

Office for the dead

Ant. Come, let us worship the Lord, all things live for him.

INVITATORY PSALM (Psalm 95)

OFFICE OF READINGS

HYMN Keep in Mind (Lucien Deiss, C.S.Sp., 1965)

PSALMODY

Ant. From the earth you formed me, with flesh you clothed me; Lord, my Redeemer, raise me up again at the last day.

PSALM **40:2-14, 17-18**

I

I waited, waited for the Lord;
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry,

He drew me from the deadly pit,
from the miry clay.
He set my feet upon rock,
and made my footsteps firm.

He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.
Many shall see and fear
and shall trust in the Lord.

Happy the man who has placed
his trust in the Lord
and has not gone over to the rebels
who follow false gods.

How many, O Lord, my God,
are the wonders and designs
that you have worked for us;
You have no equal.
Should I proclaim and speak of them,
they are more than I can tell!

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,
but an open ear.
You do not ask for holocaust and victim.
instead, here am I.

In the scroll of the book it stands written
that I should do your will.
My God, I delight in your law
in the depth of my heart.

Glory to the Father ...

Ant. From the earth you formed me, with flesh you clothed me; Lord, my Redeemer,
raise me up again at the last day.

Ant. 2 Lord, may it please you to rescue me; look upon me and help me.

II

Your justice I have proclaimed
in the great assembly.
My lips I have not sealed;
you know it, O Lord.

I have not hidden your justice in my heart
but declared your faithful help.
I have not hidden your love and your truth
from the great assembly.

O Lord, you will not withhold
your compassion from me.
Your merciful love and your truth
will always guard me.

For I am beset with evils
too many to be counted.
My sins have fallen upon me
and my sight fails me.
They are more than the hairs of my head
and my heart sinks.

O Lord, come to my rescue,
Lord, come to my aid.

O let there be rejoicing and gladness
for all who seek you.
Let them ever say: "The Lord is great,"
who love your saving help.

As for me, wretched and poor,
the Lord thinks of me.
You are my rescuer, my help,
O God, do not delay!

Ant. 2 Lord, may it please you to rescue me; look upon me and help me.

Ant. 3 My soul is thirsting for the living God; when shall I see him face to face?

PSALM 42

Like the deer that yearns
for running streams,
so my soul is yearning
for you, O God.

My soul is thirsting for God,
the God of my life;
when can I enter and see
the face of God?

My tears have been my bread
by night, by day,
as I hear it said all the day long:
"Where is your God?"

These things will I remember
as I pour out my soul:
how I would lead the rejoicing crowd
into the house of God,
amid cries of gladness and thanksgiving,
the throng wild with joy.

Why are you cast down, my soul,
why groan within me?
Hope in God; I will praise him still,
my savior and my God.

My soul is cast down within me
as I think of you,
from the country of the Jordan and Mount Hermon,
from the Hill of Mizar.

Deep is calling on deep,
in the roar of waters:
your torrents and all your waves
swept over me.

By day the Lord will send
his loving kindness;
by night I will sing to him,
praise the God of my life.

I will say to God, my rock:
“Why have you forgotten me?
Why do I go mourning
oppressed by the foe?”

With cries that pierce me to the heart,
my enemies revile me,
saying to me all the day long:
"Where is your God?"

Why are you cast down, my soul,
why groan within me?
Hope in God; I will praise him still,
my savior and my God.

Ant. 3 My soul is thirsting for the living God; when shall I see him face to face?

Lord, countless are your mercies
— Give me life according to your word.

FIRST READING

From the first letter of the apostle Paul to the Corinthians 15:12-34

The resurrection of Christ is the hope of the faithful

Tell me, if Christ is preached as raised from the dead, how is it that some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, Christ himself has not been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is void of content and your faith is empty too. Indeed, we should then be exposed as false witnesses of God, for we have borne witness before him that he raised Christ; but he certainly did not raise him up if the dead are not raised. Why? Because if the dead are not raised, then Christ was not raised; and if Christ was not raised, your faith is worthless. You are still in your sins and those who have fallen asleep in Christ are the dearest of the dead. If our hopes in Christ are limited to this life only, we are the most pitiable of men.

But as it is, Christ is now raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. Death came through a man; hence the resurrection of the dead comes through a man also. Just as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will come to life again, but each one in proper order: Christ the first fruits and then, at his coming, all those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when, after having destroyed every sovereignty, authority and power, he will hand over the kingdom to God the Father.

