



OFFICE OF THE DEAD
IN ENGLISH

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OFFICE OF THE DEAD

INVITATORY

The invitatory belongs at the very beginning of each day's prayer. It precedes either the Office of Readings or Morning prayer; the liturgical day may begin with either hour.

Lord, open my lips.

— And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Afterward psalm 95 is said with its antiphon. The antiphon is said before the psalm, then immediately repeated; it is repeated after each strophe of the psalm.

In individual recitation, the antiphon may be said only at the beginning of the psalm; it need not be repeated after each strophe.

Antiphon. Come, let us worship the Lord, all things live for him.

Psalm 94 (95)

A call to praise God

Encourage each other daily while it is still today (Hebrews 3,13).

(The antiphon is recited and then repeated)

- 1 Come, let us sing to the Lord;
and shout with joy to the Rock who saves us.
- 2 Let us approach him with praise and thanksgiving
And sing joyful songs to the Lord.

(Antiphon repeated)

- 3 The Lord is God, the mighty God,
the great king over all the gods.
- 4 He holds in his hands the depths of the earth
and the highest mountains as well.
- 5 He made the sea; it belongs to him,
the dry land, too, for it was formed by his hands.

(Antiphon repeated)

- 6 Come, then, let us bow down and worship,
bending the knee before the Lord, our maker
- 7 For he is our God and we are his people,
the flock he shepherds.

(Antiphon repeated)

Today, listen to the voice of the Lord:

- 8 Do not grow stubborn, as your fathers did in the wilderness
when at Meriba and Massah
they challenged me and provoked me,
- 9 Although they had seen all of my works.

(Antiphon repeated)

- 10 Forty years I endured that generation.
I said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray
and they do not know my ways."
- 11 So I swore in my anger,
"They shall not enter into my rest."

(Antiphon repeated)

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.

(Antiphon repeated)

OFFICE OF READINGS

God, come to my assistance.

— Lord, make haste to help me.

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).

HYMN

O Sacred Head surrounded
by crown of piercing thorn!
O bleeding Head, so wounded,
reviled and put to scorn!
Our sins have marred the glory
of Thy most Holy Face,
yet angel hosts adore Thee
and tremble as they gaze.

I see Thy strength and vigor
all fading in the strife,
and death with cruel rigor,
bereaving Thee of life;
O agony and dying!
O love to sinners free!
Jesus, all grace supplying,
O turn Thy face on me.

In this Thy bitter passion,
Good Shepherd, think of me
with Thy most sweet compassion,
unworthy though I be:
beneath Thy cross abiding
for ever would I rest,
in Thy dear love confiding,
and with Thy presence blest.

But death too is my ending;
In that dread hour of need,
My friendless cause befriending,
Lord, to my rescue speed:
Thyself, O Jesus, trace me,
Right passage to the grave,
And from Thy cross embrace me,
With arms outstretched to save.

Or:

In ancient times God spoke to man
Through prophets, and in varied ways,
But now he speaks through Christ his Son,
His radiance through eternal days.

To God the Father of the world,
His Son through whom he made all things,
And Holy Spirit, bond of love,
All glad creation glory sings.

If the office begins with the invitatory, all the above is omitted.

PSALMODY

Antiphon 1. From the earth you formed me, with flesh you clothed me; Lord, my Redeemer, raise me up again at the last day.

Psalm 40,2-14.17-18

I

I waited, I waited for the Lord †
and he stooped down to me; *
he heard my cry.

He drew me from the deadly pit, *
from the miry clay.
He set my feet upon a rock *
and made my footsteps firm.

He put a new song into my mouth, *
praise of our God.
Many shall see and fear *
And shall trust in the lord.

Happy the man who has placed *
his trust in the Lord
and has not gone over to the rebels *
who follow false gods.

How many, O Lord my God, †
are the wonders and designs *
that you have worked for us;
you have no equal. †
Should I proclaim and speak of them, *
they are more than I can tell!

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, *
but an open ear,
You do not ask for holocaust and victim. *
Instead, here am I.

In the scroll of the book it stands written *
that I should do your will.
My God, I delight in your law *
in the depth of my heart.

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.

Antiphon. From the earth you formed me, with flesh you clothed me;
Lord, my Redeemer, raise me up again at the last day.

Antiphon 2. Lord, may it please you to rescue me; look upon me and help me.

II

Your justice I have proclaimed
in the great assembly.
My lips I have not sealed,
you know it, O Lord.

I have not hidden your justice in my heart
but declared your faithful help.
I have not hidden your love and your truth
from the great assembly.

O Lord, you will not withhold
your compassion from me.
Your merciful love and your truth
will always guard me.

For I am beset with evils
too many to be counted.
My sins have fallen upon me;
and my sight fails me.
They are more than the hairs of my head
and my heart sinks.

O Lord, come to my rescue,
Lord, come to my aid.

O let there be rejoicing and gladness
for all who seek you.
Let them ever say, "The Lord is great."
who love your saving help.

As for me, wretched and poor,
the Lord thinks of me.
You are my rescuer, my help,
O God, do not delay.

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.

Antiphon. Lord, may it please you to rescue me; look upon me and help me.

Antiphon 3. My soul is thirsting for the living God; when shall I see him face to face?

Psalm 42

Longing for the Lord's presence in his Temple

Let all who thirst come, let all who desire it drink from the life-giving water
(Revelation 22:17).

Like the deer that yearns *
for running streams,
so My soul is yearning *
for you, my God.

My soul is thirsting for God, *
the God of my life;
when can I enter and see *
the face of God?

My tears have become my bread *
by night, by day
as I hear it said all the day long: *
“Where is your God?”

These things will I remember *
as I pour out my soul:
how I would lead the rejoicing crowd *
into the house of God,
amid cries of gladness and thanksgiving, *
the throng wild with joy.

Why are you cast down, my soul, *
why groan within me?
Hope in God; I will praise him still, *
my savior and my God.

My soul is cast down within me *
as I think of you,
from the country of Jordan and Mount Hermon, *
from the Hill of Mizar.

Deep is calling on deep, *
in the roar of the waters:
your torrents and all your waves *
swept over me.

By day the Lord will send *
his loving kindness;
by night I will sing to him, *
praise the God of my life.

I will say to God, my rock: *
“Why have you forgotten me?
Why do I go mourning, *
oppressed by the foe?”

With cries that pierce me to the heart, *
my enemies revile me,
saying to me all the day long: *
“Where is your God?”

Why are you cast down, my soul, *
why groan within me?
Hope in God; I will praise him still, *
my savior and my God.

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.

Antiphon. My soul is thirsting for the living God; when shall I see him face to face?

Lord, countless are your mercies.

— Give me life according to your word.

