

SERVICE OF THE REMEMBRANCE
OF THE
TEN VIRGINS



THE ORDER OF COMMON PRAYERS
OF THE EVENING HOUR
OR
VESPERS

The Priest:

Blessed be our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

INTROIT

Psalm 55:16,18

I have called upon God and he hath heard me in the evening, in the morning and at noonday.

The Deacon:

I waited upon my God and I set my eyes upon the Saviour, who delivereth his servants and saveth them.

The Priest:

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

The Deacon:

Now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Again in peace let us beseech the Lord: Receive, save and have mercy.

The Priest:

Blessing and glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Peace unto all.

The Clerks, in antiphon:

Psalm 86

- + Incline thine ear, O Lord, and hear me; for I am poor and needy.
- ++ Keep my soul holy, O Lord; and save thy servant, O my God, for I have put my trust in thee.
- + Be merciful unto me, O Lord, for unto thee have I cried all day; gladden the soul of thy servant, for unto thee, O Lord, have I lifted up my soul.
- ++ For thou, O Lord, art kind and righteous; and plenteous in mercy to all that call upon thee.
- + Give ear, O Lord, unto my prayers; and attend to the voice of my supplications.
- ++ In the day of my trouble I have called upon thee; and thou hast heard me.
- + There is none like unto thee among the gods, O Lord; and there is not one that doeth works like thine.
- ++ All nations whom thou hast made shall come and bow down before thee; and they shall glorify thy name for ever.
- + Thou art great, O Lord, and doest wondrous things; and thou alone art God.
- ++ Lead me in thy way and I will walk in thy truth; and my heart shall rejoice in the fear of thy name.
- + I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart; and I will glorify thy name for ever.
- ++ Thy mercy hath been great toward me, O Lord; and thou hast delivered my soul from the innermost hell.
- + O God, the lawless have risen against me and the assemblies of the violent have sought after my soul; and have not set thee as God before them.
- ++ But thou, O Lord my God, art compassionate and merciful; long-suffering, plenteous in mercy and truthful, attend unto me and have mercy upon me.
- + Give strength unto thy servant, save the son of thine handmaid; and show me a good sign.
- ++ Let them who hate me see it and be put to shame; for thou, O Lord, hast helped me and comforted me.
- + Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

++ Now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

The Priest:

Glory to thee, O God, glory to thee: for all things, O Lord, glory to thee.

The Deacon:

Again in peace let us beseech the Lord. Receive, save and have mercy.

The Priest:

Blessing and glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Peace unto all.

The Clerks, in antiphon:

Psalm 140

- + Rescue me, O Lord, from the evil man; deliver me from the man of iniquity.
- ++ They devised evil things in their hearts; all day long they prepared for war.
- + They sharpened their tongues like that of a serpent; and the poison of vipers is under their lips.
- ++ Keep me, O Lord, from the hands of the sinful; and deliver me from the wicked man.
- + They have planned to hinder my steps; the arrogant have hid a snare for me.
- ++ They have spread cords as a snare for my feet; and they have laid stumbling-blocks around my ways.
- + I said, O Lord, thou art my God; give ear, O Lord, to the voice of my prayers.
- ++ O Lord, Lord, who art the strength of my salvation; a cover for my head in the day of battle.
- + Abandon me not, O Lord, to the desires of the ungodly, who plotted against me; do not cast me down.
- ++ Lest they be exalted and their plans be accomplished; let the purpose of their doings, the toil of their lips cover them.
- + Cast burning coals of fire upon them and destroy them; let them not be saved from afflictions.

++ Let no crafty talker prosper on the earth; his own evil shall hunt the sinful man unto perdition.

+ I knew that thou dost execute justice for the poor; and maintain the cause of the needy.

++ The righteous shall give thanks unto thy name; the upright shall dwell in thy presence.

Psalm 141

+ O Lord, I have cried unto thee, therefore hear thou me; consider the voice of my prayers when I cry unto thee.

++ Let my prayers be aright before thee as incense, O Lord; and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.

+ Set a watch, O Lord, for my mouth and a strong door for my lips; lest mine heart go astray with words of evil.

++ Lest I make excuses for sin with men that work iniquity; let me not be an associate of them that they have chosen.

+ Let the righteous man teach in mercy and rebuke me; let not the oil of the ungodly anoint my head nor my prayers be according to his desires.

++ Their judges are imprisoned by the side of the rock; let them hear my words and they will be kind.

