

The Order of Vespers (Lent)

pp. 41-45

Ash Wednesday 2021

P: O Lord, open Thou my lips.

C: And my mouth shall show forth Thy praise.

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

C: Make haste to help me, O Lord.

C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Psalm 6, p. 124

1 O LORD, rebuke me not in thine anger, neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure.

2 Have mercy upon me, O LORD; for I *am* weak: O LORD, heal me; for my bones are vexed.

3 My soul is also sore vexed: but thou, O LORD, how long?

4 Return, O LORD, deliver my soul: oh save me for thy mercies' sake.

5 For in death *there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?*

6 I am weary with my groaning; all the night make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with my tears.

7 Mine eye is consumed because of grief; it waxeth old because of all mine enemies.

8 Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity; for the LORD hath heard the voice of my weeping.

9 The LORD hath heard my supplication; the LORD will receive my prayer.

10 Let all mine enemies be ashamed and sore vexed: let them return *and* be ashamed suddenly.

C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

The Lesson: Matthew 26.57-66

57 And they that had laid hold on Jesus led *him* away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled.

58 But Peter followed him afar off unto the high priest's palace, and went in, and sat with the servants, to see the end.

59 Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death;

60 But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, *yet* found they none. At the last came two false witnesses,

61 And said, This *fellow* said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days.

62 And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what *is it which* these witness against thee?

63 But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.

64 Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

65 Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy.

66 What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death.

After the reading:

P: But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

C: Thanks be to Thee, O Lord.

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1. Jesus, I will ponder now

On Thy holy Passion;

With Thy Spirit me endow

For such meditation.

Grant that I in love and faith

May the image cherish

Of Thy suffering, pain, and death,

That I may not perish.

2. Make me see Thy great distress,
Anguish, and affliction,
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness

And Thy crucifixion;

Make me see how scourge and rod,

Spear and nails, did wound Thee,

How for man Thou diedst, O God,

Who with thorns had crowned Thee.

3. Yet, O Lord, not thus alone

Make me see Thy Passion,

But its cause to me make known

And its termination.

Ah! I also and my sin

Wrought Thy deep affliction;

This indeed the cause hath been

Of Thy crucifixion.

4. Grant that I Thy Passion view

With repentant grieving

Nor Thee crucify anew

By unholy living.

How could I refuse to shun

Every sinful pleasure

Since for me God's only Son

Suffered without measure?

5. If my sins give me alarm

And my conscience grieve me,

Let Thy cross my fear disarm,

Peace of conscience give me.

Grant that I may trust in Thee

And Thy holy Passion.

If His Son so loveth me,

God must have compassion.

6. Grant that I may willingly

Bear with Thee my crosses,

Learning humbleness of Thee,

Peace mid pain and losses.

May I give Thee love for love!

Hear me, O my Savior,

That I may in heaven above

Sing Thy praise forever. *Amen.*

Sermon

P: Let my prayer be set forth before Thee as incense:

C: And the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

NUNC DIMITTIS

C: Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Our Father who art in heaven, hal-
lowed by Thy name; Thy kingdom
come; Thy will be done on earth as it
is in heaven; gove us this day our dai-
ly bread; and forgive us our trespass-
es, as we forgive those who trespass
against us; and lead us not into temp-
tation; but deliver us from evil; for
Thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever and ever.
Amen.**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with thy spirit.

*Several collects are prayed, concluding with
the Collect for Peace. After each, the Amen
is sung or said.*

COLLECT FOR PEACE

O God, from whom all holy desires, all
good counsels, and all just works do
proceed, give unto Thy servants that
peace which the world cannot give, that
our hearts may be set to obey Thy com-
mandments, and also that we, being
defended by Thee from the fear of our
enemies, may pass our time in rest and
quietness; through the merits of Jesus
Christ, our Savior, who liveth and
reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost,
ever one God, world without end.

C: Amen.

P: Bless we the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and
the love of God and the communion of
the Holy Ghost be with you all.

C: Amen.

644 Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings
flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.