FIRST READING

From the first letter of the apostle Paul
to the Corinthians

15,12-34

The resurrection of Christ is the hope of the faithful

Tell me, if Christ is preached as raised from the dead, how is it that some of you say there is not resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, Christ himself has not been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is void of content and your faith is empty too. Indeed, we should then be exposed as false witnesses of God, for we have borne witness before him that he raised up Christ; but he certainly did not raise him up if the dead are not raised. Why? Because if the dead are not raised, then Christ was not raised; and if Christ was not raised, your faith is worthless. You are still in your sins, and those who have fallen asleep in Christ are the deadest of the dead. If our hopes in Christ are limited to this life only we are the most pitiable of men.

But as it is, Christ is now raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. Death came through a man; hence the resurrection of the dead comes through a man also. Just as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will come to life again, but each one in proper order: Christ the first fruits and then, at his coming, all those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when, after having destroyed every sovereignty, authority, and power, he will hand over the kingdom to God the Father.

Christ must reign until God has put all enemies under his feet, and the last enemy to be destroyed is death. Scripture reads that God “has placed all things under his feet.” But when it says that everything has been made subject, it is clear that he who has made everything subject to Christ is excluded. When, finally, all has been subjected to the Son, he will then subject himself to the One who made all things subject to him, so that God may be all in all.

If the dead are not raised, what about those who have themselves baptized on behalf of the dead? If the raising of the dead is not a reality, why be baptized on their behalf? And why are we continually putting ourselves in danger? I swear to you, brothers, by the very pride you take in me, which I cherish in Christ Jesus our Lord, that I face death every day. If I fought those beasts at Ephesus for purely human motives, what profit was there for me? If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!” Do not be led astray any longer. “Bad company corrupts good morals.” Return to reason, as you ought, and stop sinning. Some of you are quite ignorant of God; I say it to your shame.

RESPONSORY

1Cor 15,25-26; see Rev 20,13.14

Christ must reign until God has brought all enemies under his feet.

— And the last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Then death and Sheol will give up their dead,

— And the last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Alternative:

From the first letter of the apostle Paul
to the Corinthians

15,35-57

Resurrection of the dead and the coming of the Lord

Perhaps someone will say, “How are the dead to be raised up? What kind of body will they have?” A nonsensical question! The seed you sow does not germinate unless it dies. When you sow, you do not sow the full-blown plant, but a kernel of wheat or some other grain. God gives body to it as he pleases – to each its own fruitfulness. Not all bodily nature is the same. Men have one kind of body, animals another. Birds are of their kind, fish are of theirs. There are heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies. The splendor of the heavenly bodies is one thing, that of the earthly another. The sun has a splendor all its own, so has the moon, and the stars have theirs. Even among the stars, one differs from another in brightness.

So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown in the earth is subject to decay, what rises is incorruptible. What is sown is ignoble, what rises is glorious. Weakness is sown, strength rises up. A natural body is put down and a spiritual body comes up.

If there is a natural body, be sure there is also a spiritual body. Scripture has it that Adam, the first man, became a living soul; the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. Take note, the spiritual was not first; first came the natural and after the spiritual.

The first man was of earth, formed from dust, the second is from heaven. Earthly men are like the man of earth, heavenly men are like the man of heaven.

Just as we resemble the man from earth, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven. This is what I mean, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; no more can corruption inherit incorruption.

Now I am going to tell you a mystery. Not all of us shall fall asleep, but all of us are to be changed – in an instant, in the twinkling of an eye, at the sound of the last trumpet. The trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. This corruptible body must be clothed with incorruptibility, this mortal body with immortality. When the corruptible frame takes on incorruptibility and the mortal immortality, then will the saying of Scripture be fulfilled: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the law. But thanks be to God who has given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

RESPONSORY

See Job 19,25.26.27

I know that my Redeemer lives and on the last day I shall rise again.

— In my body I shall look on God, my Savior.

I myself shall see him; my own eyes will gaze on him.

— In my body I shall look on God, my Savior.

Alternative:

From the second letter of the apostle Paul
to the Corinthians

4,16-5,10

*When the body of our earthly dwelling place lies in death,
we gain an everlasting dwelling place in heaven*

We do not lose heart, because our inner being is renewed each day even though our body is being destroyed at the same time. The present burden of our trial is light enough, and earns for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison. We do not fix our gaze on what is seen but on what is unseen. What is seen is transitory; what is unseen lasts for ever.

Indeed, we know that when the earthly tent in which we dwell is destroyed we have a dwelling provided for us by God, a dwelling in the heavens, not made by hands but to last for ever. We groan while we are here, even as we yearn to have our heavenly habitation envelop us. This it will, provided we are found clothed and not naked. While we live in our present tent we groan; we are weighed down because we do not wish to be stripped naked but rather to have the heavenly dwelling envelop us, so that what is mortal may be absorbed by life. God has fashioned us for this very thing and has given us the Spirit as a pledge of it.

Therefore we continue to be confident. We know that while we dwell in the body we are away from the Lord. We walk by faith, not by sight. I repeat, we are full of confidence and would much rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. This being so we make it our aim to please him whether we are with him or away from him. The lives of all of us are to be revealed before the tribunal of Christ so that each one may receive his recompense, good or bad, according to his life in the body.

RESPONSORY

Lord, do not judge me according to my deeds:
I have done nothing worthy in your sight:
Therefore I implore you, God of majesty,
— blot out all my guilt.

Lord, wash away my iniquities, and cleanse me from my sins.
— blot out all my guilt.

SECOND READING

From a sermon by Saint Anastasius of Antioch, bishop

(Oraio 5, de Resurrectione Christi, 6-7. 9: PG 89, 1358-1359, 1361-1362)

Christ will change our lowly body

To this end Christ died and rose to life that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. But God is not God of the dead, but of the living. That is why the dead, now under the dominion of one who has risen to life, are no longer dead but alive. Therefore life has dominion over them and, just as Christ, having been raised from the dead, will never die again, so too they will live and never fear death again. When they have been thus raised from the dead and freed from decay, they shall never again see death, for they will share in Christ's resurrection just as he himself shared in their death.

This is why Christ descended into the netherworld, with its imperishable prison bars: *to shatter the doors of bronze and break the bars of iron* and, from decay, to raise our life to himself by giving us freedom in place of servitude.

But if this plan does not yet appear to be perfectly realized – for men still die and bodies still decay in death – this should not occasion any loss of faith. For, in receiving the first-fruits, we have already received the pledge of all the blessings we have mentioned; with them we have reached the heights of heaven, and we have taken our place beside him who has raised us up with himself, as Paul says: *In Christ God has raised us up with him, and has made us sit with him in the heavenly places.*

And the fulfillment will be ours on the day predetermined by the Father, when we shall put off our childish ways and come to *perfect manhood*. For this is the decree of the Father of the ages: the gift, once given, is to be secure and no more to be rejected by a return to childish attitudes.

This is no need to recall that the Lord rose from the dead with a spiritual body, since Paul is speaking of our bodies bears witness that they are *sown as animal bodies* and *raised as spiritual bodies*: that is, they are transformed in accordance with the glorious transfiguration of Christ who goes before us as our leader.

The Apostle, affirming something he clearly knew, also said that this would happen to all mankind through Christ, *who will change our lowly body to make it like his glorious body*.