Christ must reign until God has put all his enemies under his feet and the last enemy to be destroyed is death. Scripture reads that God "has placed all things under his feet." But when it says that everything has been made subject, it is clear that he who has made everything subject to Christ is excluded. When, finally, all has been subjected to the Son, he will then subject himself to the One who made all things subject to him, so that God may be all in all.

If the dead are not raised, what about those who have themselves baptized on behalf of the dead? If the raising of the dead is not a reality, why be baptized on their behalf? And why are we continually putting ourselves in danger? I swear to you, brothers, by the very pride you take in me, which I cherish in Christ Jesus our Lord, that I face death every day. If I fought those beasts at Ephesus for purely human motives, what profit was there for me? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!" Do not be led astray any longer. "Bad company corrupts good morals." Return to reason, as you ought, and stop sinning. Some of you are quite ignorant of God; I say this to your shame.

RESPONSORY 1 Cor. 15:25-26; see Rv. 20:13, 14

Christ must reign until God has brought all enemies under his feet

– And the last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Then death and Sheol will give up their dead,
death and Sheol will be cast into the fiery lake.

– And the last enemy to be destroyed is death.

ALTERNATIVE:

From the first letter of the apostle Paul to the Corinthians: 15:35-57

The resurrection of the dead and the coming of the Lord

Perhaps someone will say, "How are the dead to be raised up? What kind of body will they have?" A nonsensical question! The seed you sow does not germinate unless it dies. When you sow, you do not sow the full-blown plant, but a kernel of wheat, or some other grain. God gives body to it as he pleases — to each seed its own fruition. Not all bodily nature is the same. Men have one kind of body, animals another. Birds are of their kind, fish are of theirs. There are heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies. The splendor of the heavenly bodies is one thing, that of the earthly another. The sun has a splendor of its own, so has the moon, and the stars have theirs. Even among the stars, one differs from another in brightness.

So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown in the earth is subject to decay, what rises is incorruptible. What is sown is ignoble, what rises is glorious. Weakness is sown, strength rises up. A natural body is put down and a spiritual body comes up.

If there is a natural body, be sure there is also a spiritual one. Scripture has it that Adam, the first man, became a living soul; the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. Take note, the spiritual was not first; first came the natural and after that the spiritual.

The first man was of earth, formed from dust, the second from heaven. Earthly men are like the man of earth, heavenly men are like the man of heaven.

Just as we resemble the man from earth, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven. This is what I mean, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, no more can corruption inherit incorruption.

Now I am going to tell you a mystery. Not all of us shall fall asleep, but all of us are to be changed — in an instant, in the twinkle of an eye, at the sound of the last trumpet. The trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. This corruptible body must be clothed with incorruptibility, this mortal body with immortality. When the corruptible frame takes on incorruptibility and the mortal immortality, will the saying of the Scripture be fulfilled: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

RESPONSORY Job 19:25, 26, 27

I know that my Redeemer live and on the last day I shall rise again.
— In my body I shall look on God, my Savior.

I myself shall see him; my own eyes will gaze on him.
— In my body I shall look on God, my Savior.

ALTERNATIVE:

From the second letter of the apostle Paul to the Corinthians: 4:16 — 5:10

**When the body of our earthly dwelling place lies in death,
we gain an everlasting dwelling place in heaven**

We do not lose heart, because our inner being is renewed each day even though our body is being destroyed at the same time. The present burden of our trial is light enough, and earns for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison. We do not fix our gaze on what is seen but on what is unseen. What is seen is transitory; what is unseen lasts forever.

Indeed, we know that when the earthly tent in which we dwell is destroyed we have a dwelling provided for us by God, a dwelling in the heavens, not made by hands but to last forever. We groan while we are here, even as we yearn to have our heavenly habitation envelop us. This it will, provided we are found clothed and not naked. While we live in our present tent we groan; we are weighed down because we do not wish to be stripped naked but rather to have the heavenly dwelling envelop us, so that what is mortal may be absorbed by life. God has fashioned us for this very thing and has given us the Spirit as a pledge of it.

Therefore we continue to be confident. We know that while we dwell in the body we are away from the Lord. We walk by faith, not by sight. I repeat, we are full of confidence and would much rather be away from the body and home with the Lord. This being so we make it our aim to please him whether we are with him or away from him. The lives of all of us are to be revealed before the tribunal of Christ so that each one may receive his recompense, good or bad, according to his life in the body.

RESPONSORY

Lord do not judge me according to my deeds:
I have done nothing worthy in your sight:
therefore I implore you, God of majesty,
— blot out all my guilt

Lord, wash away my iniquities, and cleanse from my sins.
— Blot out all my guilt.

