



EVENING MEDITATION

HYMN: #98 *Jesus, I Will Ponder Now* verses 1-4

RESPONSES

(L)eader: Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.

(C)ongregation: Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Luke 24:29; Matthew 28:20

L: Your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.

C: The LORD will guide you always.

Isaiah 58:10,11

L: Your sun will never set again, and your moon will wane no more;

C: the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your days of sorrow will end.

Isaiah 60:20

L: On no day will the gates of the Holy City ever be shut,

C: for there will be no night there.

Revelation 21:25

PSALM 103

- ¹ Praise the LORD, O my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
- ² Praise the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits—
- ³ who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,
- ⁴ who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,
- ⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- ⁶ The LORD works righteousness
and justice for all the oppressed.
- ⁷ He made known his ways to Moses,
his deeds to the people of Israel:
- ⁸ The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
- ⁹ He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;
- ¹⁰ he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.
- ¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;
- ¹² as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.
- ¹³ As a father has compassion on his children,
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear
him;
- ¹⁴ for he knows how we are formed,
he remembers that we are dust.
- ¹⁵ As for man, his days are like grass,
he flourishes like a flower of the field;
- ¹⁶ the wind blows over it and it is gone,
and its place remembers it no more.
- ¹⁷ But from everlasting to everlasting
the LORD's love is with those who fear him,
and his righteousness with their children's
children—
- ¹⁸ with those who keep his covenant
and remember to obey his precepts.
- ¹⁹ The LORD has established his throne in heaven,
and his kingdom rules over all.
- ²⁰ Praise the LORD, you his angels,
you mighty ones who do his bidding,
who obey his word.
- ²¹ Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts,
you his servants who do his will.
- ²² Praise the LORD, all his works
everywhere in his dominion.
Praise the LORD, O my soul.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Thoughts for Meditation:

- What guilt have you carried with you this evening? What sins need repenting of?
- Underline every phrase that speaks of God's grace and its results (forgiveness, redemption, etc.) Which is the most comforting to you? Why?
- How will your soul "Praise the Lord" tonight? ...tomorrow?

READING: A Meditation on Christ's Passion (1519) - Part 1

M. Luther

Devotional Thoughts:

- Have you every felt pity for Christ and his sufferings? Why isn't this really meditating on his Passion?
- As we contemplate and view Christ's passion, why must our hearts be filled with terror?
- What point did Luther and St. Bernard come to realize as they viewed Christ's Passion? (What do we see in Christ's suffering and death? (cf. footnote 17 for help))
- What is the main benefit of contemplating and meditating on Christ's Passion?
- When we see our sin and the role we played in Christ's Passion, why is Psalm 103 a good place to end up at?

CONFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN: #103 *Glory Be To Jesus*

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

C: In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

BLESSING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (†), and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

2 Corinthians 13:14

C: Amen.

HYMN: #593 Now The Light has Gone Away

*"In the evening when you go to bed, make the sign of the holy cross and say, 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.'" (*The Small Catechism*)