

Vespers for Monday after the First 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 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 forever. 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 12 *Salvum me fac*

O shepherds, speak, and tell us what you have seen ; who has appeared on the earth ? We saw the new - born Child, and angels singing praise to the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia.

- ¹ Help me, LORD, for there is no godly one left; *
the faithful have vanished from among us.
- ² Everyone speaks falsely with his neighbor; *
with a smooth tongue they speak from a double heart.
- ³ Oh, that the LORD would cut off all smooth tongues, *
and close the lips that utter proud boasts!
- ⁴ Those who say, "With our tongue will we prevail; *
our lips are our own; who is lord over us?"
- ⁵ Because the needy are oppressed, and the poor cry out in misery, *
I will rise up, says the LORD, and give them the help they long for.
- ⁶ The words of the LORD are pure words, *
like silver refined from ore and purified seven times in the fire.
- ⁷ O LORD, watch over us *
and save us from this generation forever.
- ⁸ The wicked prowl on every side, *
and that which is worthless is highly prized by everyone.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

O shepherds, speak, and tell us what you have seen ; who has appeared on the earth ? We saw the new - born Child, and angels singing praise to the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Psalm 13 *Usquequo, Domine?*

The Mother brought forth the King, Whose name is called The Eternal ; the joy of a Mother was hers, remaining a Virgin unsullied ; neither before nor after has there been or shall be such another. Alleluia.

¹ How long, O LORD? will you forget me forever? *
how long will you hide your face from me?
² How long shall I have perplexity in my mind, and grief in my heart, day after day? *
how long shall my enemy triumph over me?
³ Look upon me and answer me, O LORD my God; *
give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death;
⁴ Lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him, " *
and my foes rejoice that I have fallen.
⁵ But I put my trust in your mercy; *
my heart is joyful because of your saving help.
⁶ I will sing to the LORD, for he has dealt with me richly; *
I will praise the Name of the Lord Most High.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Mother brought forth the King, Whose name is called The Eternal ; the joy of a Mother was hers, remaining a Virgin unsullied ; neither before nor after has there been or shall be such another. Alleluia.

Psalm 14 *Dixit insipiens*

The Angel said unto the shepherds : I bring you good tidings of great joy ; for unto you is born this day a Saviour of the world. Alleluia.

¹ The fool has said in his heart, There is no God." *
All are corrupt and commit abominable acts; there is none who does any good.
² The LORD looks down from heaven upon us all, *
to see if there is any who is wise, if there is one who seeks after God.
³ Every one has proved faithless; all alike have turned bad; *
there is none who does good; no, not one.
⁴ Have they no knowledge, all those evildoers *
who eat up my people like bread and do not call upon the LORD?
⁵ See how they tremble with fear, *
because God is in the company of the righteous.
⁶ Their aim is to confound the plans of the afflicted, *
but the LORD is their refuge.

⁷ Oh, that Israel's deliverance would come out of Zion! *
when the LORD restores the fortunes of his people, Jacob will rejoice and Israel be glad.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Angel said unto the shepherds : I bring you good tidings of great joy ; for unto you is born this day a Saviour of the world. Alleluia.

The Lessons

A reading from John 6:35-51 (NRSV)

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day." Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

Here ends the Reading.

The Song of Mary *Magnificat* Luke 1:46-55

Antiphon: *My soul * doth magnify the Lord
for he hath regarded my lowliness.*

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 forever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Antiphon: *My soul * doth magnify the Lord
for he hath regarded my lowliness.*

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 forever. 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

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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.*

[\[Include authorized intercessions or thanksgivings-](#)

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.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen. 2 Corinthians 13:14*

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.
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.*