

EPICLESIS VIRTUAL CHAPTER HOUSE

Prayer and Eucharist, Thursday, June 19, 2025

Celtic Daily Prayer Book 1, Aidan Readings, June 19

Psalm 25:8-15 † Deuteronomy 6:10-25 † Luke 23:34

Daily Reading

Background: Corrie ten Boom's family harbored Jews in their home in Holland during WWII. The Gestapo exacted a terrible price. Corrie lost her sister Betsy in Ravensbrück but survived it herself and dedicated her life to witnessing for Christ by conducting meetings in which she gave her testimony and by writing several books about her experiences. Eventually a movie was made called "The Hiding Place."

After [one of her testimony meetings in Germany] as people left the church, Corrie noticed a balding, heavy-set man in a gray overcoat making his way toward her as she stepped off the platform. As he drew closer, her blood ran cold, for she instantly recognized him as one of the cruel, wicked guards from Ravensbrück where both she and Betsy had been so inhumanely treated. Now this guard stood before her with an outstretched hand.

The man began to speak to Corrie. "A fine message, Fraulein! How good it is to now that, as you say, all our sins are at the bottom of the sea. You mentioned Ravensbrück in your talk. Well, I was a guard there." It was obvious to Corrie that he had not recognized her. But she had never forgotten his face. The man continued: "You know, since that time I have found Christ as my Savior, and I know that He has forgiven me for all the terrible things I did. However, I would like to hear you say it too, Fraulein." Again he reached out his hand. "Will you forgive me too?"

Meditation

Corrie stood, looking into the face of her former tormentor, a man responsible for the death of her sister. She recoiled in anger and contempt as the terrible memories came flooding back. Hatred welled up within her. How could she forgive this man? She held her own hand behind her back as she wrestled with the awful contradictions raging inside her. Love and forgiveness had been her message to others. But right now it seemed impossible to practice it herself. One of her favorite sayings was: "Forgiveness is not an emotion; it is an act of the will." Poor Corrie, her emotions had failed her. All that remained now was her will.

Silently, she lifted up a prayer to heaven. "Jesus, please help me. I can stretch out my hand. I can do that much. You supply the feeling." Awkwardly, hesitatingly, she reached out her hand. Suddenly her prayer was answered, for immediately her heart was filled with the love of God for this man. "I forgive you, my brother!" she cried. "With all my heart I forgive you, too."