

Resources for Holy Monday

Monday 6 April 2020

Readings

First reading

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it:

I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

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I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them. *Isaiah 42:1-9*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Second reading

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

When Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation), he entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer, sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!

For this reason, he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, because a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions under the first covenant. *Hebrews 9:11-15*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All Glory to you O Lord.

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead.

Where they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he

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was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well, since it was on account of him that many of the Jews were deserting and were believing in Jesus. *John 12:1-11*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

A great many things are happening in this Gospel story and all at once. Tradition says the 'Mary' here is Mary Magdalene. Other traditions say it's the woman from whom Jesus exorcised and cast out many demons. Possibly all three are the same. Maybe.

The story's centrepiece is clearly Mary pouring perfume on Jesus' feet. She anoints them. The New Testament was written in Greek; and the Greek word from which we translate 'anoint' is *Christos*. That's why, in the Scriptures, Jesus is called *Christ*. And, incidentally, the Hebrew word for 'anoint', or 'anointed one', is 'Messiah'. The story is therefore intended to act like a visual parable as Mary acts out her identification of Jesus. By her actions she is saying, 'I recognise that you are the Messiah, the Christ.'

Secondly, as we see Mary anointing Jesus's feet St John wants us to see parallels with Jesus at the Last Supper when he washes the feet of his disciples. We are witnessing an act of love made doubly costly because nard was so rare and expensive. She is embellishing her visual metaphor by saying that in proclaiming the Christ-Messiah is costly. Discipleship involves love, and both are costly. They always are. Words alone will not do.

Thirdly, this incident in Bethany resonates strongly with the Old Testament story of Ruth choosing Boaz as her husband (Ruth 3). Perhaps St John wants to enhance further the scope of discipleship, that of relationship and kinship. Like relationship and kinship, discipleship is a covenanted bond with overtones of 'to have and to hold, from this day forth, for better and for worse, for richer and for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part.'

As we accompany Jesus on the lonely walk through Holy Week, we're being asked to look closely at our discipleship. Do we enthrone truly Jesus as Messiah and Christ or will be run away when challenged like the disciples in Gethsemane?

Compline (Night Prayer)

- The hymn can be accessed via a Youtube link. To hear it, please hover the mouse over each link, press Ctrl and then return.
- Each verse in the psalms and the nunc dimittis is split in two with a red diamond ♦. Traditionally the diamond indicates a short pause to allow the reader to reflect on the content. The pause is not necessary. But if you want to observe it

Background

The name of this ancient service comes from a Latin word meaning 'completion' (*completorium*). We pronounce it name as 'com-plinn' rather than 'com-plyne'

Compline is a service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day. It is most effective when the ending is indeed an ending, without additions, conversation or noise. If there is an address, or business to be done, it should come first. If said at home, participants go quietly to bed.

Introduction

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

All Amen

Our help is in the name of the Lord

All who made heaven and earth.

Silence for reflection on the past day.

**All Most merciful God,
we confess to you,
before the whole company of heaven and one another,
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed
and in what we have failed to do.
Forgive us our sins,
heal us by your Spirit
and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen**

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O God, make speed to save us.

All O Lord, make haste to help us.

**All Glory 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. Amen**

Hymn [Before the ending of the day](#) (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

**Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world, we pray
That you, with steadfast love, would keep
Your watch around us while we sleep.**

**From evil dreams defend our sight,
From fears and terrors of the night;
Tread underfoot our deadly foe
That we no sinful thought may know.**

**O Father, that we ask be done
Through Jesus Christ, your only Son;
And Holy Spirit, by whose breath
Our souls are raised to life from death.**

The Word of God

One or more of the following psalms may be used.

Psalm 4

- 1 Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness; ♦
you set me at liberty when I was in trouble;
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- 2 How long will you nobles dishonour my glory; ♦
how long will you love vain things and seek after falsehood?
- 3 But know that the Lord has shown me his marvellous kindness; ♦
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.

- 4 Stand in awe, and sin not; ♦
commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.
- 5 Offer the sacrifices of righteousness ♦
and put your trust in the Lord.
- 6 There are many that say, 'Who will show us any good?' ♦
Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon us.
- 7 You have put gladness in my heart, ♦
more than when their corn and wine and oil increase.
- 8 In peace I will lie down and sleep, ♦
for it is you Lord, only, who make me dwell in safety.