If this transformation is a change into a spiritual body and one, furthermore, like the glorious body of Christ, then Christ rose with a spiritual body, a body that *was sown in dishonor*, but the very body that was transformed in glory.

Having brought this body to the Father as the first-fruits of our nature, he will also bring the whole body to fulfillment. For he promised this when he said: *I, when I am lifted up, will draw all men to myself*.

RESPONSORY

John 5,28-29; 1Corinthians 15,52

All who are in their graves shall hear the voice of the Son of God;
— those who have done good deeds will go forth to the resurrection of life;
those who have done evil will go forth to the resurrection of judgment.

In an instant, in the twinkling of an eye, at the final trumpet blast, the dead shall rise.

— Those who have done good deeds will go forth to the resurrection of life;
those who have done evil will go forth to the resurrection of judgment.

Alternative:

From a letter by Saint Braulio, bishop

(Epist. 19: PL 80, 665-666)

The risen Christ is the hope of all Christians

Lazarus our friend is sleeping. In saying this, Christ who is the hope of all believers refers to the departed as those who are asleep. By no means does he regard them as dead.

Paul the apostle does not want us to grieve about those who have fallen asleep. Our faith tells us that all who believe in Christ will never die; indeed faith assures us that Christ is not dead, nor shall we die.

The Lord himself will come down from heaven and there will be the command of the archangel's voice and the sound of the trumpet; then those who were united with Christ in death will rise.

Let the hope of the resurrection encourage us, then, because we shall see again those whom we lose here below. Of course, we must continue to believe firmly in Christ; we must continue to obey his commandments. His power is so great that it is easier for him to raise the dead to life than it is for us to arouse those who are sleeping. As we are saying all these things some unknown feeling causes us to burst into tears; some hidden feeling discourages the mind which tries to trust and to hope. Such is the sad human condition; without Christ all of life is utter emptiness.

O death! You separate those who are joined to each other in marriage. You harshly and cruelly divide those whom friendship unites. But your power is broken. Your heinous yoke has been destroyed by the One who sternly threatened you when Hosea cried out: *O Death! I shall be your death.* And with the words of the Apostle we, too, deride you: *O death! Where is your victory? O death! Where is your sting?*

Your conqueror redeemed us. He handed himself over to wicked men so that he could transform the wicked into persons who were truly dear to him. It would take too long to narrate all the consolations intended for our benefit in the Scriptures. But by focusing our attention upon the glory of the Redeemer there is sufficient hope for our resurrection. Through faith we know that we

are already risen from the dead. The Apostle writes: *If we have died with Christ, we believe that we are at the same time living with him.*

We do not really belong to ourselves; we belong to the One who redeemed us. Our will should always depend on his. For this reason we say in the Lord's Prayer: *Your will be done.* Confronted with death, the sentiments of Job should be our own: *The Lord gave and the Lord took away. May his name be blessed!* Let us repeat here and now what Job said lest we turn out to be unlike him, when our time comes.

RESPONSORY

1Thessalonians 4,13-14; Jeremiah 22,10

Concerning those who are asleep,
do not be sad like men who have no hope;
— for if we believe that Jesus died and rose again,
God will bring forth with Jesus all who have fallen asleep
believing in him.

Do no weep for the dead,
do not mourn them with tears.
— For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again,
God will bring forth with Jesus all who have fallen asleep
believing in him.

Let us pray.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, hear our prayers,
By raising your Son from the dead, you have given us faith.
Strengthen our hope that N., our brother (sister),
will share in his resurrection.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Or:

Lord God,
you are the glory of believers and the life of the just.
Your Son redeemed us by dying and rising to life again.
Our brother (sister) N. was faithful
and believed in our own resurrection.
Give to him (her) the joy and blessings of the life to come.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Or:

Lord of mercy,
hear our prayer.
May our brother (sister) N.,
whom you called your son (daughter) on earth,
enter the kingdom of peace and light,
where your saints live in glory.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Or, during the Easter Season:

Almighty and merciful God,
may our brother (sister) N., share the victory of Christ
who loved us so much that he died and rose again
to bring us new life.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

For several people:

God, our creator and redeemer,
by your power Christ conquered death
and returned to you in glory.

May all your people (N. and N.), who have gone before us in faith,
share his victory and enjoy the vision of your glory for ever,
where Christ lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

For relatives, friends, and benefactors:

Father,
source of forgiveness and salvation for all mankind,
hear our prayer.

By the prayers of the ever-virgin Mary,
may our friends, relatives, and benefactors
who have gone from this world
come to share eternal happiness with all your saints.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

— Amen.

ACCLAMATION

Let us praise the Lord.

— And give him thanks.

MORNING PRAYER OR “LAUDS”

This verse, response and hymn are omitted when the office begins with the invitatory.

God, come to my assistance.

— Lord, make haste to help me.

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).

HYMN

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high; Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Alleluia!
Christ hath burst the gates of hell; Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids his rise; Alleluia!
Christ hath opened paradise, Alleluia!

Hail, the Lord our earth and heaven! Alleluia!
Praise to thee by both be given; Alleluia!
Thee we greet triumphant now; Alleluia!
Hail, the resurrection Thou! Alleluia! Amen.

Or:

O radiant light, O sun divine
Of God the Father's deathless face,
O image of the light sublime
That fills the heav'nly dwelling place.

Lord Jesus Christ, as daylight fades;
As shine the lights of eventide,
We praise the Father with the Son,
The Spirit blest and with them one.

O Son of God, the source of life,
Praise is your due by night and day,
Unsullied lips must raise the strain
Of your proclaimed and splendid name.

PSALMODY

Antiphon 1. The bones that were crushed shall leap for joy before the Lord.

PSALM 51

O God, have mercy on me

*Your inmost being must be renewed, and you must put on the new man
(Ephesians 4,23-24).*

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. *
In your compassion blot out my offense.
O wash me more and more from my guilt *
and cleanse me from my sin.

My offenses truly I know them; *
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned; *
what is evil in your sight I have done.

That you may be justified when you give sentence *
and be without reproach when you judge.

O see, in guilt I was born, *
a sinner was I conceived.

Indeed you love truth in the heart; *
then in the secret of my heart teach me wisdom.

O purify me, then I shall be clean; *
O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear rejoicing and gladness, *
that the bones you have crushed may revive.
From my sins turn away your face *
and blot out all my guilt.

A pure heart create for me, O God, *
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence, *
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help; *
with a spirit of fervor sustain me,
that I may teach transgressors your ways *
and sinners may return to you.

O rescue me, God, my helper, *
and my tongue shall ring out your goodness.
O Lord, open my lips *
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

For in sacrifice you take no delight, *
burnt offering from me you would refuse,
my sacrifice, a contrite spirit. *
A humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn.

In your goodness, show favor to Zion: *
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
Then you will be pleased with lawful sacrifice, *
holocausts offered on your altar.

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.

Antiphon. The bones that were crushed shall leap for joy before the
Lord.

Antiphon 2. At the very threshold of death, rescue me, Lord.