SECOND READING

From a sermon by Saint Anastasius of Antioch, bishop

Christ will change our lowly body

To this end Christ died and rose to life that he might be Lord both of the dead and the living. But God is not the God of the dead, but of the living. That is why the dead, now under the dominion of one who has risen to life, are no longer dead but alive. Therefore life has dominion over them and, just as *Christ, having been raised from the dead, will never die again*, so too they will live and never fear death again. When they have been thus raised from the dead and freed from decay, they shall never again see death, for they will share in Christ's resurrection just as he himself shared in their death.

This is why Christ descended into the underworld, with its imperishable prison-bars: *to shatter the doors of bronze and break the bars of iron* and, from decay to raise our life to himself by giving us freedom in place of servitude.

But if this plan does not yet appear to be perfectly realized – for men still die and bodies still decay in death – this should not occasion any loss of faith. For, in receiving the first-fruits, we have already received the pledge of all the blessings we have mentioned; with them we have reached the heights of heaven, and we have taken our place beside him who has raised us up with himself, as Paul says: *In Christ God has raised us up with him, and has made us sit with him in the heavenly places.*

And the fulfillment will be ours on the day predetermined by the Father, when we shall put off our childish ways and come to *perfect manhood*. For this is the decree of the Father of the ages: the gift, once given, is to be secure and no more to be rejected by a return to childish attitudes.

There is no need to recall that the Lord rose from the dead with a spiritual body, since Paul, in speaking of our bodies bears witness that *they are sown as animal bodies and raised as spiritual bodies*: that is, they are transformed in accordance with the glorious transfiguration of Christ who goes before us as our leader.

The Apostle, affirming something he clearly knew, also said that this would happen to all mankind through Christ, *who will change our lowly body to make it like his glorious body.*

If this transformation is a change into a spiritual body and one, furthermore, like the glorious body of Christ, then Christ rose with a spiritual body, a body that *was sown in dishonor*, but the very body that was transformed in glory.

Having brought this body to the Father as the first-fruits of our nature, he will also bring the whole body to fulfillment. For he promised this when he said: *I, when I am lifted up, will draw all men to myself.*

RESPONSORY John 5:28-29; 1 Corinthians 15:52

All who are in their graves shall hear the voice of the Son of God;
— those who have done good deeds will go forth to the resurrection of life;
those who have done evil will go forth to the resurrection of judgment.

In an instant, in the twinkling of an eye, at the final trumpet blast,
the dead shall rise.
— those who have done good deeds will go forth to the resurrection of life;
those who have done evil will go forth to the resurrection of judgment.

ALTERNATIVE:

From a letter by Saint Braulio, bishop

The risen Christ is the hope of all Christians

Lazarus our friend is sleeping. In saying this, Christ, who is the hope of all believers refers to the departed as those who are asleep. By no means does he regard them as dead.

Paul the apostle does not want us to grieve about those who have fallen asleep. Our faith tells us that all who believe in Christ will never die; indeed faith assures us that Christ is not dead, nor shall we die.

The Lord himself will come down from heaven and there will be the command of the archangel's voice and the sound of the trumpet; then those who were united with Christ in death will rise.

Let the hope of resurrection encourage us, then, because we shall see again those whom we lose here below. Of course, we must continue to believe firmly in Christ; we must continue to obey his commandments. His power is so great that it is easier for him to raise the dead to life than it is for us to arouse those who are sleeping. As we are saying all these things some unknown feeling causes us to burst into tears; some hidden feeling discourages the mind which tries to trust and to hope. Such is the sad human condition; without Christ all life is utter emptiness.

O death! You separate those who are joined to each other in marriage. You harshly and cruelly divide those whom friendship unites. But your power is broken. Your heinous yoke has been destroyed by the One who sternly threatened you when Hosea cried out: *O Death! I shall be your death.* And with the words of the apostle we, too, deride you: *O death! Where is your victory? O death! Where is your sting!*

Your conqueror redeemed us. He handed himself over to wicked men so that he could transform the wicked into persons who were truly dear to him. It would take too long to narrate all the consolations intended for our benefit in the Scriptures. But by focusing our attention upon the glory of our Redeemer there is sufficient hope for our resurrection. Through faith we know that we are already risen from the dead. The Apostle writes: *If we have died with Christ, we believe that we are at the same time living with him.*

We do not really belong to ourselves; we belong to the One who redeemed us. Our will should always depend on his. For this reason we say in the Lord's Prayer: *Your will be done*. Confronted with death, the sentiments of Job should be our own: *The Lord gave and the Lord took away. May his name be blessed!* Let us repeat here and now what Job said, lest we turn out to be unlike him, when our time comes.

