

Compline – Tuesday, October 6, 2020

Opening Words

Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Philippians 4:6

Eternal Spirit, flow through our being and open our lips,
that our mouths may proclaim your praise.

Let us worship the God of love.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Psalm 27

God is my light and my salvation;
whom then shall I fear? *
God is the strength of my life;
of whom then shall I be afraid?

When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, *
it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.

Though an army should encamp against me, *
yet my heart shall not be afraid;

And though war should rise up against me, *
yet will I put my trust in God.

One thing have I asked of you, O God;
one thing I seek: *
that I may dwell in your house all the days of my life,

To behold your fair beauty, O God, *
and to seek you in your temple.

For in the day of trouble you shall keep me safe in your shelter; *
you shall hide me in the secrecy of your dwelling
and set me high upon a rock.

Even now you lift up my head *
above my enemies round about me.

Therefore I will offer in your dwelling an oblation
with sounds of great gladness; *
I will sing and make music to you.

Hearken to my voice, O Most High, when I call; *
have mercy on me and answer me.

You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." *
Your face, O God, will I seek.
Hide not your face from me, *
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.
You have been my helper;
cast me not away; *
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.
Though my father and my mother forsake me, *
you will sustain me.
Show me your way, O God, *
lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.
Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, *
for false witnesses have risen up against me,
and also those who speak malice.
What if I had not believed
that I should see the goodness of my God *
in the land of the living!
O tarry and await God's pleasure;
be strong, and let your heart take comfort; *
wait patiently for God.

Scripture

Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who abuse you. Do good and lend, expecting nothing in return; for God is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish.

Be merciful as your father is merciful. Judge not and you will not be judged. Condemn not and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven.

Give and it will be given to you; for the measure you give will be the measure you receive.

From Luke 6:27-38

Poem – "My Fathers, Coming and Going" by George Szirtes

Moustaches and and grey homburgs: our fathers were
Defined by properties acquired by chance –
Or by divine decree. Standing behind her

In rooms, on stairs, figures of elegance,
They came and went in a murmur of soft voices,
Objects of bewilderment and romance.

How many of them on the premises?
Some worked twelve hours a day in an office
In the city, some placed bristly kisses

On our brows, some would simply embarrass
Us for no particular reason. Their age
Was indeterminate. They would promise

Anything befitting their patronage.
Were all these fathers one? And was it you,
My father, who pushed me in that carriage

I can't remember now before time flew
And took her away as it will take us all?
I feel myself flying. It's like passing through

Clouds in an aeroplane in its own bubble
Of air, a slightly bumpy ride down
Towards a runway as we rise and fall

Above the brilliant lights of a big town.

Prayers

I will lie down in peace and take my rest,
for it is in God alone that I dwell unafraid.

Let us bless the Earth-maker, the Pain-bearer, the Life-giver,
let us praise and exalt God above all for ever.

May God's name be praised beyond the furthest star,
glorified and exalted above all for ever.

Personal Thanksgivings and Intercessions

Closing Prayers

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.

God bless us and keep us,
God's face shine on us and be gracious to us,
and give us light and peace.

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Poem – “My Fathers, Coming and Going” by George Szirtes, *Poetry* (June 2004)