

"THE ORDER OF EVENING SERVICE OR VESPERS" *

The Hymn. "If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee" LSB #750

by Georg Neumark, 1621-1681

Translated by Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878

1. If thou but trust in God to guide thee
And hope in Him through all thy ways,
He'll give thee strength, whate'er betide thee,
And bear thee through the evil days.
Who trusts in God's unchanging love
Builds on the rock that naught can move.
2. What can these anxious cares avail thee,
These never-ceasing moans and sighs?
What can it help if thou bewail thee
O'er each dark moment as it flies?
Our cross and trials do but press
The heavier for our bitterness.
3. Be patient and await His leisure
In cheerful hope, with heart content
To take whate'er thy Father's pleasure
And His discerning love hath sent,
Nor doubt our inmost wants are known
To Him who chose us for His own.
4. God knows full well when times of gladness
Shall be the needful thing for thee.
When He has tried thy soul with sadness
And from all guile has found thee free,
He comes to thee all unaware
And makes thee own His loving care.

5. Nor think amid the fiery trial
That God hath cast thee off unheard,
That he whose hopes meet no denial
Must surely be of God preferred.
Time passes and much change doth bring
And sets a bound to ev'rything.
6. All are alike before the Highest;
'Tis easy to our God, we know,
To raise thee up, though low thou liest,
To make the rich man poor and low.
True wonders still by Him are wrought
Who setteth up and brings to naught.
7. Sing, pray, and keep His ways unswerving,
Perform thy duties faithfully,
And trust His Word; though undeserving,
Thou yet shalt find it true for thee.
God never yet forsook in need
The soul that trusted Him indeed.

Service Book & Hymnal, 1958

Text: Ps. 55:22

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Tune: "Wer Nur Den Lieben Gott"

¶Then shall be sung or said responsively the Versicle with the Gloria Patri as here follows. All stand.

Versicle. O Lord, open Thou my lips.

Answer. And my mouth shall show forth Thy praise.

Versicle. Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

Answer. Make haste to help me, O Lord.

**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.**

¶ *During the Passion Season the "Hallelujah" shall be omitted.*

The Psalm—Psalm 80:1-19 (ESV).

- ¹ Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like flock.
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.
² Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,
stir up Your might
and come to save us!
³ Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!
⁴ O LORD God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
⁶ You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh among themselves.
⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!
⁸ You brought a vine out of Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.
⁹ You cleared the ground for it;
it took deep root and filled the land.
¹⁰ The mountains were covered with its shade,
the mighty cedars with its branches.
¹¹ It sent out its branches to the sea
and its shoots to the River.
¹² Why then have you broken down its walls,
so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?
¹³ The boar from the forest ravages it,
and all that move in the field feed on it.
¹⁴ Turn again, O God of hosts!
Look down from heaven, and see;
have regard for this vine,
¹⁵ the stock that your right hand planted,
and for the son whom you made strong for yourself.
¹⁶ They have burned it with fire; they have cut it down;

- may they perish at the rebuke of your face!
¹⁷ But let your hand be on the man of your right hand,
the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself!
¹⁸ Then we shall not turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call upon your name!
¹⁹ Restore us, O LORD God of hosts!
Let your face shine, that we may be saved!
**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen**

The Lessons.

¶ *The Scripture Lessons shall then be read, then a Versicle and Response may be sung or said:*

The Epistle.

Romans 5:15-21 (ESV)

- ¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. ¹⁶ And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. ¹⁷ For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.
¹⁸ Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹ For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. ²⁰ Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, ²¹ so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Answer. Thanks be to Thee, O Lord.

The Holy Gospel.

Luke 4:38-41 (ESV)

³⁸ And he arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf. ³⁹ And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them.

⁴⁰ Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. ⁴¹ And demons also came out of many, crying, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

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

Answer. Thanks be to Thee, O Lord.

¶Then may follow a *SERMON*:

Our Lord has commanded: Honor your father and your mother.

What does this mean? "We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them." *Martin Luther's Small Catechism CPH*

Mothers-in-law have often been made the objects of mockery and scorn, and some of them have invited the ridicule. But Simon, whom Jesus called Peter, loved his wife. And in his home Simon had, not only loved his wife, but her mother as well. Luke the Physician said that Simon's mother-in-law was sick. The loving son-in-law told Jesus of her condition. The Gentle Healer went to the house and rebuking the high fever, took her by the hand and lifted her up. The fever left her. Immediately she rose and began to serve them.