CANTICLE

Isaiah 38,10-14.17-20

Anguish of a dying man and joy in his restoration

I am living. I was dead... and I hold the keys of death (Revelation 1,17-18).

Once I said, “In the noontime of life I must depart! †
To the gates of the nether world I shall be consigned *
for the rest of my years.

I said, “I shall see the Lord no more *
in the land of the living.
No longer shall I behold my fellow men *
among those who dwell in the world.

My dwelling, like a shepherd’s tent *
is struck down and borne away from me;
you have folded up my life, like a weaver *
who severs the last thread.

Day and night you give me over to torment; *
I cry out until the dawn.
Like a lion he breaks all my bones; *
day and night you give me over to torment.

Like a swallow I utter shrill cries: I moan like a dove †
My eyes grow weak, gazing heaven-ward: *
O Lord, I am in straits; be my surety!

You have preserved my life from the pit of destruction, *
when you cast behind your back all my sins.

For it is not the nether world that gives you thanks, *
Nor death that praises you;
Neither do those who go down into the pit *
await your kindness.

The living, the living give you thanks, as I do today. *
Fathers declare to their sons, O God, your faithfulness.

The Lord is our savior;
we shall sing to stringed instruments *
in the house of the Lord all days of our life.

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.

Antiphon. At the very threshold of death, rescue me, Lord.

Antiphon 3. I will praise my God all the days of my life.

PSALM 146

Those who trust in God know what it is to be happy

To praise God in our lives means all we do must be for his glory (Arnobius).

My soul, give praise to the Lord; †
I will praise the Lord all my days, *
make music to my God while I live.

Put no trust in princes, *
in mortal men in whom there is no help.
Take their breath, they return to clay *
and their plans that day come to nothing.

He is happy who is helped by Jacob's God, *
whose hope is in the Lord his God,
who alone made heaven and earth, *
the seas and all they contain.

It is he who keeps faith for ever, *
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry, *
the Lord, who sets prisoners free,

the Lord who gives sight to the blind, *
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger *
and upholds the widow and orphan.

It is the Lord who loves the just *
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever, *
Zion's God, from age to age.

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.

Antiphon. I will praise my God all the days of my life.

Or:

Antiphon 3. Let everything that breathes give praise to the Lord.

Psalm 150

Praise the Lord

Let mind and heart be in your song: this is to glorify God with your whole self
(Hesychius).

Praise God in his holy place, *
praise him in his mighty heavens.
Praise him for his powerful deeds, *
praise his surpassing greatness.

O praise him with sound of trumpet, *
praise him with lute and harp.
Praise him with timbrel and dance, *
praise him with strings and pipes.

O praise him with resounding cymbals, *
praise him with clashing cymbals.
Let everything that lives and that breathes *
give praise to the Lord.

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.

Antiphon. Let everything that breathes give praise to the Lord.

READING

1Thessalonians 4,14

If we believe that Jesus died and rose, God will bring forth with him from the dead those also who have fallen asleep believing in him.

RESPONSORY

I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me. *
— I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.
You turned my sorrow into joy, *
— for you have rescued me.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, *
— I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

Antiphon. I am the Resurrection, I am the Life; to believe in me means life, in spite of death, and all who believe in me and live in me shall never die.

Or, during the Easter Season:

Antiphon. The splendor of Christ risen from the dead has shone on the people redeemed by his blood, Alleluia.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

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.

Antiphon. I am the Resurrection, I am the Life; to believe in me means life, in spite of death, and all who believe in me and live in me shall never die.

Or, during the Easter Season:

Antiphon. The splendor of Christ risen from the dead has shone on the people redeemed by his blood, Alleluia.

INTERCESSIONS

Let us pray to the all-powerful father who raised Jesus from the dead and gives new life to our mortal bodies, and say to him:

Lord, give us new life in Christ.

Father, through baptism we have been buried with your Son and have risen with him in his resurrection,

— grant that we may walk in newness of life so that when we die, we may live with Christ for ever.

Provident Father, you have given us the living bread that has come down from heaven and which should always be eaten worthily,

— grant that we may eat this bread worthily and be raised up to eternal life on the last day.

Lord, you sent an angel to comfort your Son in his agony,

— give us the hope of your resurrection when death draws near.

You delivered the three youths from the fiery furnace,

— free your faithful ones from the punishment they suffer for their sins.

God of the living and the dead, you raised Jesus from the dead,

— raise up those who have died and grant that we may share eternal glory with them.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed by 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 trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass again us;
and lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, hear our prayers,
By raising your Son from the dead, you have given us faith.
Strengthen our hope that N., our brother (sister),
will share in his resurrection.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Or:

Lord God,
you are the glory of believers and the life of the just.
Your Son redeemed us by dying and rising to life again.
Our brother (sister) N. was faithful
and believed in our own resurrection.
Give to him (her) the joy and blessings
of the life to come.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Or:

Lord of mercy,
hear our prayer.

May our brother (sister) N.,
whom you called your son (daughter) on earth,
enter the kingdom of peace and light,
where your saints live in glory.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Or, during the Easter Season:

Almighty and merciful God,
may our brother (sister) N., share the victory of Christ
who loved us so much that he died and rose again
to bring us new life.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

For several people:

God, our creator and redeemer,
by your power Christ conquered death
and returned to you in glory.

May all your people (N. and N.), who have gone before us in faith,
share his victory
and enjoy the vision of your glory for ever,
where Christ lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

For relatives, friends, and benefactors:

Father,

source of forgiveness and salvation for all mankind,
hear our prayer.

By the prayers of the ever-virgin Mary,
may our friends, relatives, and benefactors
who have gone from this world

come to share eternal happiness with all your saints.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

— Amen.

DISMISSAL

If a priest or deacon presides, he dismisses the people:

The Lord be with you.

— And with your spirit.

May Almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

— Amen.

Another form of the blessing may be used, as at Mass.

Then he adds:

Go in peace.

— Thanks be to God.

In the absence of a priest or deacon and in individual recitation,
Morning Prayer concludes:

May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to
everlasting life.

— Amen.

DAYTIME PRAYER

God, come to my assistance.

— Lord, make haste to help me.

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).

HYMN

Antiphon:

This I ask: that you love each other
as I have loved you.

I look on you as friends, as friends.

Don't be distressed;
Let your hearts be free,
For I leave with you my peace, my word.

Antiphon:

This I ask: that you love each other
as I have loved you.

I look on you as friends, as friends.

If you really love me,
Be glad, have hope,
For I leave with you my Spirit to guide you.

Antiphon:

This I ask: that you love each other
as I have loved you.

I look on you as friends, as friends.

When the end is near
I still am with you
For I will ever leave you alone.

Antiphon:

This I ask: that you love each other
as I have loved you.
I look on you as friends, as friends.

PSALMODY

Antiphons

Midmorning. Look on me with love, O Lord, and rescue me.

Midday. Lord, lay your healing hands on the wounds of my sins.

Midafternoon. Be my salvation, Lord, true to your name, and by your mighty power set me free.

