

Vespers for the 3rd Sunday of Eastertime

Call to prayer:

Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia!

Gathering Prayer:

On the first day of the week,
O God of Easter glory, the day on which you
raised up Jesus from dead, we, disciples on the
journey, implore that same Jesus earnestly:
behold, evening is coming, stay with us Lord!
Pour out your Spirit on us, so that
we may recognise Christ crucified and risen,
who opens our hearts to the scriptures
and who is made known to us in the breaking of
bread, and who is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

Opening Verse:

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.

Hvmn:

Sing of one who walks beside us, and this day is living still
One who now is closer to us, than the thoughts of hearts distil.
One who once upon a hilltop raised against the powers of sin, died in love as his own creatures crucified their Lord and King.

Strangers we have walked beside him, the long journey of the day, and have told him of the darkness that has swept our hope away. He has offered words of comfort, words of energy and light, and our hearts have burned within us, as he saved us from the night.

Stay with us dear Lord, and raise us: once again the night is near!
Dine with us and share your wisdom, free our hearts from every fear.
In the calm of each new evening, in the freshness of each dawn, if you hold us fast in friendship, we will never be alone.

The Psalms of Evening Prayer

Antiphon One:

When he had made purification for sin, he sat at the right hand of the Majesty on high, alleluia.

The Messiah is king and priest Psalm 109

He must be king so that he will put all his enemies under his feet (1 Corinthians 15:25)

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:

When he had made purification for sin, he sat at the right hand of the Majesty on high, alleluia.

Antiphon Two:

The Lord has delivered his people, Alleluia

Israel comes out of Egypt Psalm 113

I will thank the Lord with all my heart, in the meeting of the just and their assembly. Great are the works of the Lord - to be pondered by all who love them.

Majestic and glorious his work; his justice stands firm for ever. He makes us remember his wonders: the Lord is compassion and love.

He gives food to those who fear him, keeps his covenant ever in mind. He has shown his might to his people by giving them the lands of the nations.

His works are justice and truth, his precepts are all of them sure, standing firm for ever and ever, they are made in uprightness and truth. He has sent deliverance to his people, and established his covenant for ever. Holy his name, to be feared.

To fear the Lord is the first stage of wisdom, all who do so prove themselves wise, his praise shall last for ever.

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:

The Lord has delivered his people, Alleluia

Antiphon three:

Alleluia, the Lord our God is king; let us rejoice and give glory to him, alleluia.

Alleluia!

Salvation and glory and power belong to our God. His judgements are true and just. Alleluia.

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

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

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

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

Antiphon three: Alleluia, the Lord our God is king; let us rejoice and give glory to him, alleluia.

A Reading from the letter to the Hebrews:

Christ has offered one single sacrifice for sins, and then taken his place for ever at the right hand of God, where he is now waiting until his enemies are made into a footstool for him. By virtue of that one single offering, he has achieved the eternal perfection of all whom he is sanctifiying. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Canticle of Mary

Magnificat Antiphon: Jesus said to his disciples: "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore, full of fish, alleluia!

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: Jesus said to his disciples: "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore, full of fish, alleluia!

Intercessions

Let us pray to Christ the Lord. He rose from the dead and is living now to intercede for us.

Victorious King, hear us.

Christ, you are the light of the world and the salvation of the nations; - set us on fire with your Spirit, as we proclaim the wonder of your resurrection. **Victorious King, hear us.**

Let Israel recognise in you the Messiah it has longed for; - fill all people with the knowledge of your glory. **Victorious King, hear us.**

Keep us united in the communion of the saints; may we find rest with them when life's work is done. **Victorious King, hear us.**

You have overcome death, the last enemy of man;- destroy everything in us that is at enmity with God. **Victorious King, hear us.**

Christ our Saviour, you became obedient unto death, but God raised you to the heights;- receive our brothers and sisters who have died into the kingdom of your glory. **Victorious King, hear us.**

Our Father....

Concluding Prayer

Lord, grant your people constant joy in the renewed vigour of their souls. They rejoice because you have restored them to the glory of yout adopted children; let them look forward gladly to the certain hope of resurrection. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Church's Easter praise of Our Lady:

Regina caeli, laetare, alleluia! Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia. Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia. Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.