

# VESPERS



*Vespers is a sunset evening prayer service in the liturgies of the canonical hours. The word comes from the Greek σπέρα (hespera) and the Latin vesper, meaning "evening". It is also referred to as evening prayer or evensong.*

## SERVICE OF LIGHT

### DIALOGUE

Jesus Christ is the light of the world,  
**the light no darkness can overcome.**

Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,  
**and the day is almost over.**

Let your light scatter the darkness  
**and illumine your church.**

### PSALMODY

Let my prayer rise before you as incense;  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

**O Lord, I call to you; come to me quickly;**

**hear my voice when I cry to you.**

Let my prayer rise before you as incense;  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

**Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord,  
and guard the door of my lips.**

Let not my heart incline to any evil thing;  
let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers.

**But my eyes are turned to you, Lord God;  
in you I take refuge. Strip me not of my 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 forever. Amen

**Let my prayer rise before you as incense;  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

*A time of silence is kept for meditation.*

Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before you, O Lord,  
and let your loving kindness descend upon us, that with purified  
minds we may sing your praises with the Church on earth and the  
whole heavenly host and may glorify you forever and ever. **Amen**

## READING

*A lesson is read. Silence for meditation follows.*

*The leader then continues:*

In many and various ways God spoke to his people of old by the  
prophets. **But now in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.**

## GOSPEL CANTICLE

*Magnificat*

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.

**From this day all generations will call me bless'd:  
you, the Almighty, have done great things for me  
and holy is your name.**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

**You have mercy on those who fear you,  
from generation to generation.**

You have shown strength with your arm  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,  
**casting down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

**You have filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.**

You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,  
to remember the promise of mercy,  
**the promise made to our forebears,  
to Abraham and his children forever.**

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

## THE LITANY

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the  
Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the health of the creation, for abundant harvests that all may  
share, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have  
mercy.**

For public servants, the government, and those who protect us; for  
those who work to bring peace, justice, healing, and protection in this  
and every place, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For \_\_\_\_\_ and all those who are sick and suffering, and for those who are in captivity, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance in the time of affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

*A time of silence follows.*

Giving thanks for all who have gone before us and are at rest, rejoicing in the communion of all the saints, we commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to you, through Christ our Lord. **To you, O Lord.**

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us. **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

## BENEDICTION

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Almighty God, the Father, ✠ the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us. **Amen**