RESPONSORY: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14; Jeremiah 22:10

Concerning those who are asleep, do not be sad like men who have no hope;
— for if we believe that Jesus died and rose again,
God will bring forth with Jesus all who have fallen asleep believing in him.

Do not weep for the dead,
do not mourn them with tears.
— For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again,
God will bring forth with Jesus all who have fallen asleep believing in him.

PRAYER

Lord, hear our prayers.
By raising your Son from the dead, you have given us faith.
Strengthen our hope that *N.*, our brother (sister), will share in his resurrection.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Or

Lord God,
you are the glory of believers
and the life of the just.
Your Son redeemed us
by dying and rising to life again.
Our brother (sister) *N.* was faithful
and believed in our own resurrection.
Give to him (her) the joys and blessings
of the life to come.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

Or

Lord of mercy,
hear our prayer.

May our brother (sister) *N.*
whom you called your son (daughter) on earth,
enter the kingdom of peace and light,
where your saints live in glory.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

For several people:

God, our creator and redeemer,
by your power Christ conquered death
and returned to you in glory.

May all your people (*N. and N.*) who have gone before us in faith
share his victory
and enjoy the vision of your glory for ever,
where Christ lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

For relatives, friends, and benefactors:

Father,
source of forgiveness and salvation for all mankind,
hear our prayer.

By the prayers of the ever-virgin Mary,
may our friends, relatives and benefactors
who have gone from this world
come to share eternal happiness with all your saints.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

Morning Prayer

HYMN Christ the Lord is Risen Today (Charles Wesley, 1707-1788)

PSALMODY

Ant 1. The bones that were crushed shall leap for joy before the Lord.

PSALM 51

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offense.
O wash me more and more from my guilt;
and cleanse me from my sin.

My offenses truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done.

That you may be justified when you give sentence,
and be without reproach when you judge,
O see, in guilt I was born,
a sinner, was I conceived.

Indeed you love truth in the heart;
then in the secret of my heart teach me wisdom.
O purify me, then I shall be clean;
O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear rejoicing and gladness;
that the bones you have crushed may revive.
From my sins turn away your face
and blot out all my guilt.

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervor sustain me,
that I may teach transgressors your ways
and sinners may return to you.

O rescue me, God, my helper,
and my tongue shall ring out your goodness.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

For in sacrifice you take no delight,
burnt offering from me you would refuse,
my sacrifice, a contrite spirit.
A humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn.

In your goodness, show favor to Zion:
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
Then you will be pleased with lawful sacrifice,
holocausts offered on your altar.

Ant. The bones that were crushed shall leap for joy before the Lord.

Ant 2. At the very threshold of death, rescue me, Lord.

CANTICLE Isaiah 38:10-14, 17-20

Once I said,
"In the noontime of life I must depart!
To the gates of the nether world I shall be consigned
for the rest of my years."

I said, "I shall see the Lord no more
in the land of the living.
No longer shall I behold my fellow men
among those who dwell in the world."

My dwelling, like a shepherd's tent,
is struck down and borne away from me;
You have folded up my life, like a weaver
who severs the last thread.

Day and night you give me over to torment;
I cry out until the dawn.
Like a lion he breaks all my bones;
day and night you give me over to torment.

Like a swallow I utter shrill cries;
I moan like a dove.
My eyes grow weak, gazing heaven-ward:
O Lord, I am in straits; be my surety!

You have preserved my life
from the pit of destruction,
When you cast behind your back
all my sins.

For it is not the nether world that gives you thanks,
nor death that praises you;
Neither do those who go down into the pit
await your kindness.

The living, the living give you thanks,
as I do today.
Fathers declare to their sons,
O God, your faithfulness.

The Lord is our savior;
we shall sing to stringed instruments
In the house of the Lord
all the days of our life.

Ant. At the very threshold of death, rescue me, Lord.
Ant 3. I will praise my God all the days of my life.

PSALM 146

My soul, give praise to the Lord;
I will praise the Lord all my days,
make music to my God while I live.

Put no trust in princes,
in mortal men in whom there is no help.
Take their breath, they return to clay
and their plans that day come to nothing.

He is happy who is helped by Jacob's God,
whose hope is in the Lord his God,
who alone made heaven and earth,
the seas and all they contain.