Psalm 70

O God, come to my aid

Lord, save us, we are lost (Matthew 8,25).

O God, make haste to my rescue, *
Lord, come to my aid!
Let there be shame and confusion *
On those who seek my life.

O let them turn back in confusion, *
Who delight in my harm,
let them retreat, covered with shame, *
who jeer at my lot.

Let there be rejoicing and gladness *
for all who seek you.
Let them say for ever: "God is great," *
who love your saving help.

As for me, wretched and poor, *
come to me, O God.
You are my rescuer, my help, *
O Lord, do not delay.

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.

Psalm 85

Our salvation is near

God blessed the land when our Savior came to earth (Origen).

O Lord, you once favored your land *
and revived the fortunes of Jacob,
you forgave the guilt of your people *
and covered all their sins.
You averted all your rage, *
you calmed the heat of your anger.

Revive us now, God, our helper! *
Put an end to your grievance against us.
Will you be angry with us for ever, *
will your anger never cease?

Will you not restore again our life *
that your people may rejoice in you?
Let us see, O Lord, your mercy *
and give us your saving help.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say, *
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people and his friends *
and those who turn to him in their hearts.
His help is near for those who fear him *
and his glory will dwell in our land.

Mercy and faithfulness have met; *
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth *
and justice look down from heaven.

The Lord will make us prosper *
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him *
and peace shall follow his steps.

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.

Psalm 86

The prayer of the poor man in distress

Blessed be God who comforts us in all our trials (2Corinthians 1,3.4).

Turn your ear, O Lord, and give answer *
for I am poor and needy.
Preserve my life, for I am faithful: *
save the servant who trusts in you.

You are my God, have mercy on me, Lord, *
for I cry to you all the day long.
Give joy to your servant, O Lord, *
for to you I lift up my soul.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving, *
full of love to all who call.
Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer *
and attend to the sound of my voice.

In the day of distress I will call *
and surely you will reply.
Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord; *
nor work to compare with yours.

All the nations shall come to adore you *
and glorify your name, O Lord:
for you are great and do marvelous deeds, *
you who alone are God.

Show me, Lord, your way †
so that I may walk in your truth. *
Guide my heart to fear your name.

I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart *
and glorify your name for ever;
for your love to me has been great: *
you have saved me from the depths of the grave.

The proud have risen against me; †
ruthless men seek my life: *
to you they pay no heed.

But you, God of mercy and compassion, *
slow to anger, O Lord,
abounding in love and truth, *
turn and take pity on me.

O give your strength to your servant *
and save your handmaid's son.
Show me a sign of your favor †
that my foes may see to their shame *
that you console me and give me your help.

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.

Midmorning

Antiphon. Look on me with love, O Lord, and rescue me.

READING

Job 19,25-26a

I know that my Vindicator lives
and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust;
And from my flesh I shall see God.

VERSE

Why are you heavy, my heart, why are you so anxious?
— Put your hope in God, for I will praise him still.

Midday

Antiphon. Lord, lay your healing hands on the wounds of my sins.

READING

Wisdom 1,13-14a.15

God did not make death,
nor does he rejoice in the destruction of the living.
For he fashioned all things that they might have being;
for justice is undying.

VERSE

Though I walk in the valley of darkness, I fear no evil.
— For you are with me, Lord.

Midafternoon

Antiphon. Be my salvation, Lord, true to your name, and by your mighty power set me free.

READING

Isaiah 25,8

God will destroy death for ever, the Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; The reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth; for the Lord has spoken.

VERSE

O God, hear my prayer.

— To you all flesh must come.

Let us pray.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord, hear our prayers,
By raising your Son from the dead, you have given us faith.
Strengthen our hope that **N.**, our brother (sister),
will share in his resurrection.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God, for ever and ever.

Or:

Lord God,
you are the glory of believers and the life of the just.
Your Son redeemed us by dying and rising to life again.
Our brother (sister) **N.** was faithful
and believed in our own resurrection.
Give to him (her) the joy and blessings
of the life to come.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Or:

Lord of mercy,
hear our prayer.

May our brother (sister) N.,
whom you called your son (daughter) on earth,
enter the kingdom of peace and light,
where your saints live in glory.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Or, during the Easter Season:

Almighty and merciful God,
may our brother (sister) N., share the victory of Christ
who loved us so much that he died and rose again
to bring us new life.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

For several people:

God, our creator and redeemer,
by your power Christ conquered death
and returned to you in glory.

May all your people (N. and N.), who have gone before us in faith,
share his victory
and enjoy the vision of your glory for ever,
where Christ lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

For relatives, friends, and benefactors:

Father,

source of forgiveness and salvation for all mankind,
hear our prayer.

By the prayers of the ever-virgin Mary,
may our friends, relatives, and benefactors
who have gone from this world

come to share eternal happiness with all your saints.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

— Amen.

ACCLAMATION

Let us praise the Lord.

— And give him thanks.

EVENING PRAYER OR “VESPERS”

God, come to my assistance.

— Lord, make haste to help me.

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).

HYMN

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be for ever blest:
Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress and their might;
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou in the darkness drear their one true light:
Alleluia, alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in thee, for all are thine:
Alleluia, alleluia!

But, lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day;
The saints triumphant rise in bright array:
The King of glory passes on his way:
Alleluia, alleluia!

Or:

May flights of angels lead you on your way
To paradise, and heav'n's eternal day!
May martyrs greet you after death's dark night,
And bid you enter into Zion's light!
May choirs of angels sing you to your rest
With once poor Laz'rus, now for ever blest!

PSALMODY

Antiphon 1. The Lord will guard you from all evil. He will guard your soul.

Psalm 121

Guardian of his people

*Never again will they hunger and thirst, never again know scorching heat
(Revelation 7,16).*

I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; *
from where shall come my help?
My help shall come from the Lord, *
who made heaven and earth.

May he never allow you to stumble! *
Let him sleep not, your guard.
No, he sleeps not nor slumbers, *
Israel's guard.

The Lord is your guard and your shade; *
at your right side he stands.
By day the sun shall not smite you *
nor the moon in the night.

The Lord will guard you from evil, *
he will guard your soul.
The Lord will guard your going and coming *
both now and 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.

Antiphon. The Lord will guard you from all evil. He will guard your
soul.

Antiphon 2. If you kept a record of our sins, Lord, who could escape
condemnation?

Psalm 129 (130)

A cry from the depths

He himself will save his people from their sins (Matthew 1,21).

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord *
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive *
to the voice of my pleading.

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, *
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness: *
For this we revere you.

My soul is waiting for the Lord, *
I count on His word.
My soul is longing for the Lord *
more than watchmen for daybreak.
Let the watchmen count on daybreak *
and Israel, on the Lord.

Because with the Lord there is mercy *
And fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed He will redeem *
from all its iniquity.

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.

Antiphon. If you kept a record of our sins, Lord, who could escape condemnation?

Antiphon 3. As the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so the Son gives life to whom he wills.

Canticle

Philippians 2,6-11

Christ, God's holy servant

Though he was in the form of God, *
Jesus did not deem equality with God
something to be grasped at.