Psalm 91

- 1 Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High ♦
and abides under the shadow of the Almighty,
- 2 Shall say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my stronghold, ♦
my God, in whom I put my trust.'
- 3 For he shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler ♦
and from the deadly pestilence.
- 4 He shall cover you with his wings and you shall be safe under his feathers; ♦
his faithfulness shall be your shield and buckler.
- 5 You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, ♦
nor of the arrow that flies by day;
- 6 Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, ♦
nor of the sickness that destroys at noonday.
- 7 Though a thousand fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand, ♦
yet it shall not come near you.
- 8 Your eyes have only to behold ♦
to see the reward of the wicked.
- 9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge ♦
and the Most High your stronghold,

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- 10 There shall no evil happen to you, ♦
neither shall any plague come near your tent.
- 11 For he shall give his angels charge over you, ♦
to keep you in all your ways.
- 12 They shall bear you in their hands, ♦
lest you dash your foot against a stone.
- 13 You shall tread upon the lion and adder; ♦
the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.
- 14 Because they have set their love upon me, therefore will I deliver them; ♦
I will lift them up, because they know my name.
- 15 They will call upon me and I will answer them; ♦
I am with them in trouble, I will deliver them and bring them to honour.
- 16 With long life will I satisfy them ♦
and show them my salvation.

Psalm 134

- 1 Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, ♦
you that by night stand in the house of the Lord.
- 2 Lift up your hands towards the sanctuary ♦
and bless the Lord.
- 3 The Lord who made heaven and earth ♦
give you blessing out of Zion.

The following is said at the end of each psalm

**All Glory 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.
Amen**

Sentences from Scripture

One of the following short lessons is read

You, O Lord, are in the midst of us
and we are called by your name;
leave us not, O Lord our God. *Jeremiah 14:9*

or

Be sober, be vigilant,
because your adversary the devil is prowling
around like a roaring lion,
seeking for someone to devour.
Resist him, strong in the faith. *1 Peter 5:8, 9*

or

The servants of the Lamb shall see the face of God,
whose name will be on their foreheads.
There will be no more night:
they will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun,
for God will be their light,
and they will reign for ever and ever. *Revelation 22:4, 5*

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

All Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.

All I commend my spirit.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

All Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

All Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Keep me as the apple of your eye.

All Hide me under the shadow of your wings.

The Nunc dimittis (the Song of Simeon)

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

- 1 Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: ♦
your word has been fulfilled.
- 2 My own eyes have seen the salvation ♦
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;
- 3 A light to reveal you to the nations ♦
and the glory of your chosen people. *Luke 2.29-32*

**All Glory 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. Amen**

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

Prayers of intercession

Almighty God,
Your name is glorified even in the anguish of your Son's death.
Grant us the courage to receive your anointed servant
who embodies a wisdom and love that is foolishness to the world.
empower us in witness so that all the world may recognise
in the scandal of the cross the mystery of reconciliation.

All Amen

Faithful Midwife,
as you delivered the Hebrews safely out of the long labour of slavery,
so, morning by morning, you draw us forth into the new day.
Surround us with a cloud of witnesses,

and sustain us by your powerful word, that, in the night of loneliness and fear, we, being weary, may not lost heart but push toward the joy that is to come, labouring with Christ to give birth to your promised kingdom.

All Amen

Creator of the universe,
you made the world in beauty,
and restore all things in glory through the victory of Jesus Christ.
We pray that, wherever your image is still disfigured
by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war, and greed,
the new creation in Jesus Christ may appear in justice, love, and peace,
to the glory of your name.

All Amen

Christ our God,
your love is poured out in death for our sakes.
Hold us in your embrace as we wait for Easter's dawn.
Comfort us with the promise that no power on earth, not even death itself,
can separate us from your love;
and strengthen us to wait until you are revealed to us in all your risen glory.

All Amen

The Collect for Holy Monday

Lord, you bring us into being
and let our lives touch your heart:
may the fragrance of our worship
draw us closer to your open heart
and free us from our clinging
to the things we can control;
through Jesus Christ, the passion of God.

All Amen

Silence may be kept.

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray,
and drive far from it the snares of the enemy;

may your holy angels dwell with us and guard us in peace,
and may your blessing be always upon us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

**All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen**

The Conclusion

In peace we will lie down and sleep;

All for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.

Abide with us, Lord Jesus,

All for the night is at hand and the day is now past.

As the night watch looks for the morning,

All so do we look for you, O Christ.

[Come with the dawning of the day

All and make yourself known in the breaking of the bread.]

The Lord bless us and watch over us;

the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us;

the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace.

All Amen

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