

MP

ΘΥ

MARY MOTHER OF

THE CHURCH

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XC



## Evening Prayer (Vespers )

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.**

*Hymn Church of God  
Church of God, chosen people,  
sing your praise to God.  
He has called you out of darkness into  
his marvellous light.*

*Come, people of God,  
with joyful song,  
Praise God the Father of all.  
Baptized in Christ, reborn in him,  
Our hearts are filled with joy.  
He cleanses our sin,  
Renewing our lives.*

*The church is built with living stones  
With Christ as cornerstone.  
In him we trust who makes us one,  
Uniting us in love.*

*We build on the rock  
Of faith in Christ.*

*As heirs of Christ, redeemed by love  
We wait for his return;  
A priestly people offering praise  
To God, the source of hope.  
For Jesus is Lord,  
Our Saviour and God.*

*As water springing from the rock  
Once brought God's people life,  
The living water giv'n by Christ  
Creates our lives anew.  
So come you who thirst  
To springs of new life.*

*Antiphon:* The Virgin Mary was born from the stock of Jesse, and the  
Spirit of the Most High came to dwell with her.

**Psalm 121 (122)**

I rejoiced when I heard them say:  
'Let us go to God's house.'  
And now our feet are standing  
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city  
strongly compact.  
It is there that the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the Lord.

For Israel's law it is,  
there to praise the Lord's name.  
There were set the thrones of judgement  
of the house of David.

For the peace of Jerusalem pray:  
'Peace be to your homes!  
May peace reign in your walls,  
in your palaces, peace!'

For love of my brethren and friends  
I say: 'Peace upon you!'  
For love of the house of the Lord  
I will ask for your good.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

*Antiphon:* The Virgin Mary was born from the stock of Jesse, and the  
Spirit of the Most High came to dwell with her.

*Antiphon:* God looked on the holy Virgin Mary and came to  
visit her in her lowliness.

### **Psalm 126 (127)**

If the Lord does not build the house,  
in vain do its builders labour;  
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.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

*Antiphon:* God looked on the holy Virgin Mary and came to  
visit her in her lowliness.

*Antiphon:* Blessed and worthy of our veneration is holy Mary, the  
Virgin Mother of God: her feast we celebrate that she may  
intercede for us with the Lord.

### **Canticle Ephesians 1:3-10**

Blessed be the God and Father  
of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has blessed us in Christ  
with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

He chose us in him  
before the foundation of the world,  
that we should be holy  
and blameless before him.

He destined us in love  
to be his sons through Jesus Christ,  
according to the purpose of his will,  
to the praise of his glorious grace  
which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

In him we have redemption through his blood,  
the forgiveness of our trespasses,  
according to the riches of his grace  
which he lavished upon us.

He has made known to us  
in all wisdom and insight  
the mystery of his will,

according to his purpose  
which he set forth in Christ.

His purpose he set forth in Christ  
as a plan for the fullness of time,  
to unite all things in him,  
things in heaven and things on earth.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

*Antiphon:* Blessed and worthy of our veneration is holy Mary, the  
Virgin Mother of God: her feast we celebrate that she may  
intercede for us with the Lord.

*Short Reading* Romans 9:4-5

They are Israelites: they were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

*Short Responsory*

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.

– *Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.*

Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

– *Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

– *Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.*

*Magnificat Canticle*

*Antiphon:* Let us remember the worthy birth of the glorious Virgin  
Mary. The Lord looked on her in her lowliness and sent his  
angel to announce to her that she would conceive and bear  
the Redeemer of the world.

My soul glorifies the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.  
He looks on his servant in her lowliness;  
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

The Almighty works marvels for me.  
Holy his name!

His mercy is from age to age,  
on those who fear him.  
He puts forth his arm in strength  
and scatters the proud-hearted.

He casts the mighty from their thrones  
and raises the lowly.  
He fills the starving with good things,  
sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant,  
remembering his mercy,  
the mercy promised to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his sons for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

*Antiphon:* Let us remember the worthy birth of the glorious Virgin Mary. The Lord looked on her in her lowliness and sent his angel to announce to her that she would conceive and bear the Redeemer of the world.

#### *Intercessions*

Let us praise God the Father who chose Mary as the mother of his Son and wanted all generations to call her blessed. With confidence we pray:

*May the Virgin Mary intercede for us.*

Father, you did great things for the Virgin Mary and brought her, body and soul, to the glory of heaven; fill the hearts of your children with the hope of Christ's glory. *May the Virgin Mary intercede for us.*

Through the prayers of Mary, our mother, heal the sick, comfort the sorrowful, pardon sinners; grant peace and salvation to all. *May the Virgin Mary intercede for us.*

You favoured Mary with the fullness of grace; bestow on all men and women your overflowing blessings. *May the Virgin Mary intercede for us.*

May your Church be united heart and soul, held fast by love, and may your faithful be joined in continuous prayer, with Mary the mother of Jesus. *May the Virgin Mary intercede for us.*

Father, you exalted the Virgin Mary and crowned her queen of heaven; may the dead enter your kingdom and rejoice with your saints for ever.

*May the Virgin Mary intercede for us.*

### **Prayer for Gift of Holy Spirit**

Father of light, from whom every good gift comes send your Spirit into our lives with the power of a mighty wind, by the flame of your wisdom, open the horizons of our minds. Loosen our tongues to sing your praise in words beyond the power of speech, for without your Spirit we could never raise our voice in words of peace or announce the truth that Jesus is Lord, Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God for ever and ever.

Let us, once more, praise the Father and pray to him in the words of Christ himself, saying;

Our Father ..

### *Concluding Prayer*

God our Father, you gave the Holy Spirit to your Apostles as they joined in prayer with Mary, the mother of Jesus. By the help of her prayers keep us faithful in your service and let our words and actions be so inspired as to bring glory to your name. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen..

### **Regina caeli**

Regina caeli, laetare, alleluia.

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.

Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia.

For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.

Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia.

Has risen, as he said, alleluia.

Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.

Pray for us to God, alleluia.

**Prayer to Mary  
Mother of Evangelisation**

Mary, Virgin and Mother,  
you who, moved by the Holy Spirit,  
welcomed the word of life  
in the depths of your humble faith:  
as you gave yourself completely to the Eternal One, help us to say our own “yes”  
to the urgent call, as pressing as ever, to proclaim the good news of Jesus.

Filled with Christ’s presence,  
you brought joy to John the Baptist,  
making him exult in the womb of his mother.

Brimming over with joy, you sang of the great things done by God.  
Standing at the foot of the cross with unyielding faith,  
you received the joyful comfort of the resurrection, and joined the disciples in  
awaiting the Spirit so that the evangelizing Church might be born.

Obtain for us now a new ardour born of the resurrection, that we may bring to all  
the Gospel of life which triumphs over death.

Give us a holy courage to seek new paths, that the gift of unfading beauty  
may reach every man and woman.

Virgin of listening and contemplation,  
Mother of love, Bride of the eternal wedding feast, pray for the Church, whose  
pure icon you are, that she may never be closed in on herself  
or lose her passion for establishing God’s kingdom.

Star of the new evangelization,  
help us to bear radiant witness to communion, service, ardent and generous  
faith, justice and love of the poor, that the joy of the Gospel  
may reach to the ends of the earth,  
illuminating even the fringes of our world.

Mother of the living Gospel,  
wellspring of happiness for God’s little ones, pray for us.  
Amen. Alleluia! (*Pope Francis Evangelii Gaudium*)