Rather, he emptied himself †
And took the form of a slave, *
being born in the likeness of men.

He was known to be of human estate, †
and it was thus that he humbled himself, *
obediently accepting even death, death on a cross!

Because of this, God highly exalted him *
and bestowed on him the name above every other name,

So that at Jesus' name every knee must bend *
in the heavens, on the earth, and under the earth,
and every tongue proclaim to the glory of God the Father: *
JESUS CHRIST IS LORD!

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.

Antiphon. As the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so the Son gives life to whom he wills.

READING

1 Corinthians 15,55-57

O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and sin gets its sting from the law. But thanks be to God who has given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

RESPONSORY

Lord, in your steadfast love, give them eternal rest. *

— Lord, in your steadfast love, give them eternal rest.

You will come to judge the living and the dead. *

— Give them eternal rest.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. *

— Lord, in your steadfast love, give them eternal rest.

Or:

In you, Lord, is our hope. We shall never hope in vain. *

— In you, Lord, is our hope. We shall never hope in vain.

We shall dance and rejoice in your mercy. *

— We shall never hope in vain.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. *

— In you, Lord, is our hope. We shall never hope in vain.

Antiphon. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I shall not turn away.

Or, during the Easter Season:

Antiphon. Our crucified and risen Lord has redeemed us, Alleluia.

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 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.

Antiphon. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I shall not turn away.

Or, during the Easter Season:

Antiphon. Our crucified and risen Lord has redeemed us, Alleluia.

INTERCESSIONS

We acknowledge Christ the Lord through who we hope that our lowly bodies will be made like his in glory, and we say:

Lord, you are our life and resurrection.

Christ, Son of the living God, who raised up Lazarus, your friend, from the dead,
— raise up to life and glory the dead whom you have redeemed by your precious blood.

Christ, consoler of those who mourn, you dried the tears of the family of Lazarus, of the widow's son, and the daughter of Jairus,
— comfort those who mourn for the dead.

Christ, Savior, destroy the reign of sin in our earthly bodies, so that just as through sin we deserved punishment,
— so through you we may gain eternal life.

Christ, Redeemer, look on those who have no hope because they do not know you,
— may they receive faith in the resurrection and in the life of the world to come.

You revealed yourself to the blind man who begged for the light of his eyes,
— show your face to the dead who are still deprived of your light.

When at last our earthly home is dissolved,
— give us a home, not of earthly making, but built of eternity in heaven.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed by 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 trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord, hear our prayers,
By raising your Son from the dead, you have given us faith.
Strengthen our hope that N., our brother (sister),
will share in his resurrection.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God, for ever and ever.

Or:

Lord God,
you are the glory of believers and the life of the just.
Your Son redeemed us by dying and rising to life again.
Our brother (sister) N. was faithful
and believed in our own resurrection.
Give to him (her) the joy and blessings
of the life to come.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Or:

Lord of mercy,
hear our prayer.
May our brother (sister) N.,
whom you called your son (daughter) on earth,
enter the kingdom of peace and light,
where your saints live in glory.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Or, during the Easter Season:

Almighty and merciful God,
may our brother (sister) N., share the victory of Christ
who loved us so much that he died and rose again
to bring us new life.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

For several people:

God, our creator and redeemer,
by your power Christ conquered death
and returned to you in glory.
May all your people (N. and N.), who have gone before us in faith,
share his victory
and enjoy the vision of your glory for ever,
where Christ lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

For relatives, friends, and benefactors:

Father,
source of forgiveness and salvation for all mankind,
hear our prayer.
By the prayers of the ever-virgin Mary,
may our friends, relatives, and benefactors
who have gone from this world
come to share eternal happiness with all your saints.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

— Amen.

DISMISSAL

If a priest or deacon presides, he dismisses the people:

The Lord be with you.

— And with your spirit.

May Almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

— Amen.

Another form of the blessing may be used, as at Mass.

Then he adds:

Go in peace.

— Thanks be to God.

In the absence of a priest or deacon and in individual recitation,
Evening Prayer concludes:

May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to
everlasting life.

— Amen.

NIGHT PRAYER OR “COMPLINE”

God, come to my assistance.

— Lord, make haste to help me.

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).

PENITENTIAL RITE

(Pause to make a silent Examination of Conscience.)

I confess to Almighty God, and to you my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do
through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask Blessed Mary ever virgin,
all the Angels and Saints and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God. Amen.

May Almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.

— Amen.

HYMN

We praise you, Father, for your gifts
Of dusk and nightfall over earth,
Foreshadowing the mystery
Of death that leads to endless day.

Within your hands we rest secure;
In quiet sleep our strength renew;
Yet give your people hearts that wake
In love to you, unsleeping Lord.

Your glory may we ever seek
In rest, as in activity,
Until its fullness is revealed,
O source of life, O Trinity.

Or.

O Christ, You are the light and day
Which drives away the night,
The ever shining Sun of God
And pledge of future light.

As now the evening shadows fall
Please grant us, Lord, we pray,
A quiet night to rest in you
Until the break of day.

Remember us, poor mortal men,
We humbly ask, O Lord,
And may your presence in our souls,
Be now our great reward.

Or.

All praise to you, O God, this night
For all the blessings of the light;
Keep us, we pray, O King of Kings,
Beneath your own almighty wings.

Forgive us, Lord, through Christ your Son,
Whatever wrong this day we've done;
Your peace give to the world, O Lord,
That man might live in one accord.

Enlighten us, O blessed Light,
And give us rest throughout this night.
O strengthen us, that for your sake,
We all may serve you when we wake.

PSALMODY

Antiphon. Night holds no terrors for me sleeping under God's wings.

Easter Antiphon. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Psalm 91

Safe in God's sheltering care

I have given you the power to tread upon serpents and scorpions (Luke 10,19).

He who dwells under the shelter of the Most High *
and abides in the shade of the Almighty
says to the Lord: "My refuge, *
my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!"

It is he who will free you from the snare *
of the fowler who seeks to destroy you;
he will conceal you with his pinions *
and under his wings you will find refuge.

You will not fear the terror of the night *
nor the arrow that flies by day;
nor the plague that prowls in the darkness *
nor the scourge that lays waste at noon.

A thousand may fall at your side, *
ten thousand fall at your right,
you, it will never approach; *
his faithfulness is buckler and shield.

Your eyes have only to look *
to see how the wicked are repaid
you who have said: "Lord, my refuge!" *
and have made the Most High your dwelling.

Upon you no evil shall fall, *
no plague approach where you dwell.
For you has he commanded his angels, *
to keep you in all your ways.

They shall bear you upon their hands *
lest you strike your foot against a stone.
On the lion and the viper you will tread *
and trample the young lion and the dragon.

Since he clings to me in love, I will free him; *
protect him for he knows my name.
When he calls I shall answer: "I am with you." *
I will save him in distress and give him glory.

With length of life I will content him; *
I shall let him see my saving power.

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.