Is it he who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free,

the Lord, who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger,
and upholds the widow and the orphan.

It is the Lord loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age.

Ant I will praise my God all the days of my life.

Or

Ant. 3 Let everything that breathes give praise to the Lord.

PSALM 150

Praise God in his holy place;
praise him in his mighty heavens.
Praise him for his powerful deeds,
praise his surpassing greatness.

O praise him with sound of trumpet,
praise him with lute and harp.
Praise him with timbrel and dance,
praise him with strings and pipes.

O praise him with resounding cymbals,
praise him with clashing cymbals.
Let everything that lives and that breathes
give praise to the Lord.

Ant. Let everything that breathes give praise to the Lord.

READING 1 Thessalonians 4:14

If we believe that Jesus died and rose, God will bring forth with him from the dead those also who have fallen asleep believing in him.

RESPONSORY

I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.
— I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.
You turned my sorrow into joy.
— for you have rescued me.
Glory to the Father...
— I will praise you...

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (Luke 1:68-79)

Ant. I am the Resurrection, I am the Life; to believe in me means life, in spite of death, and all who believe and live in me shall never die.

INTERCESSIONS

Let us pray to the all-powerful Father who raised Jesus from the dead and gives new life to our mortal bodies, and say to him:

Lord, give us new life in Christ.

Father, through baptism we have been buried with your Son and have risen with him in his resurrection,

—grant that we may walk in newness of life so that when we die, we may live with Christ for ever.

Provident Father, you have given us the living bread that has come down from heaven and which should always be eaten worthily,

— grant that we may eat this bread worthily and be raised up to eternal life on the last day.

Lord, you sent an angel to comfort your Son in his agony,

— give us the hope of your consolation when death draws near.

You delivered the three youths from the fiery furnace,

— free your faithful ones from the punishment they suffer for their sins.

God of the living and the dead, you raised Jesus from the dead,

—raise up those who have died and grant that we may share eternal glory with them.

Our Father ...

PRAYER

Lord, hear our prayers.

By raising your Son from the dead, you have given us faith. Strengthen our hope that N., our brother (sister), will share in his resurrection.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, you Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, on God, for ever and ever.

Or

Lord God,
you are the glory of believers
and the life of the just.
Your Son redeemed us
by dying and rising to life again.
Our brother (sister) N. was faithful
and believed in our own resurrection.
Give to him (her) the joys and blessings
of the life to come.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

Or

Lord of mercy,
hear our prayer.
May our brother (sister) N.
whom you called your son (daughter) on earth,
enter the kingdom of peace and light,
where your saints live in glory.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

For several people:

God, our creator and redeemer,
by your power Christ conquered death
and returned to you in glory.
May all your people (N. and N.) who have gone before us in faith
share his victory
and enjoy the vision of your glory for ever,
where Christ lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

For relatives, friends, and benefactors:

Father,
source of forgiveness and salvation for all mankind,
hear our prayer.

By the prayers of the ever-virgin Mary,
may our friends, relatives and benefactors
who have gone from this world
come to share eternal happiness with all your saints.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

Daytime Prayer

HYMN John 15 (Enrico Garzilli, 1970)

PSALMODY

Midmorning:

Look on me with love, O Lord, and rescue me.

Midday:

Lord, lay your healing hands on the wounds of my sins.

Midafternoon:

Be my salvation, Lord, true to your name, and by your mighty power set me free.

MIDMORNING

PSALM 70

O God, make haste to my rescue,
Lord, come to my aid!
Let there be shame and confusion
on those who seek my life.

O let them turn back in confusion,
who delight in my harm,
let them retreat, covered with shame,
who jeer at my lot.

Let there be rejoicing and gladness
for all who seek you.
Let them say for ever: "God is great,"
who love your saving help.

As for me, wretched and poor,
the Lord thinks of me.
You are my rescuer, my help,
O God, do not delay!

PSALM 85

O Lord, you once favored your land,
and revived the fortune of Jacob,
and forgave the guilt of your people
and covered all their sins.
You averted all your rage,
you calmed the heat of your anger.

Revive us now, God our helper!
Put an end to your grievances against us.
Will you be angry with us for ever,
will your anger never cease?

Will you not restore again our life
that your people may rejoice in you?
Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people and his friends
and those who turn to him in their hearts.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land.

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice will look down from heaven.

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps.

PSALM 86

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me,
for I am poor and needy.
Preserve my life, for I am faithful:
save the servant who trusts in you.

