

Vespers for Thursday after the Fifth Sunday of Easter

Opening Sentence

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me, night after night. I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not fall. *Psalms 16:7,8*

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 9 *Confitebor tibi*

The LORD is enthroned for ever; he has set up his throne for judgment, hallelujah.

¹ I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart; *
I will tell of all your marvelous works.

² I will be glad and rejoice in you; *
I will sing to your Name, O Most High.

³ When my enemies are driven back, *
they will stumble and perish at your presence.

⁴ For you have maintained my right and my cause; *
you sit upon your throne judging right.
⁵ You have rebuked the ungodly and destroyed the wicked; *
you have blotted out their name for ever and ever.
⁶ As for the enemy, they are finished, in perpetual ruin, *
their cities plowed under, the memory of them perished;
⁷ But the LORD is enthroned for ever; *
he has set up his throne for judgment.
⁸ It is he who rules the world with righteousness; *
he judges the peoples with equity.
⁹ The LORD will be a refuge for the oppressed, *
a refuge in time of trouble.
¹⁰ Those who know your Name will put their trust in you, *
for you never forsake those who seek you, O LORD.

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.

The LORD is enthroned for ever; he has set up his throne for judgment, hallelujah.

Psalm 9 (cont.)

I will tell of all your praises in the gates of the city of Zion, hallelujah.

¹¹ Sing praise to the LORD who dwells in Zion; *
proclaim to the peoples the things he has done.
¹² The Avenger of blood will remember them; *
he will not forget the cry of the afflicted.
¹³ Have pity on me, O LORD; *
see the misery I suffer from those who hate me, O you who lift me up from the gate of death;
¹⁴ So that I may tell of all your praises and rejoice in your salvation *
in the gates of the city of Zion.
¹⁵ The ungodly have fallen into the pit they dug, *
and in the snare they set is their own foot caught.
¹⁶ The LORD is known by his acts of justice; *
the wicked are trapped in the works of their own hands.
¹⁷ The wicked shall be given over to the grave, *
and also all the people that forget God.
¹⁸ For the needy shall not always be forgotten, *
and the hope of the poor shall not perish for ever.
¹⁹ Rise up, O LORD, let not the ungodly have the upper hand; *
let them be judged before you.
²⁰ Put fear upon them, O LORD; *
let the ungodly know they are but mortal.

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.

I will tell of all your praises in the gates of the city of Zion, hallelujah.

Psalm 129 *Sæpe expugnaverunt*

I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, hallelujah.

¹ Greatly have they oppressed me since my youth, *
let Israel now say;
² Greatly have they oppressed me since my youth", *
but they have not prevailed against me."
³ The plowmen plowed upon my back *
and made their furrows long.
⁴ The LORD, the Righteous One, *
has cut the cords of the wicked.
⁵ Let them be put to shame and thrown back, *
all those who are enemies of Zion.
⁶ Let them be like grass upon the housetops, *
which withers before it can be plucked;
⁷ Which does not fill the hand of the reaper, *
nor the bosom of him who binds the sheaves;
⁸ So that those who go by say not so much as, "The LORD prosper you. *
We wish you well in the Name of the LORD."

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.

I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, hallelujah.

The Lessons

A reading from Matthew 6:25-34 (NRSV)

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you-- you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What

will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. "So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

Here ends the Reading.

Your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, your life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Christ in glory, 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.

Your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, your life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Christ in glory, 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 A

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

R. *And grant us your salvation.*

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

R. *Let your people sing with joy.*

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

R. *For only in you can we live in safety.*

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;

R. *And guide us in the way of justice and truth.*

V. Let your way be known upon earth;

R. *Your saving health among all nations.*

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

R. *Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.*

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

R. *And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.*

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A Prayer of Self-Dedication

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated unto you; and then use us, we pray you, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Prayer for Mission

O God and Father of all, whom the whole heavens adore: Let the whole earth also worship you, all nations obey you, all tongues confess and bless you, and men and women everywhere love you and serve you in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *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.*