Three years later, at the time of the Passover, Jesus was on His way to honor His Father on the cross. He was again in a home, this time it was the home of Lazarus. Jesus loved his friend Lazarus as well as his sisters Mary and Martha. John the Evangelist said that Lazarus was sick to the point of death. Jesus delayed his travel Bethany two days. The Lord informed his disciples that Lazarus had died. In the cemetery, Lazarus would sleep.

Jesus went to wake him. Glory was coming. But, for four days, the body of Lazarus lay in the tomb. Many came to Mary and Martha to console them. Martha cried, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha cried, "I know ... on the last day." Jesus comforted her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die." (*John 11:25,26 ESV*) Martha confessed Jesus as the Christ.

Then Mary came and cried, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died." Many were weeping. Jesus asked, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord come and see." Deeply moved, Jesus wept. The Jews said, "See how He loved him."

Yet some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?" But, Jesus was glad that he was not there to keep Lazarus from dying. Jesus came to awaken Him. He told His disciples that "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

He came to the cave. A stone lay against it. Jesus commanded, "Roll away the stone." Never mind the four day stench. Jesus cried in a loud voice: "Lazarus come forth." Lazarus came out. "Loose him and let him go."

Have you and I imagined that Jesus has come to keep us from dying? Simon Peter's mother-in-law did escape a moment of two of feverish demise. By the living Word, Jesus rebuked the high fever and snatched her from the shadow of death. Immediately she began to serve. Believers in the church have many near death moments. And we continue to serve. But this is not the ultimate goal. The wages of sin is paid now on the cross and yet it is still to come—death is also the final enemy.

Jesus came that I may pass through death, as Israel passed through the Red Sea, and as Lazarus passed through the tomb. "By the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous." By the Holy Word together with the water, baptism is against me, burying me with Christ. By the Gracious Word now

breathed for me, the Holy Spirit raises me in Christ to walk with Him forever. Jesus was crucified once for all and He is risen that all may be one in Him. Even if we die; yet shall we live. For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. Jesus has not come to keep us from dying to sinful self, to the world, nor to the old evil foe. Jesus has come that we may live to God, to give glory to Father Son and Holy Spirit.

Jesus is the one man honored by and forever honoring the Father. Believers baptized are now justified in Christ crucified. In Christ we are headed into eternal life. The Son has glorified the Father in the cross and empty tomb. We in the Son will “reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Here we give all glory and honor to our Father.

Amen.

Offerings to God in thanksgiving for your life and your daily bread may be sent to your house of worship.

¶*Then shall be sung*

The Hymn. In the Cross of Christ I Glory LSB #427
by John Bowring, 1792-1872

1. In the cross of Christ I glory,
Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.
2. When the woes of life o'ertake me,
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me;
Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
3. When the sun of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming
Adds more luster to the day.

4. Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure
By the Cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.

From Service Book & Hymnal, 1958

Tune: Rathbun

¶*Then, all standing, may be sung or said this Versicle.*

Versicle. Let my prayers be set forth before Thee as incense;

Answer. And the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

The Canticle. Magnificat. St. Luke 1:46-56

My soul does magnify the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
For He has regarded the low estate of His handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
For He that is mighty has done to me great things and holy is His name.
And His mercy is on them that fear Him from generation to generation.
He has showed strength with His arm.
He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He has put down the mighty from their seats
and exalted them of low degree.
He has filled the hungry with good things
and the rich He has sent empty away.
He has helped His servants Israel, in remembrance of His mercy
as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed, forever.
**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 Prayer.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

¶Then all shall say:

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Salutation. The Lord be with you.

Answer. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that we turn from our wickedness and live. Graciously behold Your people who plead to You and spare us. Withdraw the scourge of Your wrath and be moved in mercy to turn away this pestilence from us; for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Versicle. The Lord will give strength unto His people.

Answer. The Lord will bless His people with peace.

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 by Thee, we being defended from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

¶Then may be sung or said

The Benedicamus.

Versicle: Bless we the Lord.

Answer. Thanks be to God.

The Benediction.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with us all.

Amen.

¶At the close of the Service silent prayer should be offered.

* Text from: *Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book*

(St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1912), pp. 19-23

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