

# Offices for the Dead:

## Two Forms, for Anglican Morning and Evening Prayer following the 1979 Book of Common Prayer

### Introduction

I have edited these experimental resources as a response to the extraordinary situation of the Covid-19 pandemic. Within church circles, social distancing, the mandatory closure of parishes, and the sudden inability to celebrate and receive the Eucharist communally has caused a liturgical and theological disruption to the *status quo*. While the correct way to nourish a Eucharistic community under such conditions is an important and worthwhile question, the situation has brought many clergy and lay leaders back to the practice of the Daily Office as it can be experienced digitally without any disruption to the theology of the rite.

An important factor of this time is not just the disruption to society caused by efforts to contain the pandemic but also its effects. As I write these words, the virus has claimed just shy of 200,000 lives globally, and over 52,000 in the United States. Tragedy on this scale calls for a pastoral and liturgical response as surely as it needs a government and medical response.

A classical Christian practice may offer us a model for such a spiritual response: The Offices of the Dead. These are one of the liturgical creations of the early medieval period largely unfamiliar to modern Christians with a Reformation heritage (and indeed, also to the vast majority of modern Roman Catholics). Like the Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Office of the Passion, Office of the Holy Spirit, Office of All Saints, and others, the Office of the Dead is an adaptation of the Daily Office where the changeable texts have been replaced with proper psalms and readings.

### The History of the Devotion

When and where these arose is complicated by the fragmentary nature of our liturgical sources. It appears that these proliferations of liturgical practice were products of monastic piety in the seventh and eighth centuries, and we see them mentioned in continental *ordines* from that time on. Certainly, these many little offices including the Offices of the Dead were well-known by Carolingian times and our great liturgical master of the period, Amalarius of Metz (†850), refers to the Office of the Dead in his *On The Liturgy* 4.42.

It's worth noting that Amalarius, in his exposition, refers back to one of the seminal patristic writings on why, how, and for what purpose the Church prays for the dead, Augustine's Letter to Paulinus of Nola, "On the Care of the Dead" which I commend to you. Augustine is largely agnostic on how these prayers function and their effects, but emphasizes that the practice of praying for the Christian dead is an important and long-standing one even in his day. He does not believe that prayer for the dead benefits those who were not predisposed for it by their manner of life. That is, Augustine believes that no one's prayers will posthumously save the wicked. He allows that those we did strive for righteousness may be aided but is unclear in how that works. What he does mention more than once is the utility of prayers for the dead to the living—that they give aid, comfort, and help us remember the dead as still part of our ecclesiastical present.

## The Rites Themselves

The Offices of the Dead as the medieval Church received them became a core component of the Books of Hours. These devotional books for the laity usually contained abridgments of monastic and clerical devotions more suited to the busyness of lay life; the Office of the Dead stands out, however, as being the same texts used by clergy and monastics and the laity would pray alongside clerics and monastics using these texts during the burial observances. It's a key point of crossover. They consist of three offices: Vespers, Matins, and Lauds and the first two are known respectively by the first word of their opening antiphon, both of which have passed into modern parlance: *Placebo* and *Dirige* (from which we get the word "dirge"). Lauds followed immediately after Matins and the two should be thought of as a lengthy unit rather than two distinct things.

Usually, a dead body would be carried into a church the day before its burial. The community would gather and begin with Vespers of the Dead. The next morning, they would pray the Matins and Lauds of the Dead, then the Requiem Mass would follow, leading to the funeral procession and the burial proper. The Offices would be repeated again with that individual in mind on the third, seventh, and thirtieth day after their burial, and then on its yearly anniversary. In many intentional liturgical communities, the Offices of the Dead were prayed either weekly or daily regardless of whether there were any deaths in the community: it was part of their duty to the wider dispersed community of the Church to pray for the souls of the departed, known and unknown.

It is worth noting, as I was reminded by my colleague Michael Shirk, that the Office for the Dead is not alien to the Anglican liturgical tradition. The burial rite in the 1549 Book of Common Prayer included an Office for the Dead containing many of the traditional forms for use either before or after the burial itself. Bishop Cosin restored it to the 1662 after it had been reduced under Puritan influence, and it still appears in the American 1928 Book of Common Prayer. Massey Shepherd, Jr, chief architect of the first stage of the revision of the '79 prayer book, notes in his work *The Oxford*

*American Prayer Book Commentary* that the portion of the burial rite to be said in the church building before the burial has a structure “similar to the Daily Offices of Morning and Evening Prayer” and is “directly descended from the Sarum Office of the Dead” (p. 324).

The texts that have come down to us, then, are venerable and represent a theological perspective in line with Augustine’s musings. They are for the benefit and on behalf of dead Christian, originally conceived as those who are resident in Purgatory. Since it is only “the pure in heart” who “shall see God” (Matt 5:3), and “they shall go from virtue to virtue: the God of gods shall be seen in Sion” (Ps 83:8, Vulgate) it was understood that even the baptized and saved Christian dead needed a process of purification to become truly pure in heart and see God—these prayers are intended to both call to mind this process and to aid those in the midst of it. As a result, they tend to be rather individual and focus on hopes for one dead person: freedom from hell and forgiveness of sin. However, no doctrine of Purgatory is necessary for the use of these prayers as their retention in post-Reformation Anglican prayer books indicates.

