

Evening Prayer

Louise de Marillac

March 15, 2015*

(*Due to date falling on the 4th Sunday in Lent, please choose an alternate date to pray this Evening Prayer.)



Call To Prayer

Take a few moments to reflect quietly on Louise de Marillac, a woman of deep faith, many facets and possibilities. Imagine her present in this room ~

- ✚ What is the Spirit calling forth from us as women of Charity on this Feast of Saint Louise?

Opening Hymn Suggestions

- "Christ Be Our Light" by Bernadette Farrell
- "God Has Chosen Me" by Bernadette Farrell
- "Led by the Spirit" by Kingsfold
- "Servant Song" or "Mission Song" by Rory Cooney
- "Transfigure Us, O Lord" by Bob Hurd

Psalmody

Antiphon 1

"I have no doubt that your dear hearts beat in close union and that you share with one another what you are doing...I believe, my dear Sister, that your mutual support causes you to feel the effects of divine consolation." (Spiritual Writings of St. Louise, p. 510)

Psalm 94

O Heart of Pure Fire, You who cleanse and refine us,
Compassionate One, shine forth!

In your mercy, rise up and awaken those who still sleep.
O Heart of all hearts, break open the hearts of your people,
That we might hear and heed your Word.

The Beloved who created the ear, hears us!
The Beloved who formed the eye, sees us!
Where does knowledge come from, but the Heart of our heart.

Blessed are those whose burdens have been lifted,
Who are able to respond with love.
For the Beloved walks with them and speaks to them in the silence.

With mercy and compassion, they are held in Love's heart;
All who are at one with Love will live in peace and harmony.

Who will stand with Love and act with justice?
Who will speak out to silence the oppressors?
Had the Beloved not come to my rescue,
My soul would still dwell in the land of darkness.

Yet the Beloved is a stronghold, the Comforter, the refuge of my soul.
The statutes of Truth are certain, and the awakening, a promise
To be fulfilled. Who will be ready for the new dawn? ([Psalms For Praying](#) by Nan Merrill)

Glory...

Antiphon 2

"God, who has granted me so many graces, led me to understand that it was His holy will that I go to Him by way of the Cross. His goodness chose to mark me with it from my birth and He has hardly ever left me, at any age, without some occasion of suffering..." ([Spiritual Writings of St. Louise](#), p. 711)

Canticle

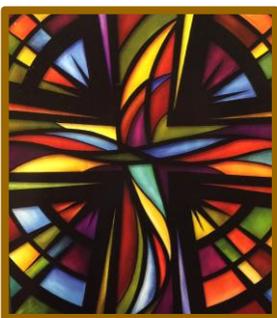
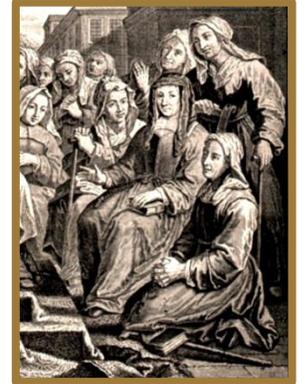
Philippians 2: 6-11

Though in the form of God Jesus did not claim equality with God but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, human like one of us.

Flesh and blood, he humbled himself, obeying to the death, death on a cross. For this very reason God lifted him high and gave him the name above all names.

So at the name of Jesus every knee will bend in heaven, on earth, and in the world below, and every tongue exclaim to the glory of God the Father, "Jesus Christ is Lord."

Glory...



Scripture

Corinthians: 12:4-13, 18, 21, 24b

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who animates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues. All of these are animated by the one and the same Spirit.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free - and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

But as it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of you, nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.' But God has so arranged the body, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another.

Response

Reflect together ~

 *What is the Spirit calling forth from us as women of Charity on this Feast of Saint Louise?*



Antiphon, Canticle of Mary

"We should pray to Mary every day to help us render to God the service which we promised him and to do his holy will, with the same submission which Mary had, to the will of God." (Spiritual Writings of St. Louise, p. 786)

Magnificat



My soul proclaims the presence of God, and my spirit exults in God, my ransom from lowliness. This day and all days I am blessed, because you, Almighty, have worked miracles in me. Holy is your name.

Your forbearance is unending, for those who trust in you. You pluck the wealthy from their perches; you tumble tyrants from their thrones.

But you lift the lowly to their feet and fill all emptiness, while the sated are sent empty away. Holy is your name!

Glory...

Intercessions

Grace filled Louise de Marillac with peace and courage. This same creative Spirit lives in our midst and daily invites us to love and serve more deeply. In communion with Saint Louise, we pray:

- ✚ Spirit of Wisdom, Louise transformed adversity into unwavering zeal for mission to the most abandoned,
--- give us the courage to embrace our poverty as a meeting place with those who live in poverty.
- ✚ Spirit of Service, Louise inspired us to be women of compassion,
--- help us to grow in selflessness, zeal, and mercy.
- ✚ Spirit of Unity, Louise modeled untiring collaboration in service to those in need,
--- may the Sisters of Charity Federation continue to deepen its spirit of collaboration now and in the future.
- ✚ Please offer other intentions for people you are currently serving in ministry...

The Lord's Prayer

Closing Prayer

Loving and compassionate God, we celebrate with great joy the feast of St. Louise de Marillac. Instill in us the fire of her love, the tenacity of her belief, and the tenderness of her care for the most abandoned. Draw us together into the light of your presence and help us to trust in the power of your Spirit, leading us ever closer to you, who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.