

Vespers for Wednesday after the Seventh 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 38 *Domine, ne in furore*

I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus, hallelujah.

¹ O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger; *
do not punish me in your wrath.

² For your arrows have already pierced me, *
and your hand presses hard upon me.

³ There is no health in my flesh, because of your indignation; *
there is no soundness in my body, because of my sin.

⁴ For my iniquities overwhelm me; *
like a heavy burden they are too much for me to bear.

⁵ My wounds stink and fester *

by reason of my foolishness.

⁶ I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; *

I go about in mourning all the day long.

⁷ My loins are filled with searing pain; *

there is no health in my body.

⁸ I am utterly numb and crushed; *

I wail, because of the groaning of my heart.

⁹ O Lord, you know all my desires, *

and my sighing is not hidden from you.

¹⁰ My heart is pounding, my strength has failed me, *

and the brightness of my eyes is gone from me.

¹¹ My friends and companions draw back from my affliction; *

my neighbors stand afar off.

¹² Those who seek after my life lay snares for me; *

those who strive to hurt me speak of my ruin and plot treachery all the day long.

¹³ But I am like the deaf who do not hear, *

like those who are mute and who do not open their mouth.

¹⁴ I have become like one who does not hear *

and from whose mouth comes no defense.

¹⁵ For in you, O LORD, have I fixed my hope; *

you will answer me, O Lord my God.

¹⁶ For I said, "Do not let them rejoice at my expense, *

those who gloat over me when my foot slips."

¹⁷ Truly, I am on the verge of falling, *

and my pain is always with me.

¹⁸ I will confess my iniquity *

and be sorry for my sin.

¹⁹ Those who are my enemies without cause are mighty, *

and many in number are those who wrongfully hate me.

²⁰ Those who repay evil for good slander me, *

because I follow the course that is right.

²¹ O LORD, do not forsake me; *

be not far from me, O my God.

²² Make haste to help me, *

O Lord of my salvation.

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 press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus, hallelujah.

Psalm 70 Deus, in adjutorium

God is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, hallelujah.

¹ Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; *

O LORD, make haste to help me.

² Let those who seek my life be ashamed and altogether dismayed; *

let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.

³ Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back, *

because they are ashamed.

⁴ Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; *
let those who love your salvation say for ever, "Great is the LORD!"

⁵ But as for me, I am poor and needy; *
come to me speedily, O God.

⁶ You are my helper and my deliverer; *
O LORD, do not tarry.

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.

God is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, hallelujah.

Psalm 56 Miserere mei, Deus

Let those who love your salvation say for ever, "Great is the LORD!" Hallelujah.

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, for my enemies are hounding me; *
all day long they assault and oppress me.

² They hound me all the day long; *
truly there are many who fight against me, O Most High.

³ Whenever I am afraid, *
I will put my trust in you.

⁴ In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust and will not be afraid, *
for what can flesh do to me?

⁵ All day long they damage my cause; *
their only thought is to do me evil.

⁶ They band together; they lie in wait; *
they spy upon my footsteps; because they seek my life.

⁷ Shall they escape despite their wickedness? *
O God, in your anger, cast down the peoples.

⁸ You have noted my lamentation; put my tears into your bottle; *
are they not recorded in your book?

⁹ Whenever I call upon you, my enemies will be put to flight; *
this I know, for God is on my side.

¹⁰ In God the LORD, whose word I praise, in God I trust and will not be afraid, *
for what can mortals do to me?

¹¹ I am bound by the vow I made to you, O God; *
I will present to you thank-offerings;

¹² For you have rescued my soul from death and my feet from stumbling, *
that I may walk before God in the light of the living.

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.

Let those who love your salvation say for ever, "Great is the LORD!" Hallelujah.

The Lessons

A reading from Matthew 8:28-34 (NRSV)

When he came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demoniacs coming out of the tombs met him. They were so fierce that no one could pass that way. Suddenly they shouted, "What have you to do with us, Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" Now a large herd of swine was feeding at some distance from them. The demons begged him, "If you cast us out, send us into the herd of swine." And he said to them, "Go!" So they came out and entered the swine; and suddenly, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and perished in the water. The swineherds ran off, and on going into the town, they told the whole story about what had happened to the demoniacs. Then the whole town came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighborhood.

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 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

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. 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.*