+ As the thickness of the dust that is spread upon the earth; so shall their bones be scattered near to the graves.

++ Mine eyes are toward thee, O Lord, the Lord; in thee is my trust, O Lord, take not out my breath from me.

+ Keep me from the snare which hath been laid for me; from the traps of him that works iniquity.

++ Let the sinners fall into his nets; I am alone until I escape.

Psalm 142

+ I cried unto the Lord with my voice; with my voice unto the Lord did I make my supplications.

++ I will spread before the Lord my prayers; and I will tell my troubles before him.

+ When my spirit was faint, thou, O Lord, knewest my way; in the path wherein I walked a snare was secretly laid for me.

++ I looked to the right and I saw and there was none that would know me; I lost my way of escape and none was found that would care for my soul.

+ I cried unto thee, O Lord, and I said: Thou art my hope and my portion in the land of the living.

++ Give heed, O Lord, to my prayers, for I am brought very low; deliver me from my persecutors for they have become stronger than I.

+ O Lord, bring my soul out of prison; I give thanks unto thy name.

++ And the righteous shall wait for thee; until thou wilt reward them.

+ Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

++ Now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

The Priest:

ASCRPTION

Blessed art thou, O Lord, who dwellest on high and praised is the glory of thy majesty. Thou hast established the luminaries on high and hast made light shine forth from heaven over the whole world. Thou hast made the sun to give light to daytime and the moon and the stars to give light to night time, as well as the light of the lamp.

Thou art the laudable light, the holy and the primal light. Darkness doth flee from thee. Therefore, O Lord, make thy living light shine forth in our hearts.

And we shall say with one accord: Blessed is the holy name of thy glory, and we sing praise and glory unto thee, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

The Deacon:

BIDDING

Having arrived at this hour of the evening, we all lift up our hands and glorify thee, O Lord our God, who hast granted unto us to pass the day in peace and to arrive at this hour of the evening.

Make us worthy, O Lord, with pure heart and with angelic song to offer thanksgiving unto thee, the almighty Lord God.

Save us and mercy upon us.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord our God, according to thy great mercy. Let us all say with one accord:

The Priest:

Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy; Lord have mercy.

ASCRPTION

Having arrived at this hour of the evening we all unceasingly glorify the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

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The Clerks:

MESSEDI

Tone IV

Psalm 119:65,68

Thou hast dealt kindly with thy servant, O Lord; according to thy word.

Thou art good, O Lord; teach me in thy kindness.

SCRIPTURAL READINGS

Now, readings shall be done from the following Scriptural selections:

Genesis 6:9-9:12
Proverbs 9:1-10:6
Isaiah 40:9-17

Responsory to be said after the Messedi:

Psalm 141:2

Let my prayers be aright; before thee as incense, O Lord;
And the lifting up of my hands; as an evening sacrifice.

For Days of Saints and of Fasting

LITANY

Again in peace let us beseech the Lord.

Let us beseech the almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the King of Peace for peace also for the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church; that the Lord our God may be pleased to grant us many years in peace and send unto us, for the sake of his great, holy and fearful name, rulers that are peacemakers; that he may be pleased to keep in peace the heads of states and provinces, the captains of armed forces and all the people and our comings in and goings out, and that he may break all the battles of the enemy and turn him away from us.

May the almighty Lord save us and have mercy upon us.

—Save, O Lord, and have mercy.

That we may pass the evening that is near and the night before us in peace and in faith, let us ask of the Lord.

—Grant, O Lord.

The angel of peace to guard our souls, let us ask of the Lord.

—Grant, O Lord.

The forgiveness and remission of our transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

—Grant, O Lord.

The great and mighty power of the holy Cross to help our souls, let us ask of the Lord.

—Grant, O Lord.

Again with one accord by our true and holy faith, let us beseech the Lord.

—Lord, have mercy.

Let us commit ourselves and one another unto the Lord God almighty.

—To thee, O Lord, we commit ourselves.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord our God, according to Thy great mercy. Let us all say with one accord:

—Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

The Priest:

For All Days

COLLECT

Hear our voice, O Lord our God, receive our supplications, the lifting up of our hands and the words of our prayers. Sanctify this our offering of the evening, that we may prepare it for thy pleasure with a sweet smell of fragrance.

Increase in us, O Lord almighty, faith, hope and charity and all deeds of virtue, so that we may always devoutly obey thine ordinances by day and by night according to thy beneficent will, and that we may be worthy to beseech thee for the salvation of our souls and for our spiritual life, O Lord, and to find grace and mercy from thee and giving thanks to glorify the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Peace unto all.

