

# Vespers for Eve of the Ascension

[Commemoration of Alcuin of York, Deacon, 804](#)

## 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 122 *Lætatus sum*

*May the peace of Christ fill your hearts with joy, hallelujah.*

<sup>1</sup> I was glad when they said to me, \*  
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."

<sup>2</sup> Now our feet are standing \*  
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup> Jerusalem is built as a city \*  
that is at unity with itself;

<sup>4</sup> To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, \*  
the assembly of Israel, to praise the Name of the LORD.

<sup>5</sup> For there are the thrones of judgment, \*  
the thrones of the house of David.

<sup>6</sup> Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: \*

"May they prosper who love you.

<sup>7</sup> Peace be within your walls \*  
and quietness within your towers.

<sup>8</sup> For my brethren and companions' sake, \*

I pray for your prosperity.

<sup>9</sup> Because of the house of the LORD our God, \*  
I will seek to do you good."

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.

*May the peace of Christ fill your hearts with joy, hallelujah.*

### **Psalm 123 *Ad te levavi oculos meos***

*The Lord will by your light for ever; your God will be your glory, hallelujah.*

<sup>1</sup> To you I lift up my eyes, \*

to you enthroned in the heavens.

<sup>2</sup> As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, \*  
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,

<sup>3</sup> So our eyes look to the LORD our God, \*  
until he show us his mercy.

<sup>4</sup> Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy, \*  
for we have had more than enough of contempt,

<sup>5</sup> Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, \*  
and of the derision of the proud.

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 will by your light for ever; your God will be your glory, hallelujah.*

### **Psalm 133 *Ecce, quam bonum!***

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers, hallelujah.*

<sup>1</sup> Oh, how good and pleasant it is, \*  
when brethren live together in unity!

<sup>2</sup> It is like fine oil upon the head \*  
that runs down upon the beard,

<sup>3</sup> Upon the beard of Aaron, \*  
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.

<sup>4</sup> It is like the dew of Hermon \*  
that falls upon the hills of Zion.

<sup>5</sup> For there the LORD has ordained the blessing: \*  
life for evermore.

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.

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers, hallelujah.*

## **The Lessons**

### **A reading from Revelation 5:1-14 (NRSV)**

Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals." Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sing a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth." Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, "To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshiped.

Here ends the Reading.

*Make fast with bonds of peace the unity the Spirit gives. There is one Body and one Spirit, 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.

*Make fast with bonds of peace the unity the Spirit gives. There is one Body and one Spirit, 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*

Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all  
things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abides with his Church on earth,  
even to the end of the ages; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

*Commemoration of Alcuin of York, Deacon, 804*

O teacher most excellent, \* O light of holy Church, lover of the divine law, intercede for us unto the Son of God

V. With my lips, I have been telling of all the judgements of your mouth.

R. I have had more delight in the way of your testimonies than in all manner of riches.

Almighty God, who raised up your servant Alcuin as a beacon of learning: Shine in our hearts, we pray that we may also show forth your praise in our own generation, for you have called us out of darkness and into your marvelous light; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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**

O Queen of heaven, be joyful : *Alleluia*  
For he who was born of your body : *Alleluia*  
Has arisen as he promised : *Alleluia*  
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.*