

# Compline : Night Prayer for S. Therese of Lisieux 'Little Flower of Jesus'

*Jim Cotter : Prayer at Night, Sheffield, Cairns  
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*S. Therese of Lisieux born in 1873, entered the convent at Lisieux at the age of 15. She gave us an example of great, powerful and simple faith – following even in times of great darkness of doubt and fear,, her 'little way' – taking God at his word, and letting his love for us wash us and hold us, in total simple trust*

*S. Therese was not a formidable saint, She was physically weak and psychologically vulnerable, but she believed profoundly that God loved her in her littleness.*

*She believed the heart beat of the Church was sheer love, and resolved to be a heart beat of love at its centre. "A heart burning with love". A childlike focus and attentice love – doing the ordinary with extraordinary love. She loved flowers and saw herself as the "little flower of Jesus" who gave glory to God just by being herself amongst all the other flowers in God's garden.*

## **The Gathering ...**

The angels of God guard us through the night,  
**and quieten the powers of darkness.**

The Spirit of God be our guide  
**to lead us to peace and to glory.**

Pray in the power of the Spirit. Keep watch  
and persevere, and remember all God's  
people.

Our help is in the name of the eternal God  
**who is making the heavens  
and the earth.**

## **Hymn**

Beloved, let us love:  
for love is of God;  
in God alone love has its true abode.

Beloved, let us love:  
for those who love,  
they only, are his children from above.

Beloved, let us love:  
for love is rest,  
and those who do not love cannot be blessed.

Beloved, let us love:  
for love is light,  
and those who do not love still live in night.

Beloved, let us love:  
for only thus  
shall we see God, the Lord who first loved us.

*Text: Horatius Bonar  
Music : 'Song 46', Orlando Gibbons  
(HON Liturgical 162)*

Dear God, thank you for all that is good,  
for our creation and our humanity,  
for the stewardship you have given us  
of this planet earth,  
for the gifts of life and of one another,  
for your love,  
which is unbounded and eternal.

O Thou, Most Holy and Beloved,  
My Companion, my Unicorn,  
my Guide upon the Way.

## **Words of love and penitence...**

Loving God, close your eyes to our sins,  
**We who have wounded your love.**

Refine us with the flame of your Spirit:  
**Cleanse us with springs of living water.**

Save us with words of forgiveness and peace:  
**make us whole, steadfast in spirit.**

Broken are our bones, yet you can heal us,  
**and we shall leap for joy  
and dance again.**

O God of Love, we adore you ...  
You transfigure our disfigured faces,  
you strive with our resistant clay,  
you bring out of our chaos, harmony.  
O God of Love, we adore you ...

Eternal Spirit, flow through our being  
and open our lips,  
**that our mouths  
may proclaim your praise.**

Let us worship the God of Love:  
**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## ***Psalmody***

God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in time of trouble.  
Therefore we shall not be afraid,  
even though the earth be moved,  
even though the mountains should crumble  
and fall into the sea,  
even though the waters should foam and rage,  
assault the cliffs and make them shudder.

You are for us the God of the powers,  
a safe stronghold, the God of all peoples.

There is a river  
whose streams make glad the city of God.  
Here is God's dwelling place  
and it will stand firm.  
God's rescue dawns like the morning light,  
God's voice echoes through every land.  
When the powerful nations panic and totter,  
and the whole world comes crashing down,

You are for us the God of the powers,  
a safe stronghold, the God of all peoples.

They who dwell in the shelter  
of the Most High,  
who abide under the shadow of the Almighty,  
say to our God,  
you are my refuge and stronghold,  
my God in whom I put my trust.

You set me free from the snare of the hunter,  
and from evil's destroying curse.  
You cover me with your wings,  
And I shall be safe under your feathers.

**Glory be to God,  
sustaining, redeeming, sanctifying,  
as in the beginning, so now and forever.  
Amen.**

## ***Scripture reading***

Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house! And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you.'

Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you, cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you'

*Luke 10 : 5-6, 8-9*

## ***Responsory***

Into your hands, O God,  
I commend my spirit,  
**For you have redeemed me,  
O God of truth and love.**

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

## ***Collect for S. Therese of Lisieux***

God our Father,  
you promised your kingdom  
to the little ones and the humble of heart.  
Give us grace to walk in the way  
of S. Teresa of the Child Jesus,  
so that, helped by her prayers,  
we may see your eternal glory.  
We make our prayers  
through our Lord Jesus Christ  
your Son, who lives and reigns with  
you and the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever  
**Amen.**

## ***Nunc Dimittis (Gospel Cantic)***

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

**Praise be to God,  
I have lived to see this day.  
God's promise is fulfilled  
and my duty done.  
At last you have given me peace,  
for I have seen with my own eyes  
the salvation you have prepared  
for all nations –  
a light to the world in its darkness,  
and the glory of your people, Israel.**

**Glory be to God,  
sustaining, redeeming, sanctifying,  
as in the beginning, so now and forever.  
Amen.**

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

## ***Blessing and departure***

**I will lie down in peace and take my rest,  
for it is in God alone  
that I dwell unafraid.**

**Let us bless the Life-Giver,  
the Pain-Bearer, the Love-Maker  
let us praise and exalt God  
above all for ever.**

**May God's name be praised  
beyond the furthest star;  
glorified and exalted above all for ever.  
Amen.**

**Watch between us dear God,  
when we are absent from one another. Amen.**

**O God,  
the Source of the whole world's gladness  
and the bearer of its pain,  
may your unconquerable joy  
rest at the heart  
of all our trouble and distress.**

**Be present, Living Christ, within us,  
your dwelling place and home,  
that all places may be ones where  
all darkness is penetrated by your light,  
all troubles calmed by your peace,  
all evil redeemed by your love,  
all pain transformed in your suffering.  
and all dying glorified in your risen life.  
Amen.**

**The blessing of God, Life-Giver, Pain Bearer,  
Love Maker, be with us now and always.  
Amen**

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