

Compline: A Service of Online Evening Prayer

Zoom is making security updates that will soon require a password, which will now be required to join the meeting. That password is the numerals of John Calvin's birthday – 7101509.

OPENING SENTENCES

O God, come to our assistance
O Lord, hasten to help us.

The Lord grant us a restful night
and peace at the last. **Amen.**

EVENING HYMN

#676 Day is Done (v.1)

Day is done, but love unfailing dwells ever here;
shadows fall but hope, prevailing, calms every fear.
God our Maker, none forsaking,
take our hearts of love's own making;
watch our sleeping; guard our waking;
be always near.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Almighty God, maker of all,
have mercy on us.

Jesus Christ, redeemer of the world,
have mercy on us.

Holy Spirit, giver of life,
have mercy on us.

I confess to God Almighty,
before the whole company of heaven,
and to you, my family in Christ,
that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed,
and pray God almighty to have mercy on me.

**May Almighty God have mercy on you,
pardon and deliver you from your sins
and give you time to amend your life. Amen.**

**I confess to God Almighty,
before the whole company of heaven,
and to you, my family in Christ,
that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed,
and pray God Almighty to have mercy on me.**

May Almighty God have mercy on you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins
and give you time to amend your life. **Amen.**

PSALM

Evening Psalms for the Week of September 20th -September 24th

Monday: Psalm 30

Tuesday: Psalm 31:1-13

Wednesday: Psalm 31:14-24

Thursday: Psalm 32

Friday: Psalm 33

SCRIPTURE :

THE LIFE OF PAUL, WEEK 2, PAUL'S MISSIONARY JOURNEYS:

After Paul's conversion he is sent out from his home church in Antioch with Barnabas to proclaim the good news. He goes on several tours through the Eastern Mediterranean, with a number of different companions, teaching and preaching the Good News. This week we'll be covering his missionary journeys, first with Barnabas, then with a young disciple Timothy.

Monday: *Acts 14:1-7*

The same thing occurred in Iconium, where Paul and Barnabas went into the Jewish synagogue and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks became believers. ²But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. ³So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who testified to the word of his grace by granting signs and wonders to be done through them. ⁴But the residents of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews, and some with the apostles. ⁵And when an attempt was made by both Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to maltreat them and to stone them, ⁶the apostles learned of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding country; ⁷and there they continued proclaiming the good news.

Tuesday: *Acts 14:21-28 (Paul returns home to Antioch from his first missionary journey)*

After they had proclaimed the good news to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, then on to Iconium and Antioch. ²²There they strengthened the souls of the disciples and encouraged them to continue in the faith, saying, 'It is through many persecutions that we must enter the kingdom of God.' ²³And after they had appointed elders for them in each church, with prayer and fasting they entrusted them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe.

²⁴ Then they passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia. ²⁵When they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia. ²⁶From there they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had completed. ²⁷When they arrived, they called the church together and related all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith for the Gentiles. ²⁸And they stayed there with the disciples for some time.

Wednesday: *Acts 15:7-21 (The Church's first General Assembly; see Paul's account in Galatians 2)*

After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, 'My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. ⁸And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; ⁹and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. ¹⁰Now therefore why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? ¹¹On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.'

¹² The whole assembly kept silence, and listened to Barnabas and Paul as they told of all the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the Gentiles. ¹³After they finished speaking, James replied, 'My brothers, listen to me. ¹⁴Simeon has related how God first looked favourably on the Gentiles, to take from among them a people for his name. ¹⁵This agrees with the words of the prophets, as it is written,

¹⁶ "After this I will return,
and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen;
from its ruins I will rebuild it,
and I will set it up,

¹⁷ so that all other peoples may seek the Lord—
even all the Gentiles over whom my name has been called.

Thus says the Lord, who has been making these things ¹⁸known from long ago."
¹⁹Therefore I have reached the decision that we should not trouble those Gentiles who are turning to God, ²⁰but we should write to them to abstain only from things polluted by idols and from fornication and from whatever has been strangled and from blood. ²¹For in every city, for generations past, Moses has had those who proclaim him, for he has been read aloud every sabbath in the synagogues.'

Thursday: *Acts 16:6-15* (After the Council of Jerusalem in Acts 15, Paul has an argument with Barnabas and they part ways. Paul now makes his second missionary journey, this time with Silas and Timothy as his companions)

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.'¹⁰ When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

¹¹ We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis,¹² and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days.¹³ On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there.¹⁴ A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul.¹⁵ When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.' And she prevailed upon us.

Friday: *Acts 16:25-34*

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.²⁶ Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened.²⁷ When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped.²⁸ But Paul shouted in a loud voice, 'Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.'²⁹ The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.³⁰ Then he brought them outside and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?'³¹ They answered, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.'³² They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.³³ At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay.³⁴ He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

SHARING OUR PRAYERS

We will take some time at this moment to share our prayer requests for each other and the world, then continue with the following prayers:

Monday:

I will lie down in peace and take my rest,

for in God alone I dwell unafraid.

O Lord, support us all the day long until the shadows lengthen
and the evening comes,
and the busy world is hushed,
and the fever of life is over, and our work is done.
Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest,
and peace at the last;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Tuesday:

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

O God, Our Creator,
by whose mercy and might
the world turns safely into darkness
and returns again to light:
We give into your hands our unfinished tasks,
our unsolved problems,
and our unfulfilled hopes,
knowing that only those things which you bless will prosper.
To your great love and protection
we commit each other
and all for whom we have prayed,
knowing that you alone are our sure defender,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Wednesday:

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

Keep watch, dear Lord,
with those who work or watch
or weep this night,
and give your angels charge over those who sleep.
Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary,
bless the dying,
soothe the suffering,

pity the afflicted,
shield the joyous;
and all for your love's sake.
Amen.

Thursday:

I will lie down in peace and take my rest,
for in God alone I dwell unafraid.
Eternal God,
the hours of both day and night are yours,
and to you the darkness is no threat.
Be present, we pray,
with those who labor in these hours of night,
especially those who watch and work on behalf of others
Grant them diligence in their watching,
faithfulness in their service,
courage in danger,
and competence in emergencies.
Help them to meet the needs of others
with confidence and compassion;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Friday:

I will lie down in peace and take my rest,
for in God alone I dwell unafraid.
Almighty and Eternal God,
the strength and hope of those who believe
and the hope of those who doubt,
may we who have not seen,
have faith and receive
the fullness of Christ's blessing,
who is alive and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Dismissal (*Ephesians 3:20-21*)

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

Amen.

Blessed is God, who hears our prayers,
whose steadfast love endures forever.