You are my God; have mercy on me, Lord;
for I cry to you all the day long.
Give joy your servant, O Lord,
for to you I lift up my soul.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of love to all who call.
Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer;
and attend to the sound of my voice.

In the day of distress I will call
and surely you will reply.
Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord;
nor work to compare with yours.

All the nations shall come to adore you
and glorify your name, O Lord:
for you are great and do marvelous deeds,
you who alone are God.

Show me, Lord, your way
so that I may walk in your truth,
Guide my heart to fear your name.

I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart,
and glorify your name for ever;
for your love to me has been great:
you have saved me from the depths of the grave.

The proud have risen against me;
ruthless men seek my life;
to you they pay no heed.

But you, God of mercy and compassion,
slow to anger, O Lord,
abounding in love and truth,
turn and take pity on me.

O give your strength to your servant
and save your handmaid's son.
Show me a sign of your favor
that my foes may see, to their shame
that you console me and give me your help.

MIDDAY

PSALM 123

The Lord is the hope of his people

Two blind men cried out: "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us" (Matthew 20:30)

To you I lift up my eyes,
you dwell in the heavens:
my eyes, like the eyes of slaves
on the hand of their lords.

Like the eyes of a servant
on the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes are on the Lord our God,
till he shows us his mercy.

Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.
We are filled with contempt.
Indeed we are too full is our soul
with the scorn of the rich,
with the proud man's disdain.

Ant. You dwell in the heavens; have mercy on us.

Ant. 2 Our help is in the name of the Lord.

PSALM 124

Our help is in the name of the Lord

The Lord said to Paul: "Fear not ... I am with you" (Acts 18:9-10).

"If the Lord had not been on our side,"
this is Israel's song.
"If the Lord had not been on our side
when men rose against us,
Then would they have swallowed us alive,
when their anger was kindled.

Then would the waters have engulfed us,
the torrent gone over us;
over our head would have swept
the raging waters."

Blessed be the Lord, who did not give us
a prey to their teeth!
Our life, like a bird, has escaped
from the snare of the fowler.

Indeed the snare has been broken
and we have escaped.
Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

PSALM 125

The Lord, the guardian of his people

Peace to God's true Israel (Galatians 6:16).

Those who put their trust in the Lord
are like Mount Zion, that cannot be shaken,
that stands for ever.

Jerusalem! The mountains surround her,
so the Lord surrounds his people
both now and for ever.

For the scepter of the wicked shall not rest
over the land of the just
for fear that the hands of the just
should turn to evil.

Do good, Lord, to those who are good,
to the upright of heart;
but the crooked and those who do evil,
drive them away!

On Israel, peace!

Ant. The Lord surrounds his people with love, now and for ever.

MIDAFTERNOON

Ant. The Lord has done great things for us; he is the source of all our joy.

PSALM 126

Joyful hope in God

Companions with him in suffering, you will share his overflowing happiness (2 Corinthians 1:7).

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,
it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs.

The heathens themselves said: “what marvels
the Lord worked for them!”
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad.

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap.

They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves.

Ant. The Lord has done great things for us; he is the source of all our joy.

Ant. 2 May the Lord build our house and watch over our city.

PSALM 127

Apart from God our labors are worthless

You are God's building (1 Corinthians 3:9)

If the Lord does not build the house;
in vain do the builders labor;
if the Lord does not watch over the city,
in vain does the watchman keep vigil.

In vain is your earlier rising,
your going later to rest,
you who toil for the bread you eat:
when he pours gifts on his beloved while they slumber.

Truly sons are a gift from the Lord,
a blessing, the fruit of the womb.
Indeed the sons of youth
are like arrows in the hand of a warrior.

O the happiness of the man
who has filled his quiver with these arrows!
He will have no cause for shame
when he disputes with his foes in the gateways.

Ant. May the Lord build our house and watch over our city.

Ant. 3 Blessed are those who fear the Lord.

PSALM 128

Happiness of family life rooted in God

“May the Lord bless you from Zion,” that is, from the Church (Arnobius).

O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!

By the labor of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper:
your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your home,
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table.

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion,
all the days of your life!
May you see your children's children
in a happy Jerusalem!

O Israel, peace!

Ant. Blessed are those who fear the Lord.

MIDMORNING

Ant. Look on me with love, O Lord, and rescue me.

READING Job 19:25-26

I know that my Vindicator lives,
and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust;
And from my flesh I shall see God.

Why are you heavy, my heart, why are you so anxious?
— Put your hope in God, for I will praise him still.

