

## Vespers for 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Year A

O God, come to our aid. O Lord make haste to help us.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end Amen. Alleluia.

### Gathering Prayer:

With a love that is both powerful and patient  
O God, you sustain the growth of the *good seed*  
your Son has planted.  
Let your word, like a mustard seed,  
bear rich fruit within us.  
May we dare to hope that a new humanity  
will blossom and grow,  
to shine like the sun in your kingdom,  
when the Lord of the harvest returns  
to bring us home to himself.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord Amen.

### Hymn:

Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,  
wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain.  
Love lives again, that with the dead has been  
**Love is come again like**

#### wheat that springeth green.

In the grave they laid him,  
Love, whom men had slain,  
thinking that never he would wake again.  
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen

Forth he came at Easter like the risen grain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain.  
Quick from the dead, my Risen Lord is seen.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving or in pain,  
thy touch can call us back to life again.  
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

### The Psalms of Evening Prayer

**Antiphon One:** In holy splendour I begot you  
before the dawn, alleluia.

#### Psalm 109 (110) *The Messiah, king and priest*

The Lord's revelation to my Master;  
"Sit on my right.  
Your foes I will put beneath your feet".

The Lord will wield from Zion  
your sceptre of power:  
rule in the midst of all your foes.

A prince from the day of your birth,  
on the holy mountains;  
from the womb before the dawn I begot you.

The Lord has sworn an oath he will not change;  
you are a priest for ever,  
a priest like Melchizadek of old.

The master standing at your right hand,  
will shatter kings in the day of his wrath;

He shall drink from the stream by the wayside  
and therefore he shall lift up his head.

Praise the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit,  
both now and for ever. Amen.

**Antiphon One:** In holy splendour I begot you  
before the dawn, alleluia.

**Antiphon Two:** Blessed are those who hunger  
and thirst for justice, they shall have their fill.

#### Psalm 111: *The happiness of the just man.*

Happy the man who fears the Lord,  
who takes delight in all his commands.  
His sons will be powerful on earth;  
the children of the upright are blessed!

Riches and wealth are in his house;  
his justice stands firm for ever.  
He is a light in the darkness for the upright;  
he is generous, merciful and just.

The good man takes pity and lends;  
he conducts his affairs with honour.  
The just man will never waver,  
he will be remember'd for ever.

He has no fear of evil news;  
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord,  
with a steadfast heart he will not fear;  
he will see the downfall of his foes.

Open handed he gives to the poor;  
his justice stands firm for ever,  
his head will be raised in glory.

The wicked man sees and is angry,  
grinds his teeth and fades away;  
the desire of the wicked leads to doom.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall  
be world without end. Amen.

#### **Antiphon Two:**

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for  
justice, they shall have their fill.

**Antiphon three:** Praise God, all you his  
servants, both great and small, alleluia.

**Canticle from Apocalypse 19: The wedding of the Lamb**  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Salvation and glory and power belong to our God.  
His judgements are true and just.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise our God all you his servants,  
you who fear him small and great.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
The Lord our God, the Almighty reigns.  
Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
The marriage of the Lamb has come  
and his bride has made herself ready.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
both now and for ever. Amen.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Antiphon three:** Praise God, all you his servants,  
both great and small, alleluia.

**The Letter to the Herews: 12:22-24**

What you have come to is Mount Sion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem where the millions of angels have gathered for the festival, with the whole Church, in which everyone is a “first-born son” and a citizen of heaven. You have come to God himself, the supreme Judge, and been placed with the spirits of the saints who have been made perfect; and to Jesus, the mediator who brings a new covenant and a blood for purification which pleads more insistently than Abel’s.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Responsory:**

Great is the Lord; great is his might.  
**Great is the Lord; great is his might.**  
His wisdom can never be measured..  
**Great is the Lord; great is his might.**  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit  
**Great is the Lord; great is his might.**

***The Canticle of Mary***

**Magnificat Antiphon:** Mary has chosen the better part and it will never be taken from her.

My soul glorifies the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.  
He looks on his servant in her lowliness;  
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

The almighty works marvels for me,  
holy his name! His mercy is from age to age  
on those who fear him.

He puts forth his arm in strength  
and scatters the proud hearted,  
he casts the mighty from their thrones  
and raises the lowly,

he fills the starving with good things,  
sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel his servant, remembering his mercy,  
the mercy promised to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his sons for ever.

Praise the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit,  
both now and for ever, world without end.

**Magnificat Antiphon:** Mary has chosen the better part and it will never be taken from her.

**Intercessions**

In the Church, God has made known to us his hidden purpose: to make all things one in Christ. Let us pray that his will may be done.

**Father, unite all things in Christ.**

We give you thanks for the presence and power of your Spirit in the Church:- give us the will to search for unity, and inspire us to pray and work together.

We give you thanks for all whose work proclaims your love: - help us serve the communities in whose life we share.

Father, care for all who serve in the Church as ministers of your word and sacraments: - may they bring your whole family to the unity for which Christ prayed.

Your people have known the ravages of war and hatred:- grant that they may know the peace left by your Son.

Fulfil the hopes of those who sleep in your peace: - bring them to that final resurrection when you will be all in all.

**Our Father....**

**Concluding Prayer**

Be gracious Lord, to us who serve you,  
and in your kindness  
increase your gifts of grace within us:  
so that fervent in faith, hope and love  
we may be ever on the watch  
and persevere in doing what you command.  
We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**Anthem to the Blessed Virgin**

Salve Regina! Mater misericordiae:  
vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra, salve.  
Ad te clamamus, exiles filii hevae.  
Ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes,  
in hac lacrimarum vale.  
Eja ergo, Advocata nostra, ilos tuos,  
misericordes oculos ad nos converte.  
Et Jesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui,  
nobis post hoc exsilium ostende.  
O clemens, O pia, O dulcis, Virgo Maria.