happened yet.
Our broken world is still bent on destruction,
No sun can rise before that sun has set.
Our faith looks back to father Abraham
And toward to the one who is to come
How can you speak as though he knew your name?
How can you say: *before he was I am?*

*Begin in me and I will read your riddle
And teach you truths my Spirit will defend
I am the End who meets you in the middle,
The new Beginning hidden in the End.
I am the victory, the end of strife
I am the resurrection and the life.*

Responsory

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

For thou hast redeemed me,
O Lord, thou God of truth
I commend my spirit.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;

**Into thy hands, O Lord,
I commend my Spirit**

Hymn

Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world, we pray,
that with thy wonted favour thou
wouldst be our guard and keeper now.

From all ill dreams defend our eyes,
from nightly fears and fantasies;
tread under foot our ghostly foe;
that no pollution we may know.
O Father, that we ask be done,
through Jesus Christ, thine only Son;
who, with the Holy Ghost and thee,
doth live and reign eternally.
Amen.

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

Nunc Dimittis (Gospel Canticle)

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

**Lord, now lettest thou thy servant
depart in peace:
according to thy word.**

**For mine eyes have seen:
thy sal-vation**

**Which thou hast pre-par-ed:
before the face of all people.**

**To be a light to lighten the Gen-tiles:
and to be the glory of thy peo-ple Israel.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now
and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen**

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

Words of prayer, repentance and forgiveness....

Lord, have mercy upon us

Christ, have mercy upon us

Lord, have mercy upon us

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.
Amen.**

Blessed art thou, Lord God of our fathers;
**To be praised and glorified
above all for ever.**

Let us bless the Father, the Son
and the Holy Ghost;
**Let us praise him
and magnify him for ever.**

Blessed art thou, O Lord,
in the firmament of heaven;
**to be praised and glorified
above all for ever.**

The almighty and most merciful Lord
guard us and give us his blessing.
Amen.

We confess to God Almighty, the Father, the
Son, and the Holy Ghost, that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed, through our own

grievous fault. Wherefore we pray God to
have mercy upon us.

Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us
all our sins and deliver us from all evil,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and bring us to life everlasting. Through Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen.

May the Almighty and merciful Lord grant
unto you pardon and remission of all your
sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace
and comfort of the Holy Spirit.

Wilt thou not turn again and quicken us;
that thy people may rejoice in thee?

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us;
and grant us thy salvation.

Vouchsafe, O Lord,
to keep us this night without sin
**O Lord, have mercy upon us,
have mercy upon us.**

O Lord, hear our prayer
and let our cry come unto thee.

Collect

Let us pray

God our Father;
whose Son enjoyed the love of his friends,
Mary, Martha & Lazarus,
in learning, argument and hospitality:
may we so rejoice in thy love
that the world may come to know
the depths of thy wisdom
the wonder of thy compassion,
and thy power to bring life out of death;
through the merits of Jesus Christ
our friend and brother,
who livest and reignest with thee
in the Holy Spirit,
world without end.
Amen

Blessing and departure

We will lay us down in peace,
and take our rest;

**For it is thou, Lord, only
that makest us dwell in safety.**

The Lord be with you;
and with thy Spirit.

Let us bless the Lord;
Thanks be to God.

May the souls of the faithful,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen

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

Amen