MIDDAY

Ant. Lord, lay your healing hands on the wounds of my sins.

READING Wisdom 1:13-14, 15

God did not make death,
nor does he rejoice in the destruction of the living.
For he fashioned all things that they might have being;
for justice is undying.

Though I walk in the valley of darkness, I fear no evil.
— For you are with me, Lord.

MIDAFTERNOON

Ant. Be my salvation, Lord, true to your name, and by your mighty power set me free.

READING Isaiah 25:8

God will destroy death forever;
The Lord will wipe away
the tears from all faces;
The reproach of his people he will remove
from the whole earth;
for the Lord has spoken.

O God, hear my prayer.
— To you all flesh must come.

PRAYER

Lord, hear our prayers.

By raising your Son from the dead, you have given us faith. Strengthen our hope that N.,
our brother (sister), will share in his resurrection.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, you Son, who lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit, on God, for ever and ever.

Or

Lord God,
you are the glory of believers
and the life of the just.
Your Son redeemed us
by dying and rising to life again.
Our brother (sister) N. was faithful
and believed in our own resurrection.
Give to him (her) the joys and blessings
of the life to come.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

Or

Lord of mercy,
hear our prayer.
May our brother (sister) N.
whom you called your son (daughter) on earth,
enter the kingdom of peace and light,
where your saints live in glory.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

For several people:

God, our creator and redeemer,
by your power Christ conquered death
and returned to you in glory.
May all your people (N. and N.) who have gone before us in faith
share his victory
and enjoy the vision of your glory for ever,
where Christ lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

For relatives, friends, and benefactors:

Father,
source of forgiveness and salvation for all mankind,
hear our prayer.
By the prayers of the ever-virgin Mary,
may our friends, relatives and benefactors
who have gone from this world
come to share eternal happiness with all your saints.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

Evening Prayer

HYMN 10.10.10 with Alleluias (R. Vaughan Williams, William W. How)

PSALMODY

Ant 1. The Lord will keep you from all evil. He will guard your soul.

PSALM 121

I lift up my eyes toward the mountains:
from where shall come my help?
My help shall come from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

May he never allow you to stumble!
Let him sleep not, your guard.
No, he sleeps not nor slumbers,
Israel's guard.

The Lord is your guard and your shade;
at your right side he stands.
By day the sun shall not smite you,
nor the moon in the night.

The Lord will guard you from evil,
he will guard your soul.
The Lord will guard your going and coming
both now and for ever.

Ant. The Lord will keep you from all evil. He will guard your soul.

Ant 2. If you kept a record of our sins, Lord, who could escape condemnation?

PSALM 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading.

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you.

My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
Let the watchman count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord.

Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity.

Ant. If you kept a record of our sins, Lord, who could escape condemnation?

Ant 3. As the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so the Son gives life to whom he wills.

CANTICLE Philippians 2:6-11
Though he was in the form of God,
Jesus did not regard equality with God
something to be grasped at.

Rather, he emptied himself,
and took the form of a slave,
being born in the likeness of men.

He was known to be of human estate,
and it was thus that he humbled himself,
obediently accepting even death,
death on a cross!

Because of this,
God highly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name
above every other name,

so that at Jesus' name
every knee must bend
in the heavens, on the earth
and under the earth,
and every tongue proclaim
to the glory of God the Father:
JESUS CHRIST IS LORD!

Ant As the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so the Son gives life to whom he wills.

READING 1 Corinthians 15:55-57

O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? But thanks be to God who has given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

RESPONSORY

In you, Lord, is our hope. We shall never hope in vain.

– In you, Lord, is our hope. We shall never hope in vain.

We shall dance and rejoice in your mercy.

– We shall never hope in vain.

Glory to the Father...

– In you, Lord...

Or:

Lord, in your steadfast love, give them eternal rest.

—Lord, in your steadfast love, give them eternal rest.

You will come to judge the living and the dead.

— Give them eternal rest.

Glory to the Father ...

— Lord, in your ...

CANTICLE OF MARY (Luke 1:46-55)

Ant. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I shall not turn away.

INTERCESSIONS

We acknowledge Christ the Lord through whom we hope that our lowly bodies will be made like his in glory, and we say:

Lord, you are our life and resurrection.

Christ, Son of the living God, who raised up Lazarus, your friend, from the dead,
— raise up to life and glory the dead whom you have redeemed by your precious blood.

Christ, consoler of those who mourn, you dried the tears of the family of Lazarus, of the widow's son, an the daughter of Jarius,
— comfort those who mourn for the dead.

