



Evening Prayer

Crossing the Line

The Transgressions of Jesus

18 Nov 2020



Welcome to Evening Prayer with St George the Martyr, Wash Common and St John the Evangelist, Newbury.

From earliest times, Christians gathered at regular hours during each day and night to respond to God's word with praise on behalf of all creation and with intercession for the salvation of the world.

We invite you to participate with us in this service as we close the day in prayer.

Please put your settings on mute for the service until the dismissal where we will all respond.

Today is the Festival of **Elizabeth of Hungary**, Princess of Thuringia, who died this day in 1231.

Elizabeth's story is one of contradictions, and what appear to be terrible abuses both at the hands of her royal family and her spiritual director.

Elizabeth was betrothed for political reasons at the age of four, but not married until 14, (though some say 10). She had three children and, despite the horror this may give us, seemed to be happy with her life.

As the years passed she became a follower of Francis of Assisi, and devoted time and wealth to care for the poor, much to the outrage of those around her. Eventually, following the death of her husband Ludwig IV, her generosity was deemed reckless and she was driven from the royal courts.

She renounced all her worldly good and became a Franciscan Tertiary (a volunteer, not a full member of the order) and came under the highly abusive Spiritual Direction of Conrad of Marburg, (an ex-inquisitor).

Elizabeth's devotion and love for the poor to the detriment of her own wellbeing persisted; it appears to be her sense of duty, identity and freedom. She died, probably due to her own sufferings, at the age of 24.

Cover Art

Adolf Wölfli (1864-1930), Maggingen/Lembinger, double sided, 1927.
Coloured pencil and graphite on paper.



The Greeting

A candle is lit.

The Lord is my light and my salvation:
my God shall make my darkness to be bright.

The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you.

Blessed are you, Lord God, creator of day and night:
to you be praise and glory for ever.

As darkness falls you renew your promise
to reveal among us the light of your presence.

By the light of Christ, your living Word,
dispel the darkness of our hearts
that we may walk as children of light
and sing your praise throughout the world.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
Blessed be God for ever.

**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.**

That this evening may be holy, good and peaceful,
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,
so may your mercy come down upon us
to cleanse our hearts
and set us free to sing your praise
now and for ever.

Amen.

A Hymn of Struggle. Psalm 73

In the Lord God have I made my refuge.

- 1 Truly, God is loving to Israel, •
to those who are pure in heart.
- 2 Nevertheless, my feet were almost gone; •
my steps had well-nigh slipped.
- 3 For I was envious of the proud; •
I saw the wicked in such prosperity;
- 4 For they suffer no pains •
and their bodies are sleek and sound;
- 5 They come to no misfortune like other folk; •
nor are they plagued as others are;
- 6 Therefore pride is their necklace •
and violence wraps them like a cloak.
- 7 Their iniquity comes from within; •
the conceits of their hearts overflow.
- 8 They scoff, and speak only of evil; •
they talk of oppression from on high.
- 9 They set their mouth against the heavens, •
and their tongue ranges round the earth;
- 10 And so the people turn to them •
and find in them no fault.
- 11 They say, 'How should God know? •
Is there knowledge in the Most High?'
- 12 Behold, these are the wicked; •
ever at ease, they increase their wealth.
- 13 Is it in vain that I cleansed my heart •
and washed my hands in innocence?
- 14 All day long have I been stricken •
and chastened every morning.
- 15 If I had said, 'I will speak as they do,' •
I should have betrayed the generation of your children.
- 16 Then thought I to understand this, •
but it was too hard for me,
- 17 Until I entered the sanctuary of God •

and understood the end of the wicked:
18 How you set them in slippery places; •
you cast them down to destruction.
19 How suddenly do they come to destruction, •
perish and come to a fearful end!
20 As with a dream when one awakes, •
so, Lord, when you arise you will despise their image.
21 When my heart became embittered •
and I was pierced to the quick,
22 I was but foolish and ignorant; •
I was like a brute beast in your presence.
23 Yet I am always with you; •
you hold me by my right hand.
24 You will guide me with your counsel •
and afterwards receive me with glory.
25 Whom have I in heaven but you? •
And there is nothing upon earth that I desire
in comparison with you.
26 Though my flesh and my heart fail me, •
God is the strength of my heart and my portion for ever.
27 Truly, those who forsake you will perish; •
you will put to silence the faithless who betray you.
28 But it is good for me to draw near to God; •
in the Lord God have I made my refuge,
that I may tell of all your works.

In the Lord God have I made my refuge.

*Holy God,
may we find wisdom in your presence
and set our hope not on uncertain riches
but on the love that holds us to the end;
in Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**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.**

Scripture Reading

Gospel Reading Matthew 8.1-13

When Jesus had come down from the mountain, great crowds followed him; and there was a leper who came to him and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean.' He stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, 'I do choose. Be made clean!' Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. Then Jesus said to him, 'See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.'

When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, appealing to him and saying, 'Lord, my servant is lying at home paralysed, in terrible distress.' And he said to him, 'I will come and cure him.' The centurion answered, 'Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, "Go", and he goes, and to another, "Come", and he comes, and to my slave, "Do this", and the slave does it.' When Jesus heard him, he was amazed and said to those who followed him, 'Truly I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and will eat with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the heirs of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' And to the centurion Jesus said, 'Go; let it be done for you according to your faith.' And the servant was healed in that hour.

Crossing the Line

A reflection on transgression.

Lord, you will guide me with your counsel
and afterwards receive me with glory.

**Lord, you will guide me with your counsel
and afterwards receive me with glory.**

For I am always with you;

you hold me by my right hand.

And afterwards receive me with glory.

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

**Lord, you will guide me with your counsel
and afterwards receive me with glory.**

from Psalm 73

The Magnificat (*The Song of Mary*)

Refrain. In the heavenly kingdom, the blessed have their dwelling place and their rest for ever and ever.

1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; •
he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

2 From this day all generations will call me blessed; •
the Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is his name.

3 He has mercy on those who fear him, •
from generation to generation.

4 He has shown strength with his arm •
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,

5 Casting down the mighty from their thrones •
and lifting up the lowly.

6 He has filled the hungry with good things •
and sent the rich away empty.

8 The promise made to our ancestors, •
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Luke 1.46-55

**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.**

Repeat the refrain.

Prayers

God of the outsider,
hear our prayer.

The Collect *of the day is said*

Lord God, who taught Elizabeth of Hungary
to recognize and reverence Christ in the poor of this world:
by her example strengthen us to love and serve
the afflicted and the needy
and so to honour your Son, the servant king,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer *is said*

Let us pray in confidence as our Saviour has taught us,

**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.

**Forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.**

**For theine is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory,**

For ever and ever.

Amen.

Closing Responses

May Christ, who has opened the kingdom of heaven,
bring us to dwell with him in glory. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord

Thanks be to God.