

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 o - ver - come.**



Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening, **and the day is al - most over.**



Let your light scat - ter the darkness **and illu - mine your church.**

PSALMODY



Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense;



the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac - ri - fice.



O Lord, I call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when



I cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense;



the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac - ri - fice.



Set a watch be - fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.



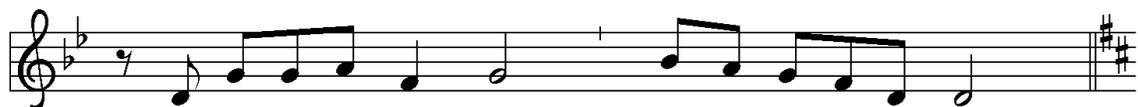
Let not my heart in - cline to an - y e - vil thing;



let me not be oc - cu - pied in wick - ed - ness with e - vil -



do - ers. But my eyes are turned to you, Lord God;



in you I take ref - uge. Strip me not of my life.

All



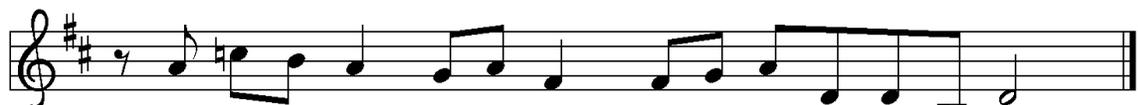
Glo-ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir - it;



as it was in the be-gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.



Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense;



the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac - ri - fice.

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**

HYMN

verses 1, 2, 4

Behold, Unveiled the Vesper Skies



- 1 Be - hold, un - veiled the ves - per skies: the eve - ning has be - gun,
- 2 How blest are you, all - lov - ing God, who weaves both day and night,
- 3 Let eve - ning lamps en - kin - dled flame; the ta - ble Christ has spread,
- 4 Stay with us, Christ, our rest pre - pare as la - bor ebbs with night,



and prayer and praise like in - cense rise as sets the gold - en sun.
a star - ry man - tle for our road, the shad - ow and the light.
and beck - ons ev - 'ry one by name to break - ing of the bread.
and ho - ly dreams en - wreath with prayer till dawns the splen - did light.

For a service without communion, stanzas 1, 2, and 4 may be sung.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien

Music: VESPER SKIES, David Cherwien

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READING

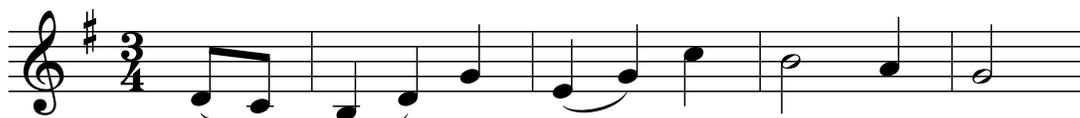
A lesson is read. Silence for meditation follows.

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



1. My soul gives glo - ry to my God
2. God's mer - cy com - forts all who fear,
3. God's jus - tice sends the rich a - way,



who reach - es down with lov - ing grace
em - brac - ing with a stead - fast arm
but feeds the poor with lav - ish things.



to lift me from my low es - tate
that casts the might - y from their thrones,
Each hun - gry soul now fills with joy



and set me in the high - est place.
but keeps the hum - ble safe from harm.
and joins the song that Mar - y sings:



Ma - gni - fi - cat, ma - gni - fi - cat!
Ma - gni - fi - cat, ma - gni - fi - cat!
Ma - gni - fi - cat, ma - gni - fi - cat!



With all my heart, I an - swer Yes
The weak find strength; the wea - ry, rest.
To God, Cre - a - tor, Christ, the Son;



when God an - nounc - es won - drous news.
God's prom - ise sounds from age to age:
and Ho - ly Spir - it— tri - une God:



And ev - 'ry age shall call me blest.
the need - y of the world are blest.
all prais - es to the Three - in - One!

THE LITANY

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

The musical notation consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in G major (one flat) with a treble clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The middle and bottom staves are piano accompaniment, with the middle staff in treble clef and the bottom staff in bass clef. The music is in 4/4 time and features a simple, hymn-like melody.

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

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

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.

For and all those who are sick and suffering, and for those who are in captivity, let us | pray to the Lord.

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

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.

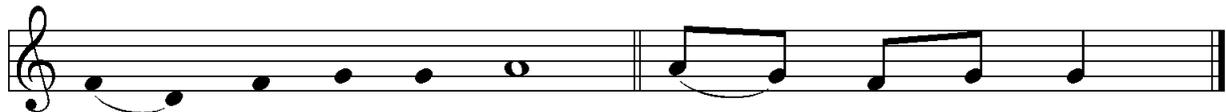
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O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your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

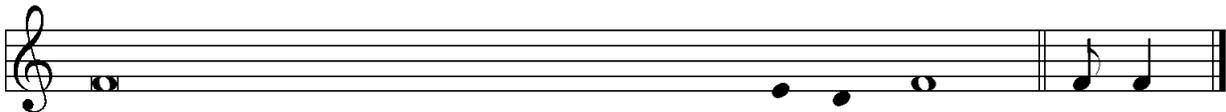
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.



☐ The almighty and merciful Lord, ☑ A - men
the Father, ✝ the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre - serve us