

Vespers for Wednesday after the Fourth Sunday of Easter

Opening Sentence

Yours is the day, O God, yours also the night; you established the moon and the sun. You fixed all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter. *Psalm 74:15,16*

The Invitatory and Psalter

V: O God, make speed to save us.

R: O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Alleluia

O Gracious Light *Phos hilaron*

O gracious Light,
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold the vesper light,
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of life,
and to be glorified through all the worlds.

The Psalm or Psalms Appointed

Psalm 116 *Dilexi, quoniam*

You have freed me from my bonds, O Lord: I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving, hallelujah.

¹ I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

² The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the grave took hold of me; *
I came to grief and sorrow.

³ Then I called upon the Name of the LORD: *
"O LORD, I pray you, save my life."

⁴ Gracious is the LORD and righteous; *
our God is full of compassion.

⁵ The LORD watches over the innocent; *

I was brought very low, and he helped me.

⁶ Turn again to your rest, O my soul. *

for the LORD has treated you well.

⁷ For you have rescued my life from death, *

my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.

⁸ I will walk in the presence of the LORD *

in the land of the living.

⁹ I believed, even when I said, "I have been brought very low." *

In my distress I said, "No one can be trusted."

¹⁰ How shall I repay the LORD *

for all the good things he has done for me?

¹¹ I will lift up the cup of salvation *

and call upon the Name of the LORD.

¹² I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *

in the presence of all his people.

¹³ Precious in the sight of the LORD *

is the death of his servants.

¹⁴ O LORD, I am your servant; *

I am your servant and the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

¹⁵ I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *

and call upon the Name of the LORD.

¹⁶ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *

in the presence of all his people,

¹⁷ In the courts of the LORD'S house, *

in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

You have freed me from my bonds, O Lord: I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving, hallelujah.

Psalm 98 *Cantate Domino*

All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God, hallelujah.

¹ Sing to the LORD a new song, *

for he has done marvelous things.

² With his right hand and his holy arm *

has he won for himself the victory.

³ The LORD has made known his victory; *

his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

⁴ He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *

and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁵ Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; *

lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

⁶ Sing to the LORD with the harp, *

with the harp and the voice of song.

⁷ With trumpets and the sound of the horn *

shout with joy before the King, the LORD.

⁸ Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *

the lands and those who dwell therein.

⁹ Let the rivers clap their hands, *

and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, when he comes to judge the earth.

¹⁰ In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God, hallelujah.

Psalm 120 Ad Dominum

Peace I give you, my peace I give to you, hallelujah.

¹ When I was in trouble, I called to the LORD; *
I called to the LORD, and he answered me.

² Deliver me, O LORD, from lying lips *
and from the deceitful tongue.

³ What shall be done to you, and what more besides, *
O you deceitful tongue?

⁴ The sharpened arrows of a warrior, *
along with hot glowing coals.

⁵ How hateful it is that I must lodge in Meshech *
and dwell among the tents of Kedar!

⁶ Too long have I had to live *
among the enemies of peace.

⁷ I am on the side of peace, *
but when I speak of it, they are for war.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Peace I give you, my peace I give to you, hallelujah.

The Lessons

A reading from Matthew 5:17-20 (NRSV)

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Here ends the Reading.

You have come to trust in God through Jesus who was raised from the dead and given glory, and so your faith and hope are fixed on God, hallelujah.

The Song of Mary Magnificat

Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

You have come to trust in God through Jesus who was raised from the dead and given glory, and so your faith and hope are fixed on God, hallelujah.

The Prayers

V: The Lord be with you.

R: *And also with you.*

Let us pray.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Suffrages B

That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may depart this life in your faith and fear,
and not be condemned before the great judgment seat of Christ,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in
the communion of [the glorious and ever-blessed Virgin Mary,
St. Michael the Defender, _____ and] all your saints,
entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,
We entreat you, O Lord.

Collect of the Day

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people; Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A Collect for Protection

O God, the life of all who live, the light of the faithful, the strength of those who labor, and the repose of the dead: We thank you for the blessings of the day that is past, and humbly ask for your protection through the coming night. Bring us in safety to the morning hours; through him who died and rose again for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Prayer for Mission

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. *Amen.*

[\[Include authorized intercessions or thanksgivings--opens new window\]](#)

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Amen. Ephesians 3:20*

Regina Caeli

V: O Queen of heaven, be joyful : *Alleluia*

R: For he who was born of your body : *Alleluia*

V: Has arisen as he promised : *Alleluia*

R: Pray for us to the Father : *Alleluia*

V: Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, Alleluia.

R: *For the Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia.*

Let us pray:

O God, who by the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ gave gladness to the world: Grant, we pray, that we, aided by the prayers of the Virgin Mary his mother, may attain to the joys of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*