Christ, Savior, destroy the reign of sin in our earthly bodies, so that just as through sin we deserved punishment,

— so through you we may gain eternal life.

Christ, Redeemer, look on those who have no hope because they do not know you,
— may they receive faith in the resurrection and in the life of the world to come.

You revealed yourself to the blind man who begged for the light of his eyes,
— show your face to the dead who are still deprived of your light.

When at last our earthly home is dissolved,

— give us a home, not of earthly making, but built of eternity in heaven.

Our Father ...

PRAYER

Lord, hear our prayers.

By raising your Son from the dead, you have given us faith. Strengthen our hope that N., our brother (sister), will share in his resurrection.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, you Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, on God, for ever and ever.

Or

Lord God,

you are the glory of believers
and the life of the just.

Your Son redeemed us
by dying and rising to life again.

Our brother (sister) N. was faithful
and believed in our own resurrection.

Give to him (her) the joys and blessings
of the life to come.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

Or

Lord of mercy,
hear our prayer.

May our brother (sister) N.
whom you called your son (daughter) on earth,
enter the kingdom of peace and light,
where your saints live in glory.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

For several people:

God, our creator and redeemer,
by your power Christ conquered death
and returned to you in glory.

May all your people (N. and N.) who have gone before us in faith
share his victory
and enjoy the vision of your glory for ever,
where Christ lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

For relatives, friends, and benefactors:

Father,
source of forgiveness and salvation for all mankind,
hear our prayer.

By the prayers of the ever-virgin Mary,
may our friends, relatives and benefactors
who have gone from this world
come to share eternal happiness with all your saints.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

Regular Night Prayer

PSALMODY

Ant. Night holds no terrors for me sleeping under God's wings.

PSALM 91

Safe in God's sheltering care

I have given you the power to tread upon serpents and scorpions (Luke 10:19)

He who dwell in the shelter of the Most High
and abides in the shade of the Almighty
say to the Lord, "My refuge,
and stronghold, my God in whom I trust!"

It is he who will free you from the snare,
of the fowler who seeks to destroy you;
he will conceal you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find refuge.

You will not fear the terror of the night
nor the arrow that flies by day,
Nor the plague that prowls in darkness,
nor the scourge that lays waste at noon.

A thousand fall at your side;
ten thousand fall at your right,
you, it will never approach;
his faithfulness is buckler and shield.

Your eyes have only to look
to see how the wicked are repaid,
you who have said: "Lord, my refuge!"
and have made the Most High your dwelling.

Upon you no evil shall fall,
no plague approach where you dwell
For you has he commanded his angels,
to keep you in all your ways.

They shall bear you upon their hands
lest you strike your foot against a stone.
On the lion and the viper you will tread
and trample the young lion and the dragon.

Since he clings to me in love, I will free him;
protect him for he knows my name.
When he calls I shall answer: "I am with you."
I will save him in distress and give him glory.

With length of life I will content him;
I shall let him see my saving power.

Ant. Night holds no terrors for me sleeping under God's wings

READING Revelation 22:4-5

They shall see the Lord face to face and bear his name on their foreheads. The night shall be no more. They will need no light from lamp or sun, for the Lord God shall give them light, and they shall reign forever.

RESPONSORY

Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit.
— Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit.

You have redeemed us, Lord God of truth.
— I commend my spirit.

Glory to the Father ...
— Into your hands ...

Ant. Protect us, Lord, as we stay awake; watch over us as we sleep, that awake, we may keep watch with Christ, and asleep, rest in his peace.

GOSPEL CANTICLE Luke 2:29-32

Christ is the light of the nations and the glory of Israel

Lord, now you let your servant go in peace,
your word has been fulfilled:
my own eyes have seen the salvation,
which you have prepared in sight of every people:
a light to reveal you to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel."

Ant. Protect us, Lord, as we stay awake; watch over us as we sleep, that awake, we may keep watch with Christ, and asleep, rest in his peace.

PRAYER

Lord,
we have celebrated today
the mystery of the rising of Christ to new life.
May we now rest in your peace,
safe from all that could harm us,
and rise again refreshed and joyful,
to praise you throughout another day.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Or: on solemnities that do not occur on Sunday.

Lord,
we beg you to visit this house
and banish from it
all the deadly power of the enemy.
May your holy angels dwell here
to keep us in peace,
and may your blessing be upon us always.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

CONCLUSION

The blessing is said, even individual recitation:

May the all-powerful Lord grant us a restful night and a peaceful death.
— Amen.