

Lenten Evening Prayer

in the style of *Taizé*
Ecumenical
Community



*Grace Lutheran Church
3830 Gomer Street
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598*

5 Spiritual Fruits - Joy

Reading

Joy and Sorrow

Joy and Sorrow

Your joy is your sorrow unmasked.

And the selfsame well from which your laughter rises was often times filled with your tears.

And how else can it be?

The deeper that sorrow carves into your being, the more joy you can contain.

Is not the cup that holds your wine the very cup that was burned in the potter's oven?

And is not the lute that soothes your spirit, the very wood that was hollowed with knives?

When you are joyous, look deep into your heart and you shall find it is only that which has given you sorrow that is giving you joy.

When you are sorrowful look again in your heart, and you shall see that in truth you are weeping for that which has been your delight.

Some of you say, "Joy is greater than sorrow," and others say, "Nay, sorrow is the greater."

But I say unto you, they are inseparable.

Together they come, and when one sits, alone with you at your board, remember that the other is asleep upon your bed.

Verily you are suspended like scales between your sorrow and your joy.

Only when you are empty are you at standstill and balanced.

When the treasure-keeper lifts you to weigh his gold and his silver, needs must your joy or your sorrow rise or fall.

— Khalil Gibran

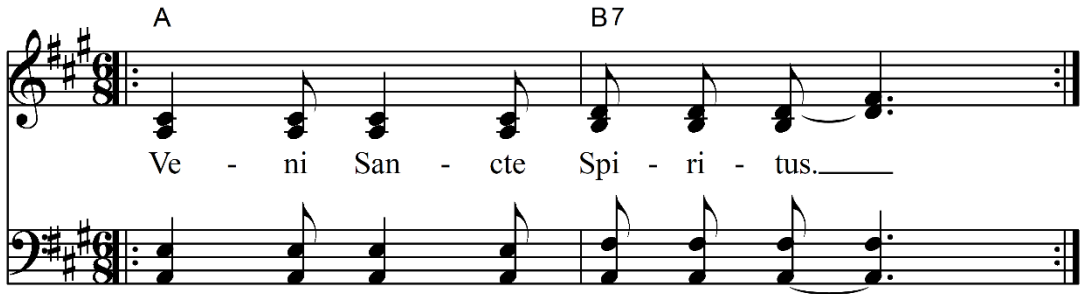
Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

Veni Sancte Spiritus

The congregation will sing the refrain continually while the cantor sings the verses.



Cantor Verses

Come, Holy Spirit, from heaven shine forth with your glorious light.

Veni Sancte Spiritus

*Come, Father of the poor, come,
generous Spirit, come, light of our hearts.*

Veni Sancte Spiritus

*Come from the four winds, O Spirit,
come breath of God; disperse the shadows over us, renew and
strengthen your people.*

Veni Sancte Spiritus

*Most kindly warming light!
Enter the inmost depths of our hearts, for we are faithful to you.
Without your presence we have nothing worthy, nothing pure.*

Veni Sancte Spiritus

*You are only comforter, Peace of the soul.
In the heat you shade us; in our labour you refresh us,
and in trouble you are our strength.*

Veni Sancte Spiritus

*On all who put their trust in you and receive you in faith,
shower all your gifts.
Grant that they may grow in you and persevere to the end.
Give them lasting joy! Veni Sancte Spiritus*

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

C: Father, in the diverse experience of all our emotions, you have given richness to life. As your word teaches, there is a time to mourn and a time to dance, times for sorrow and times for joy. May our sorrows move us to compassion and may our joys lift the weight of living. In these days, we pray especially for you to bring the gift of joy in the midst of our anxiety and boredom, in the midst of our grief and longing. Let us know your presence in this night, that we will rejoice in hope and rest in comfort. In the name of the one whose coming brought great joy to heaven and whose return will bring great joy to earth, Jesus the Christ, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading – The Fruits of the Spirit

Galatians 5

It is for Freedom that Christ has set us free. Therefore, stand firm! Do not be subjected again to a yoke of slavery. . .

You were called to Freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for doing what is opposed to your new life in Christ. In other words, do not see your freedom as an opportunity to return to a life in the “Flesh” when Christ has given you the freedom of a life in the “Spirit” – a “Spiritual Life.” Instead, through the Wholistic Love you have experiences in Christ, serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word - "You will love your neighbor as yourself." If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

Instead, I say, walk about in the “Spirit” and do not give freedom to the passions of the old life in of the “Flesh.” For what life in the “Flesh” is passionate for is in opposition to life in the “Spirit,” and the life in the “Spirit” is in opposition to the life in the “Flesh;” for you cannot life in “Spirit” and in the “Flesh” simultaneously. If you try that, you are not able to do what you want. . .