Antiphon. Night holds no terrors for me sleeping under God's wings.

Easter Antiphon. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

READING

Revelation 22,4-5

They shall see the Lord face to face and bear his name on their foreheads. The night shall be no more. They will need no light from lamps or the sun, for the Lord God shall give them light, and they shall reign for ever.

Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit. *
 — Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit.
 You have redeemed us, Lord, God of truth. *
 — I commend my spirit.
 Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. *
 — Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit.

Or, during the Easer Season:

Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit.
 Alleluia, alleluia. *
 — Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit.
 Alleluia, alleluia.
 You have redeemed us, Lord, God of truth. *
 — Alleluia, alleluia.
 Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. *
 — Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit.
 Alleluia, alleluia.

Antiphon. Protect us, Lord, as we stay awake; watch over us as we sleep, that awake, we may keep watch with Christ, and asleep, rest in his peace. (T.P. Alleluia).

GOSPEL CANTICLE

Luke 2,29-32

Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace. *
 Your word has been fulfilled:

my own eyes have seen the salvation *
 which You have prepared in the sight of every people:

a light to reveal You to the nations *
 and the glory of Your people Israel.

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.

Antiphon. Protect us, Lord, as we stay awake; watch over us as we sleep, that awake, we may keep watch with Christ, and asleep, rest in his peace. (T.P. Alleluia).

Let us pray.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord,
we beg you to visit this house
and banish from it
all the deadly power of the enemy.
May your holy angels dwell here
to keep us in peace,
and may your blessing be upon us always.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
— Amen.

BLESSING

May the all-powerful Lord grant us a restful night and a peaceful death.
— Amen.

ANTIPHON IN HONOR OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN

Hail, holy Queen, mother of mercy,
our life, our sweetness, and our hope.
To you do we cry,
poor banished children of Eve.
To you do we send up our sighs
mourning and weeping in this vale of tears.
Turn then, most gracious advocate,
Your eyes of mercy toward us,
and after this exile
show us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus,
O clement, O loving,
O sweet Virgin Mary.

Or:

Loving mother of the Redeemer,
gate of heaven, star of the sea,
assist your people who have fallen yet strive to rise again.
To the wonderment of nature you bore your Creator,
yet remained a virgin after as before.
You who received Gabriel's joyful greeting,
have pity on us poor sinners.

Or:

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.

Or, during the Easter Season:

Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
The Son whom you merited to bear, alleluia,
Has risen as he said, alleluia.

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia!
For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Other hymns approved by the conference of bishops may be used.

COMPLIMENTARY PSALMODY FOR MIDMORNING, MIDDAY AND MIDAFTERNOON

After the verse, God, come to my assistance and the hymn, the gradual psalms, which follow, are said, with their antiphon.

Midmorning

Antiphon 1. I cried out, and the Lord heard me.

Psalm 120

Longing for peace

Be patient in suffering, be constant in prayer (Romans 12,12).

To the Lord in the hour of my distress *
I call and he answers me.
“O Lord, save my soul from lying lips, *
from the tongue of the deceitful.”

What shall he pay you in return, *
O treacherous tongue?
The warrior’s arrows sharpened *
and coals, red-hot, blazing.

Alas, that I abide a stranger in Meshech, *
Dwell among the tents of Kedar!

Long enough have I been dwelling *
with those who hate peace.
I am for peace, but when I speak, *
they are for fighting.

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.

Antiphon. I cried out, and the Lord heard me.

Antiphon 2. May the Lord watch over you as you come and as you go.

Psalm 121

Guardian of his people

Never again will they hunger and thirst, never again know scorching heat
(Revelation 7,16).

I lift up my eyes to the mountains: *
from where shall come my help?
My help shall come from the Lord *
who made heaven and earth.

May he never allow you to stumble! *
Let him sleep not, your guard.
No, he sleeps not nor slumbers, *
Israel's guard.

The Lord is your guard and your shade; *
at your right side he stands.
By day the sun shall not smite you *
nor the moon in the night.

The Lord will guard you from evil, *
he will guard your soul.
The Lord will guard your going and coming *
both now and 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.

Antiphon. May the Lord watch over you as you come and as you go.

Antiphon 3. I rejoiced in the good news they told me.

Psalm 122

The holy city, Jerusalem

*You have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, heavenly Jerusalem
(Hebrew 12,22).*

I rejoiced when I heard them say: *
“Let us go to God’s house.”
And now our feet are standing *
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city *
strongly compact.
It is there that the tribes go up, *
the tribes of the Lord.

For Israel’s law it is, *
there to praise the Lord’s name.
There were set the thrones of judgment *
of the house of David.

For the peace of Jerusalem pray: *
“Peace be to your homes!
May peace reign in your walls, *
in your palaces, peace!”

For love of my brethren and friends *
I say: “Peace upon you!”
For love of the house of the Lord *
I will ask for your 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.

Antiphon. I rejoiced in the good news they told me.

Midday

Antiphon 1. I rejoiced in the good news they told me.

Psalm 123

The Lord, unfailing hope of his people

Two blind men cried out: "Have pity on us, Lord, son of David"
(Matthew 20,30).

To you I have lifted up my eyes, *
you who dwell in the heavens:
my eyes, like the eyes of slaves *
on the hand of their lords.

Like the eyes of a servant *
on the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes are on the Lord our God *
till he show us his mercy.

Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy. *
We are filled with contempt.
Indeed all too full is our soul †
with the scorn of the rich, *
with the proud man's disdain.

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.

Antiphon. I rejoiced in the good news they told me.

Antiphon 2. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Psalm 124

Our help is in the name of the Lord

The Lord said to Paul: "Fear not... I am with you" (Acts 18,9-10).

"If the Lord had not been on our side," *
this is Israel's song.

"If the Lord had not been on our side *
when men rose against us,
then would they have swallowed us alive *
when their anger was kindled.

Then would the waters have engulfed us, *
the torrent gone over us;
over our head would have swept *
the raging waters."

Blessed be the Lord who did not give us *
a prey to their teeth!
Our life, like a bird, has escaped *
from the snare of the fowler.

Indeed the snare has been broken *
and we have escaped.
Our help is in the name of the Lord, *
who made heaven and earth.

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.

Antiphon. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Antiphon 3. The Lord surrounds his people with love, now and for ever.

Psalm 125

The Lord, guardian of his people

Peace to God's true Israel (Galatians 6,16).

Those who put their trust in the Lord †
are like Mount Zion, that cannot be shaken, *
that stands for ever.

Jerusalem! The mountains surround her, †
so the Lord surrounds his people *
both now and for ever.

For the scepter of the wicked shall not rest *
over the land of the just
for fear that the hands of the just *
should turn to evil.

Do good, Lord, to those who are good, *
to the upright of heart;
but the crooked and those who do evil, *
drive them away!

O Israel, 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.

Antiphon. The Lord surrounds his people with love, now and for ever.

Midafternoon

Antiphon 1. The Lord has done great things for us; he is the source of all our joy.

Psalm 126

Joyful hope in God

Just as you share in sufferings so you will share in the divine glory
(2Corinthians 1,7).

