

Compline Night Prayer
Wednesday, April 16, 2025 – 7:00pm
Wednesday in Holy Week

INTRODUCTION

This day was formerly called “Spy Wednesday,” an allusion to the gospel accounts in which Judas is identified as the betrayer of Jesus. As Jesus endured the suffering of the cross, we are called to run the race of life with perseverance, confident of the joy to come. In the Three Days, which begin tomorrow evening, we will journey with Christ from darkness to light, from captivity to freedom, from death to life.

DIALOGUE

P Almighty God grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

C **Amen.**

P It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

C **to sing praise to your name, O Most High;**

P to herald your love in the morning,

C **your truth at the close of the day.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C **Amen.**

P Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Compassionate One,

C **you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

- P Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In † Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.
- C **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P Let us pray together the prayer of the day.
- C **Almighty God, your Son our Savior suffered at human hands and endured the shame of the cross. Grant that we may walk in the way of his cross and find it the way of life and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The servant of the Lord expresses absolute confidence in his final vindication, despite the fact that he has been struck and spit upon. This characteristic of the servant played an important role in the early church's understanding of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

⁴The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.

⁹It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

After the reading:

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 70

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me. (Ps. 70:1)

A ¹Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; O LORD, make haste to help me.

C ²**Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be
disgraced.**

A ³Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me
turn back because of their shame.

C ⁴**Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is the LORD!"**

A ⁵But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 12:1-3

In the way of the cross, Jesus has blazed the trail for our salvation. With faithful perseverance, we follow in his footsteps.

¹Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

³Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

After the reading:

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: John 13:21-32

At the last supper, Jesus identifies Judas Iscariot as the one who will betray him, and sends him on his way.

²¹Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, "Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me." ²²The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. ²³One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining next to him; ²⁴Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. ²⁵So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" ²⁶Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "Do quickly what you are going to do." ²⁸Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. ²⁹Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the festival"; or, that he should give something to the poor. ³⁰So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

³¹When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once."

After the reading:

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE

Pastor David Hinkelman

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

P I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (*Romans 8:38-39*)

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

C **Into your hands I commend my spirit.**

P You have redeemed me, O Lord, God of truth.

C **Into your hands I commend my spirit.**

P Glory to the Father † Son † Holy Spirit.

C **Into your hands, I commend my spirit.**

GOSPEL CANTICLE

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

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

PRAYERS

P Hear my prayer, O Lord;

C **listen to my cry.**

P Keep me as the apple of your eye;

C **hide me in the shadow of your wings.**

P In righteousness I shall see you;

C **when I awake, your presence will give me joy.**

A Be present, merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of life may find our rest in you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

A Be our light in the darkness, O God, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

A Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work or watch or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, comfort the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake.

C **Amen.**

A Gracious God, we give you thanks for the day, especially for the good we were permitted to give and to receive; the day is now past and we commit it to you. We entrust to you the night; we rest securely, for you are our help, and you neither slumber nor sleep; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A We pray for the church, called to follow Jesus in the way of the cross. Make us unflinching servants of the gospel. Deliver us from hardship as we confront the forces of injustice and practice radical compassion. Empower and sustain our bishops. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A For the earth and all its inhabitants, created in love: Train us to recognize your divine goodness in the world around us. Rouse in us a reverence for creation, that we take greater care of its resources. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A For those in positions of authority called to lead with integrity and compassion: Supply them with courage and vulnerability when challenged with new ideas. Deliver them from fear that limits imagination and impedes justice. Make your church a sanctuary for all fleeing persecution, disaster, and war. We pray for the peoples of Ukraine, Israel, and Gaza as well as people in so many countries whose lives are considered of no value by leaders. Welcome into your kingdom those who have been killed and protect those who are living in the valley of death, because of unconscionable wars. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A For those who suffer, waiting expectantly for mercy and consolation: Accompany those who feel abandoned or betrayed, defend those who are wrongly accused, and embrace those who are incarcerated or detained. Heal those who are ill. We pray aloud and silently for those in need of healing; family members, friends, co-workers, casual acquaintances and those we know by name only. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A For Christians around the world, preparing this week to journey with Jesus to the cross: Reveal to us once again the earthshaking power of humble service, unmerited forgiveness, and sacrificial love. Lead us all from death to life. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A We remember those who have died, especial all the school children and adults in our country who have been killed in senseless acts of gun violence. We sadly commended them into your hands. Remember us when you come into your kingdom, and prepare a place for each of us with you in paradise. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

A Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**C Our Father, who 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 those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

C Amen.