



# EVENING PRAYER DEVOTIONAL

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2020

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*Readings: Psalm 65, 67; Proverbs 24:1-14, 23-34; Ephesians 5:18-end*

A viral video circulating the web shows people in their homes playing various instruments by their windows. Others with instruments start to join in. Another video shows an old black and white movie projected on an apartment building in Italy. The video zooms in on an older couple dancing to the song, "Dancing Cheek to Cheek." It is astounding what music can do for the soul when faced with such dire circumstances. In many respects, it transports us out of our situation if but for a moment. Truly, a grace for our time.

The beginning of our passage, aside from drinking too much, is about music. I am drawn towards how Paul exhorts the church. He says, "*addressing* one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ." The word *addressing* stands out to me. We approach one another with the grace of music. But it is not just any music, but music that makes melody to the Lord with our hearts.

Another video came from the Christian organization "1517." They put together resources, conferences, and speakers who all have particular interest with the theological and pastoral implications of the Reformation. Their video involved their staff and families singing the classic hymn, "Abide with me." It was a blend of people who were gifted, and clearly not so gifted at singing. And it was beautiful. Some were louder, softer, and many were off key but you could sense the Lord was in their midst. Watching them sing such a powerful hymn, you could visibly see thankful hearts to the Lord and a reverence for Christ.

I would encourage you to check out this website:  
<https://acnamusicresources.com/>

This was put together by Mark Williams to be a major resource of music for the ACNA. You will find videos, articles, and resources where you can make melody to the Lord. I will admit it: I really miss singing with my church. I miss addressing each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. We will come together again to sing, and what a glorious Sunday it will be! But even in our absence from one another, we will all one day together sing to the Lamb upon the throne: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Baptized child of the Triune God, rest easy on your pillows tonight. Amen.

- Fr. Joe

