

The Lessons Appointed for the Feast of
Damien, Priest, 1889 and Marianne Cope, Monastic, 1918
of Hawaii
April 15

Preface of a Saint (1)



Damien and Marianne of Molokai

The Collect

Bind up the wounds of your children, O God, and help us to be bold and loving in service to all who are shunned for the diseases they suffer, following the example of your servants Damien and Marianne, that your grace may be poured forth upon all; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Old Testament

Isaiah 57:14-19

It shall be said,

“Build up, build up, prepare the way,
remove every obstruction from my people’s way.”

For thus says the high and lofty one

who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:

I dwell in the high and holy place,

and also with those who are contrite and humble in spirit,

to revive the spirit of the humble,

and to revive the heart of the contrite.

For I will not continually accuse,

nor will I always be angry;

for then the spirits would grow faint before me,

even the souls that I have made.

Because of their wicked covetousness I was angry;

I struck them, I hid and was angry;

but they kept turning back to their own ways.

I have seen their ways, but I will heal them;

I will lead them and repay them with comfort,

creating for their mourners the fruit of the lips.

Peace, peace, to the far and the near, says the LORD;

and I will heal them.

Psalm 103:13-22 *Benedic, anima mea*

- 13 As a father cares for his children, *
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.
- 14 For he himself knows whereof we are made; *
he remembers that we are but dust.
- 15 Our days are like the grass; *
we flourish like a flower of the field;
- 16 When the wind goes over it, it is gone, *
and its place shall know it no more.
- 17 But the merciful goodness of the LORD endures for ever on those who fear him, *
and his righteousness on children's children;
- 18 On those who keep his covenant *
and remember his commandments and do them.
- 19 The LORD has set his throne in heaven, *
and his kingship has dominion over all.
- 20 Bless the LORD, you angels of his, you mighty ones who do his bidding, *
and hearken to the voice of his word.
- 21 Bless the LORD, all you his hosts, *
you ministers of his who do his will.
- 22 Bless the LORD, all you works of his, in all places of his dominion; *
bless the LORD, O my soul.

The Gospel

Matthew 11:1-6

When Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and proclaim his message in their cities.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

Litany for Eastertide

by Fran Pratt

God, we are caught up in fears

Of things known and unknown

As the disciples huddled in a house, fearful after Christ's death

So we tend to lock our doors.

We forget that when we lock our doors, nothing can enter

Neither the bad nor the good.

But Perfect Love doesn't need a door -

Christ has appeared among us, even so!

Into our darkest, most fearful places

Jesus has walked right in!

Into our most doubtful moments

Jesus has spoken Peace. (1)

We saw in his wounds, the evidence of death and pain upon him,

Our worst fears realized in his flesh.

What we learned is that our worst fears are not the end:

Life has overcome death;

Joy has overcome pain;

Love has overcome fear. (2)

The one who went before us, straight into the heart of darkness --

The Risen Christ has overcome the world. (3)

Breathe upon us, Lord Christ:

The breath of hope and peace,

The breath of Perfect Love,

The breath of the Spirit of God. (4) Amen