Based on these texts, a few years ago I created a form of the Office for the Dead that follows the structure of the Daily Office from the 1979 Episcopal Book of Common Prayer. I based the texts on the traditional medieval form of the offices, drawing inspiration from Paul Hartzell and Howard Galley’s adaptations of the same sources in their identically named but very different *Prayer Book Offices*. My initial efforts received trial use on the Votives page of the St. Bede’s Breviary, my online resources for the Daily Office. Form 1 represents a minor revision of that work.

The classical Offices were based on an ancient form of the secular Office also used for the Offices in Holy Week. This primitive form lacks several familiar elements including the initial greeting between the minister and congregation. Amalarius remarked upon this similarity in his notes. I have chosen to follow this aspect as well, explaining the absence of the introductory dialogue and a few other items normally found in the Office structure.

In addition, I’ve also created a new adaptation with a slightly different emphasis. One of my concerns regarding the liturgical work done since the ’79 prayer book—especially with references to the sanctoral kalendar—is the implications of a baptismal ecclesiology have not been completely worked out. In my new revision, Form 2 of the Office of the Dead, I have tried to consciously do that. This adaptation still proceeds from traditional sources and materials. However, as I edited these texts I asked myself how we consider departed Christian souls within the context of the broader baptismal community and remembering—with Augustine—that we are gathering in prayer the living alongside the dead. Given a fuller ecclesial or community setting, specific prayers for those who mourn and the church community still on this side of the vale are not inappropriate.

That having been said, I do not see these two forms as an either/or but as a both/and; I still believe the traditional model has a spiritual and theological integrity important for us even as I see places where it can be supplemented. I intend to use both and would commend the same practice to others.

It is in that spirit and intention, then, that I offer a first draft of two forms of an experimental liturgy. Recognizing the reality of death within our communities as well as our dispersed configuration, I present a modern Episcopal revisioning of the Office of the Dead as a resource for individuals or groups who might find it useful.

Because of my love of beautiful books and my belief that the aesthetics of prayer play a role in our spirituality, I have chosen an aesthetic form that recalls the breviaries and missals of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. I hope that this will not be off-putting to those using these services, and would note that my design choices here should be considered entirely independent from the text itself.

## **Suggestions for Use**

As with any form or prayer based on the Daily Office, its use should not overly interfere with an individual or community's observation of the in-course reading of both the Psalter and the Scriptures of the Daily Office lectionary. I would also not recommend this for use as a Sunday service unless extraordinary circumstances seem to call for it.

I would see it serving better for individual occasional use along the lines of its medieval heritage: for prayer on the day of burial (or on the day you learning of the passing of a member of your community), and then on the third, seventh, and 30<sup>th</sup> days following.

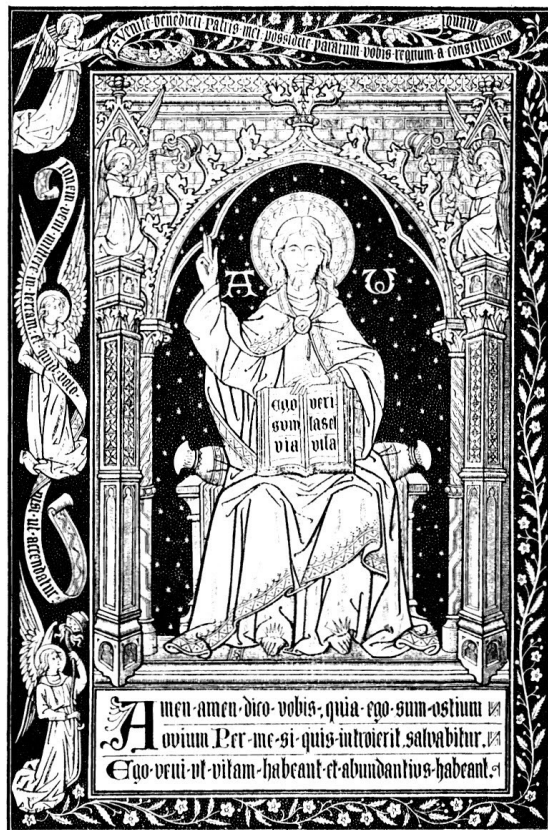
Communal use should be balanced with the community's commitment to the regular Office lectionary. In historic medieval use, the Offices for the Dead were prayed in addition to and after the regular Daily Offices. That seems burdensome for our liturgical environment, but—for some communities—it might be an option.

For communities who do not normally observe a twice-daily in-course praying of the Daily Offices, these Offices could be used communally on the first Friday of the month—a common time for Requiem remembrances—or on any Friday that might be convenient. As the prayer book notes that the collect “For All Baptized Christians” is “especially appropriate for Saturdays,” Form 2 which seeks to pray for all baptized Christians, living and dead, might also be appropriately used on Saturdays.

