

# Matins for Saint Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

## *The Invitatory and Psalter*

V: Lord, open our lips.

R: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

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

## **Psalm 122** *Lætatus sum*

*The Lord is glorious in his saints: Come, let us adore him.*

<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;

*The Lord is glorious in his saints: Come, let us adore him.*

<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."

*The Lord is glorious in his saints: Come, let us adore him.*

<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.

*The Lord is glorious in his saints: Come, let us adore him.*

## *The Psalm or Psalms Appointed*

## **Psalm 62** *Nonne Deo?*

Steadfast love is yours, O Lord, hallelujah.

<sup>1</sup> For God alone my soul in silence waits; \*  
from him comes my salvation.

<sup>2</sup> He alone is my rock and my salvation, \*

my stronghold, so that I shall not be greatly shaken.

<sup>3</sup> How long will you assail me to crush me, all of you together, \*  
as if you were a leaning fence, a toppling wall?

<sup>4</sup> They seek only to bring me down from my place of honor; \*  
lies are their chief delight.

<sup>5</sup> They bless with their lips, \*  
but in their hearts they curse.

<sup>6</sup> For God alone my soul in silence waits; \*  
truly, my hope is in him.

<sup>7</sup> He alone is my rock and my salvation, \*  
my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken.

<sup>8</sup> In God is my safety and my honor; \*  
God is my strong rock and my refuge.

<sup>9</sup> Put your trust in him always, O people, \*  
pour out your hearts before him, for God is our refuge.

<sup>10</sup> Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath, \*  
even those of low estate cannot be trusted.

<sup>11</sup> On the scales they are lighter than a breath, \*  
all of them together.

<sup>12</sup> Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride; \*  
though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.

<sup>13</sup> God has spoken once, twice have I heard it, \*  
that power belongs to God.

<sup>14</sup> Steadfast love is yours, O Lord, \*  
for you repay everyone according to his deeds.

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.

*Steadfast love is yours, O Lord, hallelujah.*

## **Psalm 92 *Bonum est confiteri***

*The angels sing with psaltery and lyre to proclaim the mystery of your birth, hallelujah.*

<sup>1</sup> It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD, \*  
and to sing praises to your Name, O Most High;

<sup>2</sup> To tell of your loving-kindness early in the morning \*  
and of your faithfulness in the night season;

<sup>3</sup> On the psaltery, and on the lyre, \*  
and to the melody of the harp.

<sup>4</sup> For you have made me glad by your acts, O LORD; \*  
and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.

<sup>5</sup> LORD, how great are your works! \*  
your thoughts are very deep.

<sup>6</sup> The dullard does not know, nor does the fool understand, \*  
that though the wicked grow like weeds, and all the workers of iniquity flourish,

<sup>7</sup> They flourish only to be destroyed for ever; \*  
but you, O LORD, are exalted for evermore.

<sup>8</sup> For lo, your enemies, O LORD, lo, your enemies shall perish, \*  
and all the workers of iniquity shall be scattered.

<sup>9</sup> But my horn you have exalted like the horns of wild bulls; \*

I am anointed with fresh oil.

<sup>10</sup> My eyes also gloat over my enemies, \*  
and my ears rejoice to hear the doom of the wicked who rise up against me.

<sup>11</sup> The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, \*  
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.

<sup>12</sup> Those who are planted in the house of the LORD \*  
shall flourish in the courts of our God;

<sup>13</sup> They shall still bear fruit in old age; \*  
they shall be green and succulent;

<sup>14</sup> That they may show how upright the LORD is, \*  
my Rock, in whom there is no fault.

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 angels sing with psaltery and lyre to proclaim the mystery of your birth, hallelujah.*

## **Psalm 150 *Laudate Dominum***

*There was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace among those whom God favors, hallelujah.*

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Praise God in his holy temple; \*  
praise him in the firmament of his power.

<sup>2</sup> Praise him for his mighty acts; \*  
praise him for his excellent greatness.

<sup>3</sup> Praise him with the blast of the ram's-horn; \*  
Praise him with lyre and harp.

<sup>4</sup> Praise him with timbrel and dance; \*  
praise him with strings and pipe.

<sup>5</sup> Praise him with resounding cymbals; \*  
praise him with loud-clanging cymbals.

<sup>6</sup> Let everything that has breath \*  
praise the Lord. 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.

*There was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace among those whom God favors, hallelujah.*

## **The Lessons**

A reading from 2 Chronicles 24:17-22 (NRSV)

Now after the death of Jehoiada the officials of Judah came and did obeisance to the king; then the king listened to them. They abandoned the house of the LORD, the God of their ancestors, and served the sacred poles and the idols. And wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this guilt of theirs. Yet he sent prophets among them to bring them back to the LORD; they testified against them, but they would not listen. Then the spirit of God took possession of Zechariah son of the priest Jehoiada; he stood above the people and said to them, "Thus says God: Why do you transgress the commandments of the LORD, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, he has also forsaken you." But they conspired against him, and by command of the king they stoned him to death in the court of the house of the LORD. King Joash did not remember the kindness that Jehoiada, Zechariah's father, had shown him, but killed his son. As he was dying, he said, "May the LORD see and avenge!"

Here ends the Reading.

## Song of the Martyrs *Iustoium animae* (Wisdom 3: 1-6)

*If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.*

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, \*  
and no torment will ever touch them.  
In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, \*  
and their departure was thought to be a disaster.  
Their going from us was considered to be their destruction; \*  
but they are at peace.  
For though in the sight of others they were punished, \*  
their hope is full of immortality.  
Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, \*  
because God tested them and found them worthy of himself.  
Like gold in the furnace he tried them, \*  
and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them.

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.

*If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.*

## *A reading from Acts 6:1-7 (NRSV)*

Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word." What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Here ends the Reading.

*God destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, hallelujah.*

## The Song of Zechariah *Benedictus Dominus Deus* *Luke 1: 68-79*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \*  
he has come to his people and set them free.  
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \*  
born of the house of his servant David.  
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,  
that he would save us from our enemies, \*  
from the hands of all who hate us.  
He promised to show mercy to our fathers \*  
and to remember his holy covenant.  
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, \*  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \*  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
To give his people knowledge of salvation \*  
by the forgiveness of their sins.  
In the tender compassion of our God \*  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the  
shadow of death, \*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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 destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, 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*

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.

V. Day by day we bless you;

R. We praise your name for ever.

V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;

R. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.

V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;

R. For we put our trust in you.

V. In you, Lord, is our hope;

R. And we shall never hope in vain.

## *Collect of the Day*

We give you thanks, O Lord of glory, for the example of the first martyr Stephen, who looked up to heaven and prayed for his persecutors to your Son Jesus Christ, who stands at your right hand; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

## *Commemoration of Christmas*

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Alleluia, alleluia.

V. The Lord has made known~Alleluia.

R. His salvation~Alleluia.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

### *62. A Prayer attributed to St. Francis*

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore.

*And with our absent brothers and sisters. Amen.*

## *The Angelus*

The Angel of the Lord announced to Mary

*And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.*

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

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

Behold the handmaid of the Lord

*Be it unto me according to your word*

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

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

And the Word was made flesh.

*And dwelled among us.*

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

*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.*