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, *
it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
on our lips there were songs.

The heathens themselves said: “What marvels *
the Lord worked for them!”
What marvels the Lord worked for us! *
Indeed we were glad.

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage *
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears *
will sing when they reap.

They go out, they go out, full of tears, *
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song, *
carrying their sheaves.

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.

Antiphon. The Lord has done great things for us; he is the source of all our joy.

Antiphon 2. May the Lord build our house and watch over our city.

Psalm 127

Apart from God our labors are worthless

You are God's building (1Corinthians 3,9).

If the Lord does not build the house, *
in vain do its builders labor;
if the Lord does not watch over the city, *
in vain does the watchman keep vigil.

In vain is your earlier rising, *
you going later to rest,
you who toil for the bread you eat: *
when he pours gifts on his beloved while they slumber.

Truly sons are a gift from the Lord, *
a blessing, the fruit of the womb.
Indeed the sons of youth *
are like arrows in the hand of a warrior.

O the happiness of the man *
who has filled his quiver with these arrows!
He will have no cause for shame *
when he disputes with his foes in the gateways.

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.

Antiphon. May the Lord build our house and watch over our city.

Antiphon 3. Blessed are those who fear the Lord.

Psalm 128

Happiness of family life rooted in God

“May the Lord bless you from Zion,” that is, from the Church (Arnobius).

O blessed are those who fear the Lord *
and walk in his ways!

By the labor of your hands you shall eat. *
You will be happy and prosper;
your wife like a fruitful vine *
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive, *
around your table.

Indeed thus shall be blessed *
The man who fears the Lord.
May the lord bless you from Zion *
All the days of your life!
May you see your children’s children *
In a happy Jerusalem!

On Israel, 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.

Antiphon 3. Blessed are those who fear the Lord.

ADDITIONAL HYMNS FOR DAYTIME PRAYER

Midmorning

Breathe on me, breath of God.
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love the things you love,
And do whatever you would do.

Breathe on me, breath of God,
Until my heart is pure,
Until with you I have one will,
To live and to endure.

Breathe on me, breath of God,
My soul with grace refine,
Until this earthly part of me
Glows with your fire divine.

Breathe on me, breath of God,
So I shall never die,
But live with you the perfect life
In your eternity.

Or:

From all that dwell below the skies
Let the Creator's praise arise;
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
Through every land, by every tongue;
Hallelujah!

Eternal are thy mercies, Lord;
Eternal truth attends thy word:
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,
Till suns shall rise and set no more:
Hallelujah!

Or:

Father, Lord of earth and heaven,
King to whom all gifts belong,
Give your greatest Gift, your Spirit,
God the holy, God the strong.

Son of God, enthroned in glory,
Send your promised Gift of grace,
Make your Church your holy Temple,
God the Spirit's dwelling-place.

Spirit, come, in peace descending
As at Jordan, heavn'ly Dove,
Seal your Church as God's anointed,
Set our hearts on fire with love.

Stay among us, God the Father,
Stay among us, God the Son,
Stay among us, Holy Spirit:
Dwell within us, make us one.

Or:

Holy Spirit, come, confirm us
In the truth that Christ makes known;
We have faith and understanding
Through your helping gifts alone.

Holy Spirit, come, console us,
Come as Advocate to plead,
Loving Spirit from the Father,
Grant in Christ the help we need.

Holy Spirit, come, renew us,
Come yourself to make us live:
Holy through your loving presence,
Holy through the gifts you give.

Holy Spirit, come, possess us,
You the Love of Three in One,
Holy Spirit of the Father,
Holy Spirit of the Son.

Or:

Come, Holy Ghost, who ever one
Art with the Father and the Son;
Come, Holy Ghost, our souls possess
With thy full flood of holiness.

In will and deed, in heart and tongue
With all the powers, thy praise by sung;
And love light up our mortal frame
Till others catch the living flame.

Almighty Father, hear our cry
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord most high,
Who with the Holy Ghost and thee
Doth live and reign eternally.

Or:

Midday

Help us, O Lord, to learn
The truths thy Word imparts:
To study that thy laws may be
Inscribed upon our hearts.

Help us, O Lord, to live
The faith which we proclaim,
That all our thoughts and words and deeds
May glorify your name.

Help us, O Lord, to teach
The beauty of your ways,
That yearning souls may find the Christ,
And sing aloud his praise.

Or:

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joys,
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hand swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Or:

Lord of all being, throned afar,
Your glory flames from sun and star;
Center and soul of every sphere,
And yet to loving hearts how near.

Sun of our life, your living ray
Sheds on our path the glow of the day;
Star of our hope, your gentle light
Shall ever cheer the longest night.

Lord of all life, below, above,
Whose light is truth, whose warmth is love;
Before the brilliance of your throne
We ask no luster of our own.

Give us your grace to make us true,
And kindling hearts that burn for you,
Till all your living altars claim
One holy light, one heavenly flame.

Or:

Almighty Ruler, God of truth
Who guide and master all,
The rays with which you gild the dawn
With noonday heat now fall.

Most holy Father, grant our prayer
Through Christ your only Son,
That in your Spirit we may live
And praise you ever one.

O quench the fires of hatred, Lord,
Of anger and of strife;
Bring health to every mind and heart
That peace may enter life.

Or:

Midafternoon

Firmly I believe and truly
God is three and God is one;
And I next acknowledge duly
Manhood taken by the Son.

And I trust and hope most fully
In that manhood crucified;
And I love supremely, solely
Christ who for my sins has died.

And I hope in veneration,
For the love of him alone,
Holy Church as his creation,
And her teachings as his own.

Praise and thanks be ever given.
With and through the angel host,
To the God of earth and heaven,
Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Or:

Lord God and Maker of all things,
Creation is upheld by you.
While all must change and know decay,
You are unchanging, always new.

You and man's solace and his shield,
His rock secure on which to build;
You are the spirit's tranquil home;
In you alone is hope fulfilled.

To God the Father and the Son
And Holy Spirit render praise,
Blest Trinity, from age to age
The strength of all our living days.

Or:

Most ancient of all mysteries,
Before your throne we lie;
Have mercy now, most merciful,
Most holy Trinity.

When heaven and earth were still unmade,
When time was yet unknown,
You in your radiant majesty
Did live and love alone.

You were not born, there was no source
From which your Being flowed;
There is no end which you can reach,
For you are simply God.

How wonderful creation is,
The work which you did bless;
What then must you be like, dear God,
Eternal loveliness!

Most ancient of all mysteries,
Before your throne we lie;
Have mercy now and evermore,
Most holy Trinity.

Or:

Faith of our fathers! faith and prayer
Shall win all nations unto thee;
And through the truth that comes from God,
Mankind shall then indeed be free.

Refrain:

Faith of our fathers, holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our fathers! we will love
Both friend and foe in all our strife:
And preach thee too, as love knows how,
By kindly deeds and virtuous life.

Refrain:

Faith of our fathers, holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death.



TRISKEL BOOKS