

For Thursdays Zoom worship at 7pm

ORDER FOR NIGHT PRAYER (Compline)

The Feast Day of St Agnes. Child Martyr at Rome (AD304)  
The 4<sup>th</sup> day of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

St Agnes



*The reason Agnes is one of the most well-known and widely-venerated of the early Roman martyrs is perhaps because of the expression of mature resilience and sheer bravery in a thirteen-year-old girl. Agnes is reputed to have refused an arranged marriage because of her total dedication to Christ and stated that she preferred even death of the body to the death of her consecrated virginity. The growing veneration for the state of consecrated virginity at this time, combined with the last, major Roman persecution under the emperor Diocletian, climaxing in the shedding of an innocent virgin-child's blood willingly for Christ, placed her at the forefront of veneration almost from the moment the persecution ended. She is believed to have died in the year 304 and her feast has ever since been celebrated on this day.*

Preparation

In the name of the +Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end. **Amen.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord  
**who made heaven and earth.**

*A short period of silence for reflection on the day which is passing.*

*These words of penitence are then used*

Most merciful God,  
we confess to you,  
before the whole company of heaven and one another,  
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed  
and in what we have failed to do.  
Forgive us our sins,  
heal us by your Spirit  
and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.

O God, make speed to save us.  
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.

*The traditional hymn will be played*

Before the ending of the day,  
Creator of the world, we pray  
That with thy wonted favour thou  
Wouldst be our guard and keeper now.

From all ill dreams defend our eyes,  
From nightly fears and fantasies;  
Tread under foot our ghostly foe,  
That no pollution we may know.

O Father, that we ask be done,  
Through Jesus Christ, thine only Son;  
Who, with the Holy Ghost and thee,  
Doth live and reign eternally. Amen.

## The Word of God

### Psalmody

#### Psalm 16

**The Lord is at my right hand; I shall not fall.**

- 1      Preserve me, O God, for in you have I taken refuge; •  
I have said to the Lord, 'You are my lord, all my good depends on you.'
- 2      All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, •  
upon those who are noble in heart.
- 3      Though the idols are legion that many run after,  
their drink offerings of blood I will not offer, •  
neither make mention of their names upon my lips.

- 4 The Lord himself is my portion and my cup; •  
in your hands alone is my fortune.
- 5 My share has fallen in a fair land; •  
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.
- 6 I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel, •  
and in the night watches he instructs my heart.
- 7 I have set the Lord always before me; •  
he is at my right hand; I shall not fall.
- 8 Wherefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices; •  
my flesh also shall rest secure.
- 9 For you will not abandon my soul to Death, •  
nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.
- 10 You will show me the path of life; in your presence is the fullness of joy •  
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

**The Lord is at my right hand; I shall not fall.**

*Give to us, Lord Christ, the fullness of grace,  
your presence and your very self,  
for you are our portion and our delight, now and for ever.*

**Glory to the Father, and to the son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen**

### **Scripture Reading - Mathew 18: 1 - 7**

The disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world because of stumbling blocks! Occasions for stumbling are bound to come, but woe to the one by whom the stumbling block comes!"

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ**

### **Responsory**

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.  
**Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.  
**I commend my spirit.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.  
**Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

Keep me as the apple of your eye.  
**Hide me under the shadow of your wings.**

**Gospel Canticle (Luke 2.29-32)**

*The Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon) is said:*

**Alleluia. Christ the Light of the world, alleluia,  
Has manifested his glory. Alleluia, alleluia.**

- 1 Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:  
your word has been fulfilled.
- 2 My own eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;
- 3 A light to reveal you to the nations  
and the glory of your people Israel.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Alleluia. Christ the Light of the world, alleluia,  
Has manifested his glory. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Prayers**

*Intercessions and thanksgivings are offered here.*

**The Collect for the Feast Day of St Agnes**

Eternal God, Shepherd of your sheep,  
whose child Agnes was strengthened to bear witness  
in her living and her dying  
to the true love of her Redeemer:  
grant us the power to understand, with all your saints,  
what is the breadth and length and height and depth  
and to know the love that surpasses knowledge,  
even Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray,  
and drive far from it the snares of the enemy;  
may your holy angels dwell with us and guard us in peace,  
and may your blessing be always upon us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer is said:

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.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.

The Conclusion

In peace we will lie down and sleep;  
for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.

Abide with us, Lord Jesus,  
for the night is at hand and the day is now past.

As the night watch looks for the morning,  
so do we look for you, O Christ.

The Lord bless you and watch over you;  
the Lord make his face shine upon you  
and be gracious to you;  
the Lord look kindly on you and give you peace.  
And the blessing of God Almighty,  
the +Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be with you now and remain with you always. Amen.

+May the souls of the faithful,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.