

**The Order of Vespers (Lent), pp. 41-45**

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 57 (P. 135)

**1 ¶ Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast.**

**2 I will cry unto God most high; unto God that performeth all things for me.**

**3 He shall send from heaven, and save me from the reproach of him that would swallow me up. Selah. God shall send forth his mercy and his truth.**

**4 My soul is among lions: and I lie even among them that are set on fire, even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword.**

**5 Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens; let thy glory be above all the earth.**

**6 They have prepared a net for my steps; my soul is bowed down: they have digged a pit before me, into the midst whereof they are fallen themselves. Selah.**

**7 ¶ My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise.**

**8 Awake up, my glory; awake, psaltery and harp: I myself will awake early.**

**9 I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people: I will sing unto thee among the nations.**

**10 For thy mercy is great unto the heavens, and thy truth unto the clouds.**

**11 Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: let thy glory be above all the earth.**

**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(s)***

*Joel 2.12-19*

12 Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:

13 And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.

14 Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him; even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the LORD your God?

15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly:

16 Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet.

17 Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?

18 Then will the LORD be jealous for his land, and pity his people.

19 Yea, the LORD will answer and say unto his people, Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith: and I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen.

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

**C: Thanks be to Thee, O Lord.**

*Matt. 6.16-21*

16 Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they

may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

17 But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face;

18 That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.

19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

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

**C: Thanks be to Thee, O Lord.**

Hymn # 329

1. From depths of woe I cry to Thee,

Lord, hear me, I implore Thee.

Bend down Thy gracious ear to me,

My prayer let come before Thee.

If Thou rememberest each misdeed,

If each should have its rightful meed,

Who may abide Thy presence?

2. Thy love and grace alone avail

To blot out my transgression;

The best and holiest deeds must fail

To break sin's dread oppression.

Before Thee none can boasting stand,

But all must fear Thy strict demand

And live alone by mercy.

3. Therefore my hope is in the Lord

And not in mine own merit;

It rests upon His faithful Word

To them of contrite spirit

That He is merciful and just;

This is my comfort and my trust.

His help I wait with patience.

4. And though it tarry till the night

And till the morning waken,

My heart shall never doubt His might

Nor count itself forsaken.

Do thus, O ye of Israel's seed,

Ye of the Spirit born indeed;

Wait for your God's appearing.

5. Though great our sins and sore our woes,

His grace much more aboundeth;

His helping love no limit knows,

Our utmost need it soundeth.

Our shepherd good and true is He,

Who will at last His Israel free

From all their sin and sorrow. 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.**

**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, hallowed by 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.**

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 commandments, 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.**