

Vespers for the 4th Sunday of Eastertime

Call to prayer:

Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia!

Gathering Prayer:

God our Father,

such is your love for your people that even if they walk in the darkness of the valley of death, no evil need they fear, for the follow in faith the voice of the Shepherd who calls them to himself.

Gather all your scattered children into one flock who follow Christ the shepherd.

May all people come to taste the joy you give to those whom you call the children of God. We ask this through Christ our Lord. 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.

Hymn:

Easter glory fills the sky. Alleluia. Christ now lives no more to die. Alleluia. Darkness has been put to flight. Alleluia. By the living Lord of light. Alleluia.

Mary, Mather, greet your Son, Alleluia! Radiant from his triumph won! Alleluia! By his cross you shared his pain, Alleluia! So for ever share his reign! Alleluia!

Magd'len, wipe away your tears! Alleluia! He has come who calms all fears! Alleluia! Hear the Master speak your name; Alleluia! Turn to him with heart aflame! Alleluia!

Shepherd, seek the sheep that strayed. Alleluia! Come to contrite Peter's aid! Alleluia! Strengthen him to be the Rock; Alleluia! Make him shepherd of your flock! Alleluia!

The Psalms of Evening Prayer

Antiphon One:

You must look for the things of heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand, 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:

You must look for the things of heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand, alleluia.

Antiphon Two:

He has risen as a light in the darkness, for the upright of heart. Alleluia.

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: He has risen as a light in the darkness, for the upright of heart. Alleluia.

Antiphon three:

Alleluia! Victory and glory and power belong to our God, 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! Victory and glory and power belong to our God, 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: I am the door, says the Lord. Anyone who enters through me will be safe and he will find a place of pasture, 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: I am the door, says the Lord. Anyone who enters through me will be safe and he will find a place of pasture, alleluia.

Intercessions

Let us pray to God the Father, who raised Jesus to life and exalted him at his own right hand. Lord, protect your people through the glory of Christ.

Father, through the victory of the cross, you have lifted up Jesus from the earth; - may he draw all people to himself. Lord, protect your people through the glory of Christ.

Through the exaltation of Christ, send your Spirit into the church; - make her the sign of unity for the whole human family.

We have become your children through water and the Holy Spirit; - keep us faithful to our Baptism until we enter eternal life.

Through the exaltation of your Son, raise up the sorrowful, set prisoners free, heal the sick; may the whole world rejoice in your wonderful gifts.

You nourished the faithful departed with Christ's body and blood; - let them share in his glory on the day of resurrection.

Our Father....

Concluding Prayer

Almighty, everliving God, bring us to the joy of your heavenly city: so that we, your little flock, may follow where Christ our Good Shepherd has gone before us by the power of his resurrection. We make our prayer through the same 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.