

Compline: A Night Service —Wednesday, May 15, 2024
St. John's by the Campus Episcopal Church – Ames, IA

Pachomius of Tabenissi

The Approach

Reader 1: The angels of God guard us through the night,
and quieten the powers of darkness.

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

It is but lost labor that we haste to rise up early,
and so late take rest, and eat the bread of anxiety.

For those beloved of God are given gifts even while they
sleep.

Silence

My brothers and sisters, our help is in the name of the eternal
God.
who is making the heavens and the earth.

Dear God, thank you for all that is good, for our creation and
for 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 Guide upon the way, my bright
evening star.**

Reader 2: We repent the wrongs we have done:

Silence

We have wounded your love.

O God, heal us.

We stumble in the darkness.

Light of the world transfigure us.

We forget that we are your home.

Spirit of God, dwell in us.

Eternal Spirit, living God, in whom we live and move and
have our being,

all that we are, have been, and shall be is known to you,
to the very secret of our hearts and all that rises to
trouble us.

**Living flame burn into us, cleansing wind, blow
through us, fountain of water, well up within us,
that we may love and praise in deed and in truth.**

The Invocation

Reader 1: Set us free, O God, from all false desires, vain ambitions, and everything that would separate us from your love; that, like your servant Pachomius, we might give ourselves fully to a life of discipleship, seeking you alone and serving those whom you have given us to serve; through Jesus Christ, our only mediator and advocate. **Amen.**

Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his

promise, he abides with his Church on earth, even to the end of the ages; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

Silence

Reader 2: Be with us, Holy Spirit;
nothing can separate us from your love.

Be with us as of old, fill us with your power,
direct all our thoughts to your goodness.

Be present, Holy Spirit;

Reader 3: Psalm 101

¹I will sing of your love and justice;
to you, LORD, I will sing praise.

²I will be careful to lead a blameless life—
when will you come to me?

I will conduct the affairs of my house
with a blameless heart.

³I will not look with approval
on anything that is vile.

I hate what faithless people do;
I will have no part in it.

⁴The perverse of heart shall be far from me;
I will have nothing to do with what is evil.

⁵Whoever slanders their neighbor in secret,
I will put to silence;
whoever has haughty eyes and a proud heart,
I will not tolerate.

⁶My eyes will be on the faithful in the land,
that they may dwell with me;

the one whose walk is blameless
will minister to me.

⁷No one who practices deceit
will dwell in my house;
no one who speaks falsely
will stand in my presence.

⁸Every morning I will put to silence
all the wicked in the land;
I will cut off every evildoer
from the city of the LORD

***Reader 4:* Gospel: Matthew 8: 28-34**

²⁸ When he arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. They were so violent that no one could pass that way. ²⁹ "What do you want with us, Son of God?" they shouted. "Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?" ³⁰ Some distance from them a large herd of pigs was feeding. ³¹ The demons begged Jesus, "If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs." ³² He said to them, "Go!" So they came out and went into the pigs, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and died in the water. ³³ Those tending the pigs ran off, went into the town and reported all this, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. ³⁴ Then the whole town went out to meet Jesus. And when they saw him, they pleaded with him to leave their region.

Prayer

Reader 4: God, you are working still, breaking down and building up;
open our eyes to discern your hands
so that we may take our place as laborers together with
you.

(p. 614, NZ Prayer Book)

Reader 3: 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.

Song of Simeon

Reader 2: 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.

Reader 3: 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 for ever. Amen.

Reader 2: 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.

Reader 4: Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the
world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope
and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever.

ALL: **Amen**

Intercessions:

The Prayers of the People

We pray this night for the healing of our nation and our world.

Reader 1: Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed we may live in justice and peace.

Lord, in your Mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Reader 3: O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect.

Lord, in your Mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Reader 2: O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Reader 3: God of the present moment,
God who in Jesus stills the storm
and soothes the frantic heart;
Bring hope and courage to us
as we
wait in uncertainty.
Bring hope that you will make us the equal
of whatever lies ahead.
Bring courage to endure what cannot be avoided,
for your will is health and wholeness;
You are God, and we need You. **Amen.**

(p. 747, NZ Prayer Book)

Reader 4: Lord,
it is night.

The night is for stillness.
Let us be still in the presence of God.

It is night after a long day.
What has been done has been done;
what has not been done has not been done;
let it be.

The night is dark.

Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own
lives rest in you.

The night is quiet.

Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,
all dear to us,
and all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn.

Let us look expectantly to a new day,
new joys,
new possibilities.

In your name we pray.

Amen.

Reader 1 God be in my head, and in my understanding;
Reader 2 God be in my eyes, and in my looking;
Reader 3: God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
Reader 4: God be in my heart, and in my thinking.
Reader 5 God be at my end, and at my departing.

Reader 1: To God the Creator,
who loved us first and gave this world to be our home,
to God the Redeemer,
who loves us and by dying and rising
pioneered the way of freedom,
to God the Sanctifier,
who spreads the divine love in our hearts,
Be praise and glory for time and for eternity.

The divine Spirit dwells in us.

***ALL:* Thanks be to God.**