

Night Prayer : St Margaret of Antioch

Introduction

Jesus said, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.'
Alleluia.

Psalm 3

How many are my foes, O Lord!
How many are rising up against me!
How many are saying about me:
'No help will come from God.'

But you, Lord, are a shield about me,
my glory, who lift up my head.
I cry aloud to you, Lord.
You answer from your holy mountain.

I lie down to rest and I sleep.
I wake, for you uphold me.
I will not fear even thousands of people
who are ranged on every side against me.

Arise, Lord; save me, my God.
O Lord of salvation, bless your people!

Reading : 1 Peter 4: 12-end

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, a criminal, or even as a mischief maker. Yet if any of you suffers as a Christian, do not consider it a disgrace, but glorify God because you bear this name. For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God; if it begins with us, what will be the end for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinners?" Therefore, let those suffering in accordance with God's will entrust themselves to a faithful Creator, while continuing to do good.

Hymn *[Sing on mute]*

Praise to God for saints and martyrs, inspiration to us all;
In the presence of our Saviour, their example we recall:
Lives of holy contemplation, sacrifice and simple love,
Witnesses to truth and justice, honoured here and crowned above.

How we long to share their story, faithful in response to grace,
Signs of God's eternal presence in the realm of time and space.
Now, their pilgrimage completed, cross of Christ their only boast,
They unite their own rejoicing with the great angelic host.

Saints and martyrs, now in glory, robed before your Saviour's face,
Let us join your intercession for God's holy human race.
Let us join with you in singing Mary's liberation song,
Till a just and free creation sings, with the angelic throng.

Praise and honour to the Father, adoration to the Son,
With the all-embracing Spirit wholly Three and holy One.
All the universe, united in complete diversity,

St Margaret of Antioch

Prayers

Response between sections of the prayers:

Saviour, we hear your call.

Help us to follow.

At the end:

God of mercy,

you know us and love us

and hear our prayer:

keep us in the eternal fellowship of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen.

Uniting our prayers with the whole company of heaven, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Responsory

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised:
there is no end of his greatness.

One generation shall praise your works to another:
and shall declare your power.

All your works praise you, Lord:
and your faithful servants bless you.

They make known the glory of your kingdom:
and speak of your power.

My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord:
let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever.

Blessing

God give you grace to follow his saints
in faith and love and steadfastness,
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Night Prayer is on zoom. You can join the meeting from 7.15pm to chat to other people, and we begin the worship at 7.30pm. The Meeting ID is 296 467 9306. The password is 176040.