

Vespers for Monday after the Second Sunday after Christmas

Opening Sentence

Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. *Psalm 141:2*

The Invitatory

V: O God, make speed to save us.

R: O Lord, make haste to help us.

Praying together

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*

Praying together

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 Psalms Appointed

Psalm 104 *Benedic, anima mea*

By your miraculous birth from the virgin you have fulfilled the Scripture: like a gentle rain falling upon the earth you have come down to save your people. O God, we praise you.

The leader and the people pray each verse responsively

¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul; *

O LORD my God, how excellent is your greatness! you are clothed with majesty and splendor.

² You wrap yourself with light as with a cloak *

and spread out the heavens like a curtain.

³ You lay the beams of your chambers in the waters above; *

you make the clouds your chariot; you ride on the wings of the wind.

⁴ You make the winds your messengers *

and flames of fire your servants.

⁵ You have set the earth upon its foundations, *

so that it never shall move at any time.

⁶ You covered it with the Deep as with a mantle; *

the waters stood higher than the mountains.

⁷ At your rebuke they fled; *

at the voice of your thunder they hastened away.

⁸ They went up into the hills and down to the valleys beneath, *

to the places you had appointed for them.

⁹ You set the limits that they should not pass; *

they shall not again cover the earth.

¹⁰ You send the springs into the valleys; *

they flow between the mountains.

¹¹ All the beasts of the field drink their fill from them, *

and the wild asses quench their thirst.

¹² Beside them the birds of the air make their nests *

and sing among the branches.

¹³ You water the mountains from your dwelling on high; *

the earth is fully satisfied by the fruit of your works.

¹⁴ You make grass grow for flocks and herds *

and plants to serve mankind;

¹⁵ That they may bring forth food from the earth, *

and wine to gladden our hearts,

¹⁶ Oil to make a cheerful countenance, *

and bread to strengthen the heart.

¹⁷ The trees of the LORD are full of sap, *

the cedars of Lebanon which he planted,

¹⁸ In which the birds build their nests, *

and in whose tops the stork makes his dwelling.

¹⁹ The high hills are a refuge for the mountain goats, *

and the stony cliffs for the rock badgers.

²⁰ You appointed the moon to mark the seasons, *

and the sun knows the time of its setting.

²¹ You make darkness that it may be night, *

in which all the beasts of the forest prowl.

²² The lions roar after their prey *

and seek their food from God.

²³ The sun rises, and they slip away *

and lay themselves down in their dens.

²⁴ Man goes forth to his work *

and to his labor until the evening.

²⁵ O LORD, how manifold are your works! *

in wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

The leader and the people say together

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.

By your miraculous birth from the virgin you have fulfilled the Scripture: like a gentle rain falling upon the earth you have come down to save your people. O God, we praise you.

Psalm 104 (cont.)

You open your hand, and we filled with good things.

The leader and the people pray each verse responsively

²⁶ Yonder is the great and wide sea with its living things too many to number, *
creatures both small and great.

²⁷ There move the ships, and there is that Leviathan, *
which you have made for the sport of it.

²⁸ All of them look to you *
to give them their food in due season.

²⁹ You give it to them; they gather it; *
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

³⁰ You hide your face, and they are terrified; *
you take away their breath, and they die and return to their dust.

³¹ You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; *
and so you renew the face of the earth.

³² May the glory of the LORD endure for ever; *
may the LORD rejoice in all his works.

The leader and the people say together

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.

You open your hand, and we filled with good things.

Psalm 104 (cont.)

I will praise my God while I have my being, hallelujah.

The leader and the people pray each verse responsively

³³ He looks at the earth and it trembles; *

he touches the mountains and they smoke.

³⁴ I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; *

I will praise my God while I have my being.

³⁵ May these words of mine please him; *

I will rejoice in the LORD.

³⁶ Let sinners be consumed out of the earth, *

and the wicked be no more.

³⁷ Bless the LORD, O my soul. *

Hallelujah!

The leader and the people say together

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 praise my God while I have my being, hallelujah.

The Lessons

A reading from 'John 6:15-27 (NRSV)'

When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself. When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going. The next day the crowd that had stayed on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there. They also saw that Jesus had not got into the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. Then some boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal."

Here ends the Reading.

The Song of Mary Magnificat Luke 1:46-55

O marvelous exchange, the Creator of humanity has taken a human body, born of a virgin. We are made sharers in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share our humanity.

Praying together

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in you, O God my Savior, *
for you have looked with favor on your lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:*

you, the Almighty, have done great things for me, and holy is your name.

You have mercy on those who fear you *

from generation to generation.

You have shown strength with your arm *

and scattered the proud in their conceit,

Casting down the mighty from their thrones *

and lifting up the lowly.

You have filled the hungry with good things *

and sent the rich away empty.

You have come to the help of your servant Israel, *

for you have remembered your promise of mercy, The promise made to our forebears, *

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.

O marvelous exchange, the Creator of humanity has taken a human body, born of a virgin. We are made sharers in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share our humanity.

The Prayers

V: The Lord be with you.

R: *And also with you.*

Let us pray.

Praying together

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

The people pray the Responses

V That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,

R *We entreat you, O Lord.*

V That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,

R *We entreat you, O Lord.*

V That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,

R *We entreat you, O Lord.*

V That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,

R *We entreat you, O Lord.*

V That we may depart this life in your faith and fear,
and not be condemned before the great judgment seat of Christ,
R We entreat you, O Lord.

V 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,
R, We entreat you, O Lord.

Collect of the Day

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A Collect for Peace

Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgements, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered from the fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior. *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.*

Pause and add prayers for healing, and intercessory and thanksgiving prayers here.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Praying together

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

The people pray the Responses

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.*