

# Compline : Night Prayer on Thursday

**S. Hild, Abbess of Whitby**

## **The Gathering ...**

Welcome and introduction

*S. Hild was born in the year 614, of the royal house of Northumbria, and was baptised in York at the age of 12 by S. Paulinus. Supported and alongside S. Aidan of Lindisfarne, she established a monastery at Hartlepool, and then later at Whitby. A centre of love and prayer and learning. It was also the place of the meeting of the Synod of Whitby, where the great debate was settled as to whether the church in this land should follow the Roman or Celtic tradition – including amongst other things, of great variety, crucially the date of Easter. She was a great reconciler, helping people to live with this decision. She lived a simple life; everything in the monastery community was held in common, no one was rich, and no one was needy. A life of prayer and determination, nurturing others, keeping the monastic offices, nurturing the land and the people, and deep study of the scriptures, resulting in a flourishing of all people, many to holy orders, and perhaps most famously the singing of Caedmon, a supposedly illiterate cow-herder who worked on the abbey grounds.*

*S. Bede writes of her: All who knew Abbess Hild, called her mother because of her wonderful devotion and grace.*

S. Hild, pray for us

O God, come to our aid,  
**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.**

**Collect for S. Hild**

Eternal God,

who made the abbess Hild  
to shine like a jewel in our land  
and through her holiness and leadership  
blessed your Church with new life and unity:  
help us, like her,  
to yearn for the gospel of Christ  
and to reconcile those who are divided;  
through him who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen

## **Hymn**

Lord God, we give you thanks for all your saints  
who sought the trackless footprints of your feet,  
who took into their own a hand unseen  
and heard a voice whose silence was complete.

In every word and deed they spoke of Christ,  
and in their life gave glory to his Name;  
their love was unconsumed, a burning bush  
of which the Holy Spirit was the flame.

Blest Trinity, may yours be endless praise  
for all who lived so humbly in your sight;  
your holy ones who walked dark ways in faith  
now share the joy of your unfailing light.

*Music 'Farley Castle' Henry Lawes (HON New Anglican 131)  
Text: Benedictine Nuns of Stanbrook Abbey  
(Stanbrook Abbey Hymnal)*

## **Psalmody**

### **I will greatly rejoice in the Lord**

O Lord, my heart is not proud;  
my eyes are not raised in haughty looks.  
I do not occupy myself with great matters,  
with things that are too high for me.

But I have quieted and stilled my soul,  
like a weaned child on its mother's breast;  
so my soul is quieted within me.

O Israel trust in the Lord,  
from this time forth for evermore.

*Psalm 131*

**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.**

**I will greatly rejoice in the Lord**

## Scripture reading

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

*Isaiah 61: 10 – 11, 62: 3 - 5  
Taken from the Eucharistic lectionary for S. Hild*

## Responsory

Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit,  
**Into your hands, Lord,  
I commend my spirit**

You have redeemed us, Lord God of truth.  
**Into your hands, Lord,  
I commend my spirit**

Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit  
**Into your hands, Lord,  
I commend my spirit**

## Intercession...

Lord, you are a present help in trouble.  
Come revive  
Redeem  
Restore  
In our darkness, come as light,  
In our sadness, come as joy  
In our troubles, come as peace  
In our weakness, come as strength

Come, Lord, to our aid.  
Revive  
Redeem  
Restore us

O Lord

Open our eyes to your presence...

Open our minds to your grace...

Open our lips to your praises...

Open our hearts to your love...

Open our lives to your healing...

And be found among us

In the silence of the stars,  
in the quiet of the hills,  
in the heaving of the sea,

.....Speak Lord

In the stillness of this room,  
In the calming of my mind,  
In the longing of my heart,

.....Speak Lord

In the voice of a friend,  
In the chatter of a child,  
In the words of a stranger,

.....Speak Lord

In the opening of a book,  
In the watching of a film,  
In the listening to music,

.....Speak Lord

In the breathing,  
In the heartbeat  
In the hurry and the emptiness

.....Speak Lord

## 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.**

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

**S. Hild, pray for us...**

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

**Save us Lord, while we are awake;  
protect us while we sleep;  
that we may keep watch with Christ,  
and rest with him in peace.**

**At last, all-powerful Master,  
you give leave to your servant  
to go in peace,  
according to your promise.**

**For my eyes have seen your salvation  
which you have prepared for all nations,  
the light to enlighten the Gentiles  
and give glory to Israel, your people.**

**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**

**Save us Lord, while we are awake;  
protect us while we sleep;  
that we may keep watch with Christ,  
and rest with him in peace.**

## ***Blessing and departure***

Lord our God,  
restore us again by the repose of sleep  
after the fatigue of our daily work:  
so that, continually renewed by your help,  
we may serve you in body and soul.  
Through Christ our Lord.

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

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

*Collect for S. Hild and psalm from Exciting Holiness,  
Canterbury Press, Norwich, 2012 © SSF*

*Intercessions from Tides and Seasons, David Adams,  
SPCK 1989*

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