

## Thursday Vespers for January 21, 2021

### The Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

That this evening may be holy, good and peaceful,  
let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept.*

**As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,  
so may your mercy come down upon us  
to cleanse our hearts  
and set us free to sing your praise  
now and for ever. Amen.**

### A Hymn for Evening

Day is done but love unfailing dwells ever here;  
Shadows fall, but hope, prevailing, calms every fear.  
God, our maker, none for saking, take our hearts, of love's own making;  
Watch our sleeping, guard our waking, be always near.

Dark descends, but light unending shines through our night;  
You are with us, ever lending new strength to sight.  
One in love, your truth confessing, one in hope of heaven's blessing,  
May we see, in love's possessing, love's endless light!

Eyes will close, but you unsleeping watch by our side;  
Death may come, in love's safe keeping still we abide.  
God of love, all evil quelling, sin forgiving, fear dispelling,  
Stay with us, our heart's indwelling, this eventide.

*Ar Hyd Y Nos Common Praise #20*

### Psalm 40 *Expectans, expectavi*

8 'I love to do your will, O my God; \*  
    your law is deep within my heart.'''

9 I proclaimed righteousness in the great congregation; \*  
    behold, I did not restrain my lips; and that, O Lord, you know.

10 Your righteousness have I not hidden in my heart; \*  
    I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance;

I have not concealed your love and faithfulness \*  
    from the great congregation.

11 You are the Lord; do not withhold your compassion from me; \*  
    let your love and your faithfulness keep me safe for ever.

12 For innumerable troubles have crowded upon me; \*

**my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see;**  
they are more in number than the hairs of my head, \*  
and my heart fails me.

**13 Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me; \***  
**O Lord, make haste to help me.**

**14 Let them be ashamed and altogether dismayed \***  
who seek after my life to destroy it;  
**let them draw back and be disgraced \***  
**who take pleasure in my misfortune.**

**15 Let those who say "Aha!" and gloat over me be confounded, \***  
because they are ashamed.

**16 Let all who seek you rejoice in you and be glad; \***  
let those who love your salvation continually say,  
"Great is the Lord!"

**17 Though I am poor and afflicted, \***  
the Lord will have regard for me.

**You are my helper and my deliverer; \***  
do not tarry, O my God.

**Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

### **Mark 3: 7-12**

Jesus departed with his disciples to the lake, and a great multitude from Galilee followed him; hearing all that he was doing, they came to him in great numbers from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, beyond the Jordan, and the region around Tyre and Sidon. He told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, so that they would not crush him; for he had cured many, so that all who had diseases pressed upon him to touch him. Whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and shouted, 'You are the Son of God!' But he sternly ordered them not to make him known.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

**Thanks be to God**

*All are invited to share a word or a phrase that stood out, or to offer a short thought evoked by the reading.*

### **The Prayers**

*All are invited to name their intercessions and thanksgivings, either silently or aloud.*

*After a period of silence the following collect is said.*

Kindle in our hearts, O God,  
the flame of love which never ceases,

that it may burn in us, giving light to others.  
May we shine for ever in your temple,  
set on fire with your eternal light,  
even your Son Jesus Christ,  
our Saviour and our Redeemer. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Believing the promises of God,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray  
**Our Father in heaven,**  
**hallowed be your name,**  
**your kingdom come,**  
**your will be done,**  
**on earth as in heaven.**  
**Give us today our daily bread.**  
**Forgive us our sins**  
**as we forgive those who sin against us.**  
**Save us from the time of trial,**  
**and deliver us from evil.**  
**For the kingdom, the power,**  
**and the glory are yours,**  
**now and for ever. Amen.**

### **The Dismissal**

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**