

WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2020: A LATE EVENING OFFICE

PREPARATION

Blessed be our God for all time, now and for evermore. **Amen.**

Glory to you, our God, glory be to you,
Holy Spirit, Comforter,
treasure of all goodness and giver of life,
come and dwell in us,
cleans us from all sin,
and in your love bring us to salvation.

**Holy God, holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

THE WORD OF GOD

Psalm 124

If the Lord himself had not been on our side, ♦
now may Israel say;
If the Lord had not been on our side, ♦
when enemies rose up against us;
Then would they have swallowed us alive ♦
when their anger burned against us;
Then would the waters have overwhelmed us
and the torrent gone over our soul; ♦
over our soul would have swept the raging waters.
But blessed be the Lord ♦
who has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.
Our soul has escaped
as a bird from the snare of the fowler; ♦
the snare is broken and we are delivered.
Our help is in the name of the Lord, ♦
who has made heaven and earth.

Psalm 125

Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, ♦
which cannot be moved, but stands fast for ever.
As the hills stand about Jerusalem, ♦
**so the Lord stands round about his people,
from this time forth for evermore.**
The sceptre of wickedness shall not hold sway
over the land allotted to the righteous, ♦
lest the righteous turn their hands to evil.
Do good, O Lord, to those who are good, ♦
and to those who are true of heart.
Those who turn aside to crooked ways
the Lord shall take away with the evildoers; ♦
but let there be peace upon Israel.

OPENING PRAYER

RESPONSORY

PSALMS

Glory to the Father, and to the Son ■
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, ■
and shall be for ever. Amen.

A READING

Matthew 24: 45-51

‘Who then is the faithful and wise slave, whom his master has put in charge of his household, to give the other slaves their allowance of food at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives. Truly I tell you, he will put that one in charge of all his possessions. But if that wicked slave says to himself, “My master is delayed”, and he begins to beat his fellow-slaves, and eats and drinks with drunkards, the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour that he does not know. He will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

MEDITATION

A period of meditation on the reading follows.

THE GOSPEL CANTICLE

NUNC DIMITTIS *The Song of Simeon Luke 2: 29-32*

1 Now, Lord, you let your servant | go in | peace: ■
your | word has | been ful | filled.
2 My own eyes have | seen the · sal | vation ■
which you have prepared in the | sight of | every | people.
3 A light to re | veal you · to the | nations ■
and the | glory · of your | people | Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son ■
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, ■
and shall be for ever. Amen.

PRAYER

INTERCESSIONS

Let us pray to the Lord with all our heart and with all our soul.
Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray for all Christian people, that they may live in love and truth.
Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray for all ministers of the Church, and for our brothers and sisters in Christ.
Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray for peace throughout the world, and for all governments.
Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray for our neighbours and for all our friends.
Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray for those who hate us as we pray for those who love us.
Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray for refugees and prisoners, and for all who are exposed to the dangers of travel.
Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray for all sick people, for the sorrowful and the dying.
Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray for the abundance of the fruits of the earth, and that the poor and hungry may receive a just share.
Lord, have mercy.

Let us remember our brothers and sisters who have entered into eternal rest.
Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

SILENT OR OPEN PRAYER

Let us continue praying in a time of open prayer.
A period of open prayer follows.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

THE COLLECTS

Stir up your power, O God,
and come among us.
Heal our wounds,
calm our fears
and give us peace;
through Jesus our Redeemer. **Amen.**

Father in heaven,
our hearts desire the warmth of your love
and our minds are searching for the light of your Word.
Increase our longing for Christ our Saviour
and give us the strength to grow in love,
that the dawn of his coming
may find us rejoicing in his presence
and welcoming the light of his truth.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil. Amen.**

COMMON COLLECT

Lord Almighty,
come and scatter the darkness of our hearts
by the light of your presence;
that we may know you the Light of the world
and the one true God,
blessed this night and for evermore. Amen.

THE ENDING

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

DISMISSAL

Restore us again, O God of hosts:
show us the light of your countenance
and we shall be saved.
Bless and keep us, this night and always. Amen.

BLESSING