The works of the “Flesh” are clearly evident. They are whatever is: an illicit relationship, corrupt, over-indulgent, idolatry, sorcery, unresolved

division, strife, jealousy, wrath, competitiveness, antagonism, sectarianism, envy, alcoholism, a raucous hedonistic celebration of over-indulgent values, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before, anyone doing such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

But, the fruit of the “Spirit” is wholistic love, great joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faith, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the “Flesh” with its sufferings and drives. If we live by the “Spirit,” let us be in the ranks of the Spirit. Let us not become boastful, competing against one another, envying one another.

Silence

Confession & Kyrie

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

C: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

Refrain Sung 3x by Congregation

The musical notation is for a two-part setting of the Kyrie refrain. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. Above the treble staff, the chords G, C, am, D, bm, em, am, D, and G are written. The lyrics "Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son." are written below the notes. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

Cantor Verses

- 1. Lord Jesus Christ, you were sent to heal the contrite, have mercy on us.*
- 2. Lord Jesus Christ, you came to call all sinners, have mercy on us.*
- 3. Lord Jesus Christ, you intercede for us, have mercy on us.*

Reading

Luke 2

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were afraid with a great fear.

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born today in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly army, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this word that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

So, they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary preserved all these words by pondering them in her heart.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Silence

Our Eyes are Turned

Em D G D Em C Am B

O - cu - li nos - tri ad Do - mi - num Je - sum,
Our eyes are turned to the Lord Je - sus Christ.—

Em D G D Em C Am⁶ B Em

o - cu - li nos - tri ad Do - mi - num nos - trum.
Our eyes are turned to the Lord God, our Sav - ior.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems. The first system has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second system continues the melody and bass line, with the lyrics continuing below. The chords are indicated above the notes: Em, D, G, D, Em, C, Am, B in the first system, and Em, D, G, D, Em, C, Am⁶, B, Em in the second system. The lyrics are: 'O - cu - li nos - tri ad Do - mi - num Je - sum, Our eyes are turned to the Lord Je - sus Christ.—' in the first system, and 'o - cu - li nos - tri ad Do - mi - num nos - trum. Our eyes are turned to the Lord God, our Sav - ior.' in the second system.

Meditation on Patience

Joy is something different than happiness. Happiness had an enduring quality that lingers which joy does not. Joy is more spontaneous and immediate, an involuntary reaction to something that betrays a lack of control on the moment - like the brilliant laugh of a young child. Joy erupts and consumes and then fades, perhaps back to happiness or contentment, but it is peak which is only visited for a short time. But joy is the joy of life which brings a healing that overcomes broken relationships, pushes back the darkness of depression, clears the cluttered or anxious mind, lifts the heavy heart. In the Bible joy is talked about most in the Psalms. And there we find the God and God's love and forgiveness, goodness and grace brings us joy. But we also read that our devotion, our love and forgiveness, our goodness and grace bring joy to God. And the joy of God does indeed bring the joy of life to us.

em

By the

am D

riv - - - ers of Ba-by-lon there we sat

em

and we wept. There we hung up our

am D em

har ps re - mem - - ber-ing home.

G am

It was there that they ask-ed us our

em am B7rit.

cap - tors for son - gs for joy. Oh,

em am em

how could we si - ng of the Lord on

am em Fine

a - li - en soil.

Cantor: If I forget you Jerusalem, let my righthand wither, my tongue cleave to my mouth, if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys. Antiphon

Prayers from the Taizé Community . . .

P : Jesus our hope, in you we find the consolation with which God comes to flood our lives, and we understand that, in prayer, we can bring everything to you, entrust everything to you.

P : Jesus our peace, by your Gospel you call us to be very simple, very humble. You cause to grow within us an infinite gratitude for your constant presence in our lives.

P : God of consolation, even when we feel nothing of your presence, still, you are there. Your presence is invisible, but your Holy Spirit is always within us.

P : Holy Spirit, you have a call for everyone one of us. So come, prepare our hearts to discover what it is that you expect of each of us.

P : God of compassion, disconcerted by the incomprehensible suffering of the innocent, we pray for those who are experiencing times of trial. Inspire the hearts of those who seek the peace that is so indispensable for the whole human family.

P : God of consolation, you burden yourself with our burdens, so that we can move forward at every moment, from anxiety toward trust, from shadows toward light.

C: Gracious Lord, we give you thanks for the day, especially for the good we were permitted to give and to receive; the day is now past and we commit it to you. We entrust to you the night; we rest in surety, for you are our help, and you neither slumber nor sleep.

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

C: 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory now and forever. Amen.

Stay with Us

g m Eb7 c m a dim7 D g m dm7 Eb7

p Stay with us O Lord Je - sus Christ: night will soon

4 dm dm g m E m c m g m7 F Bb

fall. *mf* Then stay with us O Lord Je - sus Christ: *f*

7 c m Bb F g m D

light in our dark - ness. *p*

*Worshippers may remain in meditation as desired. Please
leave in silence when you choose to do so.*