—And with thy spirit.

Let us bow down to God.

—Before thee, O Lord.

Bowing down to thee, O Lord our God, we give thanks to thee, for thou hast granted us to pass the length of this day in peace. Grant us, O Lord, we beseech thee, to pass this evening and the night before us without sin and without stumbling, and to stand firm and abide steadfastly in faith, in hope and in charity and in the observance of thy commandments. Give peace, we pray thee, to the whole world and stability to thine holy Church and salvation to our souls. So that receiving from thee all that we ask, we may always send up on high hymns of glory due to the majesty of thine all-powerful dominion, O Christ our God, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

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The Clerks shall sing thrice:

THE TRISAGION

*For Pentecost, Presentation, Great Thursday
and Assumption*

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
who didst come and art to come,
have mercy on us.

ASCRPTION

Glorified and blessed ever holy Virgin, Bearer-of-God Mary,
Mother of Christ, offer our supplications to thy Son and our God,

The Priest:

That he may please to deliver us from temptation and from all
our perils.

The Deacon:

And again in peace let us beseech the Lord, that the voice of
our supplications be heard by the Lord God through the interces-
sion of the holy Mother-of-God and that the mercy and compassion
of the Lord God may descend upon us.

Almighty Lord our God, save and have mercy.

The Priest:

Blessing and glory to the Father and to the Son and to the
Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

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The Clerks, in antiphon:

LEVAVI

Psalm 121

- + I lifted up mine eyes to the mountains; from where my help shall come.
- ++ My help shall come from the Lord; who made heaven and earth.
- + Do not let thy foot be shaken; and he who keeps thee will not slumber.
- ++ He that keepeth Israel; doth not slumber nor sleep.
- + The Lord shall keep thee; the Lord shall receive thee with his right hand.
- ++ The sun shall not harm thee by day; nor the moon by night.
- + The Lord will keep thee from all evil; the Lord will keep thy soul.
- ++ The Lord will keep thy coming in and thy going out; from this time forth for evermore.
- + Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit;
- ++ Now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

NOW THE LEVAVI HYMN SHALL BE SUNG

The Deacon:

BIDDING AFTER THE LEVAVI CHANT

For the peace of the whole world and the stability of the holy
Church, let us beseech the Lord. Let us all say with one accord:

The Clerks or the Priest:

Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

The Priest:

COLLECT AFTER THE LEVAVI CHANT

Father compassionate, that takest good care of all, Maker of all creatures, receive the implorations of thy servants in this evening hour, for thou art abounding unto all with the gifts of thy beneficence. Have mercy, O Lord, upon the whole world and upon thy holy Church, upon the sick, the grieved, on those who travel by land, sea, or air, on confessors, penitents, and on the souls that are at rest. For thou, O Lord almighty, knowest our needs and our wants to be more than that which we ask or comprehend; and to thee, with the Son and the all-holy Spirit, is fitting glory, dominion, and honour, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

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Psalm 25

- + Unto thee, O LORD my God, I lift up my heart.
In thee I trust: do not put me to shame,
let not my enemies exult over me.
- ++ No man who hopes in thee is put to shame;
but shame comes to all who break faith without cause.
- + Make thy paths known to me, O LORD;
teach me thy ways.
- ++ Lead me in thy truth and teach me;
thou art God my saviour.
- + For thee I have waited all the day long,
for the coming of thy goodness, LORD.^a
- ++ Remember, LORD, thy tender care and thy love unfailing,
shown from ages past.
- + Do not remember the sins and offences of my youth,
but remember me in thy unfailing love.

While the Psalm is being read, ten (10) young girls dressed in white and holding lighted candles shall stand in front of the Gospel lectern.

After the usual introduction of the Holy Gospel, the following Gospel selection shall be chanted: Matthew 25:1-13.

*For Sunday Eves, for Sundays and other
Dominical Days*

The Deacon:

BIDDING

Let us ask in faith and in one accord of the Lord that it may please him to bestow the grace of his mercy upon us.

May the Lord almighty save us and have mercy.

The Clerks shall sing:

Save us, Lord.

Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

The Priest:

COLLECT OF DISMISSAL

King of peace, helper and saviour of our souls. O Christ our God, defend and keep thy people under the shadow of Thine holy and precious Cross in peace. Deliver us from the visible and invisible enemy. Make us worthy to give thee thanks and to glorify thee with the Father and with the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

