

Vespers for Thursday After Proper 4

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. *Psalm 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 128 *Beati omnes*

The Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life.

¹ Blessed are they all who fear the LORD, *
and who follow in his ways!

² You shall eat the fruit of your labor; *
happiness and prosperity shall be yours.

³ Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine within your house, *
your children like olive shoots round about your table.

⁴ The man who fears the LORD *

shall thus indeed be blessed.

⁵ The LORD bless you from Zion, *

and may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

⁶ May you live to see your children's children; *

may peace be upon Israel.

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 bless you from Zion all the days of your life.

Psalm 131 *Domine, non est*

Whoever humbles himself as a little child shall be great in the kingdom of heaven.

¹ O LORD, I am not proud; *

I have no haughty looks.

² I do not occupy myself with great matters, *

or with things that are too hard for me.

³ But I still my soul and make it quiet, like a child upon its mother's breast; *

my soul is quieted within me.

⁴ O Israel, wait upon the LORD, *

from this time forth 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.

Whoever humbles himself as a little child shall be great in the kingdom of heaven.

Psalm 132 *Memento, Domine*

The Lord has chosen Zion; he has desired her for his habitation.

¹ LORD, remember David, *

and all the hardships he endured;

² How he swore an oath to the LORD *

and vowed a vow to the Mighty One of Jacob:

³ I will not come under the roof of my house, *

nor climb up into my bed;

⁴ I will not allow my eyes to sleep, *

nor let my eyelids slumber;

⁵ Until I find a place for the LORD, *

a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob."

⁶ The ark! We heard it was in Ephratah; *
we found it in the fields of Jearim.

⁷ Let us go to God's dwelling place; *
let us fall upon our knees before his footstool."

⁸ Arise, O LORD, into your resting-place, *
you and the ark of your strength.

⁹ Let your priests be clothed with righteousness; *
let your faithful people sing with joy.

¹⁰ For your servant David's sake, *
do not turn away the face of your Anointed.

¹¹ The LORD has sworn an oath to David; *
in truth, he will not break it:

¹² A son, the fruit of your body *
will I set upon your throne.

¹³ If your children keep my covenant and my testimonies that I shall teach them, *
their children will sit upon your throne for evermore."

¹⁴ For the LORD has chosen Zion; *
he has desired her for his habitation:

¹⁵ This shall be my resting-place for ever; *
here will I dwell, for I delight in her.

¹⁶ I will surely bless her provisions, *
and satisfy her poor with bread.

¹⁷ I will clothe her priests with salvation, *
and her faithful people will rejoice and sing.

¹⁸ There will I make the horn of David flourish; *
I have prepared a lamp for my Anointed.

¹⁹ As for his enemies, I will clothe them with shame; *
but as for him, his crown will shine."

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 has chosen Zion; he has desired her for his habitation.

The Lessons

A reading from Matthew 14:13-21 (NRSV)

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the

crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Here ends the Reading.

God has fed the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

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.

God has fed the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

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, your never-failing providence sets in order all things both in heaven and earth: Put away from us, we entreat you, all hurtful things, and give us those things which are profitable for us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and 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.

Thanks be to God.

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*

The Angelus

V: The Angel of the Lord announced to Mary

R: *And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.*

V: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus

R: *Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

V: Behold the handmaid of the Lord

R: *Be it unto me according to your word*

V: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus

R: *Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

V: And the Word was made flesh.

R: *And dwelled among us.*

V: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus

R: *Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

V: Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R: *That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*

Let us pray:

Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord, that we who have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*