

Vespers for Eve of The Epiphany

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

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 116 *Dilexi, quoniam*

O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant and the child of your handmaid, hallelujah.

The leader and the people pray each verse responsively

¹ I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

² The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the grave took hold of me; *
I came to grief and sorrow.

³ Then I called upon the Name of the LORD: *
"O LORD, I pray you, save my life."

⁴ Gracious is the LORD and righteous; *

our God is full of compassion.

⁵ The LORD watches over the innocent; *

I was brought very low, and he helped me.

⁶ Turn again to your rest, O my soul. *

for the LORD has treated you well.

⁷ For you have rescued my life from death, *

my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.

⁸ I will walk in the presence of the LORD *

in the land of the living.

⁹ I believed, even when I said, "I have been brought very low." *

In my distress I said, "No one can be trusted."

¹⁰ How shall I repay the LORD *

for all the good things he has done for me?

¹¹ I will lift up the cup of salvation *

and call upon the Name of the LORD.

¹² I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *

in the presence of all his people.

¹³ Precious in the sight of the LORD *

is the death of his servants.

¹⁴ O LORD, I am your servant; *

I am your servant and the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

¹⁵ I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *

and call upon the Name of the LORD.

¹⁶ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *

in the presence of all his people,

¹⁷ In the courts of the LORD'S house, *

in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. 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.

O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant and the child of your handmaid, hallelujah.

Psalm 98 *Cantate Domino*

Jerusalem, rejoice with great rejoicing; for your Savior comes to you.

The leader and the people pray each verse responsively

¹ Sing to the LORD a new song, *

for he has done marvelous things.

² With his right hand and his holy arm *

has he won for himself the victory.

³ The LORD has made known his victory; *

his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

⁴ He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *

and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁵ Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; *

lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

⁶ Sing to the LORD with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.
⁷ With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.
⁸ Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.
⁹ Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, when he comes to judge the earth.
¹⁰ In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.

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.

Jerusalem, rejoice with great rejoicing; for your Savior comes to you.

Psalm 120 *Ad Dominum*

A child has been born for us and he is named Prince of Peace, hallelujah.

The leader and the people pray each verse responsively

¹ When I was in trouble, I called to the LORD; *
I called to the LORD, and he answered me.
² Deliver me, O LORD, from lying lips *
and from the deceitful tongue.
³ What shall be done to you, and what more besides, *
O you deceitful tongue?
⁴ The sharpened arrows of a warrior, *
along with hot glowing coals.
⁵ How hateful it is that I must lodge in Meshech *
and dwell among the tents of Kedar!
⁶ Too long have I had to live *
among the enemies of peace.
⁷ I am on the side of peace, *
but when I speak of it, they are for war.

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.

A child has been born for us and he is named Prince of Peace, hallelujah.

The Lessons

A reading from 'Romans 15:7-13 (NRSV)'

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm

the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Here ends the Reading.

The Song of Mary Magnificat Luke 1:46-55

In the bush which Moses saw burning yet unconsumed we acknowledge the sign of your virginity. Holy Mother of God, intercede for your children.

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.

In the bush which Moses saw burning yet unconsumed we acknowledge the sign of your virginity. Holy Mother of God, intercede for your children.

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, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the Peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; 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.*

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.*