

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

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.

Joyous light of glory:
of the immortal Father; heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ.

We have come to the setting of the sun,
and we look to the evening light.

We sing to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:
You are worthy of being praised with pure voices forever.

O Son of God, O Giver of life:
The universe proclaims your glory.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe,
who led your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day
and a pillar of fire by night:

Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ;
may his Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;
For you are merciful, and you love your whole creation,
and we, your creatures, glorify you,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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 lovingkindness 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.**

*A second psalm is read and after a brief moment for reflection
is followed by the Psalm Prayer.*

LESSONS

*One or more lessons are read.
After last reading, a moment for reflection and then ...*

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

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed.

**The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.**

He has shown the strength of his arm;
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

**He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.**

He has filled the hungry with good things.
and the rich he has sent away empty.

**He has come to the help of his servant Israel,
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children forever.**

**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.**

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 peace of the whole world,
for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who work to bring peace, justice, health,
and protection in this and every place,

let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who bring offerings,
those who do good works in our congregation,
those who toil, those who sing,
and all the people here present who await from the Lord
great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For favorable weather,
for an abundance of the fruits of the earth,
and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our deliverance from all affliction,
illness, danger, and need, (*and for*)
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the faithful who have gone before us and are at rest,
let us give thanks to the Lord.

Alleluia!

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

A Moment of Silent Reflection

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints,
let us commend ourselves, one another,
and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.

To you, O Lord.

Lord 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

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, ✠ the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us. **Amen.**

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