

Unrated tros (Tavros #1) Hello, Good morning, and welcome to 'Morning Prayers' - a few minutes for you to pause, reflect a bit, and pray in meditation, contemplation or simply listening to something different from the rest of your day and its busyness and anxieties. Maybe, to drop your mask, privately, for a little while. For many people do wear a public mask, a face they show to others, which may not be the real them. The serious problem arises when people's masks become so much part of themselves that they've forgotten or suppressed their real selves & feelings. "Face" is very important: so is knowing what face is the real you. Modern western society is full of veneers, of one kind or another: pretences and pretensions, hyperbole and hypocrisy, deceit and double-speak. "Political correctness" - that's one of the latest phrases that describes the process of putting on masks and keeping them in place: the Emperor's new clothes (i.e. the old fairy tale) were very politically correct. What fools we make of ourselves! People not wanting to drive a certain kind of car, but they be thought to be mere chauffeurs: people paying millions for a painting by an "in" artist, when they wouldn't have recognised it in the street or given a tiny fraction of the sum to the scruffy struggling artist even if they had. In UK it may be less easy to accept that it's not what or how much a person has or who they are in public, that gives some their real "worth": our values, publicly, are not a little twisted. So, whoever you are, whatever "face" you may have to uphold in public, before others, do give yourself space & time to be your

own self, the person whose dignity comes from the humanity you share with everyone else, and from the gifts & talents and grace that's given to you from the hand of God. Your uniqueness is that God loves you and ^{wants you to be} (in the words of the bible) a temple in which God lives, a temple which is at the same time one of the living stones of which the greater temple of redeemed humanity is made. | Later I want to share with you something from a strong sermon by St John Chrysostom one of the early Greek fathers of the church, about both adorning the temple and recognising Christ in others: but for now, this hymn

QQ. Brev. Hymn 40
(1771*)

Let JC praise
#10 3:05

And a hymn sung this time. "Fill thou my life, O Lord my God"

MUSIC - PRAYER (Oxf
411
892)

And to finish this morning, these thoughts from the "golden mouth" of a famous bishop of Constantinople ^{John} whose eloquence gave him that name, golden mouth. Chrysostom:

QQ. Brev. Sab 21 p 480