Derek Olsen, editor  
Feast of St. Mark, 2020

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# OFFICE OF THE DEAD: Morning Prayer – Form 1



## The Invitatory and Psalter

### **Venite PSALM 95:1-7**

*Ant. The King, by whom and in whom all things live and move and have their being,  
\* O come, let us worship.*



OME, let us sing to the LORD; \*

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*  
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

*Ant. The King, by whom and in whom all things live and move and  
have their being, \* O come, let us worship.*

For the LORD is a great God, \*  
and a great King above all gods.  
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \*  
and the heights of the hills are his also.  
The sea is his, for he made it, \*  
and his hands have molded the dry land.

*Ant. The King, by whom and in whom all things live and move and have their being,  
\* O come, let us worship.*

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*  
and kneel before the LORD our Maker.  
For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. \*  
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

*Ant. The King, by whom and in whom all things live and move and have their being,  
\* O come, let us worship.*

Rest eternal \* grant unto them, O LORD.  
And let light perpetual \* shine upon them.

*Ant. The King, by whom and in whom all things live and move and have their being,  
\* O come, let us worship.*

### **The Psalm or Psalms Appointed**

*Ant 1. Make your way †, O LORD, \* straight before me.*

PSALM 23 *Dominus regit me*



THE LORD is my shepherd; \*  
I shall not be in want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
and leads me beside still waters.  
He revives my soul \*  
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.  
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; \*  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.  
You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \*  
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.  
Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Rest eternal \* grant unto them, O LORD.



And let light perpetual \* shine upon them.

*Ant 1. Make your way, O LORD, \* straight before me.*

*Ant 2. Turn, O LORD, † and deliver me: \* for in death no one remembers you.*

PSALM 25 *Ad te, Domine, levavi*



O you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; \*  
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.  
Let none who look to you be put to shame; \*  
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.  
Show me your ways, O LORD, \*  
and teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me, \*

for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, \*

for they are from everlasting.

Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; \*

remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

Gracious and upright is the LORD; \*

therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

He guides the humble in doing right \*

and teaches his way to the lowly.

All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness \*

to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

For your Name's sake, O LORD, \*

forgive my sin, for it is great.

Who are they who fear the LORD? \*

he will teach them the way that they should choose.

They shall dwell in prosperity, \*

and their offspring shall inherit the land.

The LORD is a friend to those who fear him \*

and will show them his covenant.

My eyes are ever looking to the LORD, \*

for he shall pluck my feet out of the net.

Turn to me and have pity on me, \*

for I am left alone and in misery.

The sorrows of my heart have increased; \*

bring me out of my troubles.

Look upon my adversity and misery \*

and forgive me all my sin.

Look upon my enemies, for they are many, \*

and they bear a violent hatred against me.

Protect my life and deliver me; \*

let me not be put to shame, for I have trusted in you.

Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, \*  
for my hope has been in you.  
Deliver Israel, O God, \*  
out of all his troubles.

Rest eternal \* grant unto them, O LORD.  
And let light perpetual \* shine upon them.

*Ant 2. Turn, O LORD, and deliver me: \* for in death no one remembers you.*

*Ant 3. I will walk † in the presence of the LORD \* in the land of the living.*

PSALM 27 *Dominus illuminatio*



THE LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? \*  
the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?  
When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, \*  
it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.  
Though an army should encamp against me, \*  
yet my heart shall not be afraid;  
And though war should rise up against me, \*  
yet will I put my trust in him.  
One thing have I asked of the LORD; one thing I seek; \*  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;  
To behold the fair beauty of the LORD \*  
and to seek him in his temple.  
For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; \*  
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling and set me high upon a rock.  
Even now he lifts up my head \*  
above my enemies round about me.  
Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness; \*  
I will sing and make music to the LORD.  
Hearken to my voice, O LORD, when I call; \*  
have mercy on me and answer me.  
You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." \*  
Your face, LORD, will I seek.  
Hide not your face from me, \*  
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.  
You have been my helper; cast me not away; \*  
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.  
Though my father and my mother forsake me, \*  
the LORD will sustain me.  
Show me your way, O LORD; \*  
lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.  
Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, \*  
for false witnesses have risen up against me, and also those who speak malice.



What if I had not believed that I should see the goodness of the LORD \*  
in the land of the living!  
O tarry and await the LORD's pleasure;  
be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; \*  
wait patiently for the LORD.

Rest eternal \* grant unto them, O LORD.  
And let light perpetual \* shine upon them.

*Ant 3. I will walk in the presence of the LORD \* in the land of the living.*

## **The Lessons**

A reading from Job 19:21-27 (NRSV)



HAVE pity on me, have pity on me, O you my friends, for the hand of God has touched me! Why do you, like God, pursue me, never satisfied with my flesh? "O that my words were written down! O that they were inscribed in a book! O that with an iron pen and with lead they were engraved on a rock forever! For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!

Here ends the Reading.

*Ant. on Canticle. From the gates of the Grave † and the portals of hell \* deliver my soul, O LORD.*

**Canticle of Hezekiah** *Ego dixi in dimidio*  
*Is. 38:10-20*



SAID: In the noontide of my days \*  
I must depart for the gates of hell.  
I sought for the remainder of my years. \*  
I said, I shall not see the LORD in the land of the living.  
I shall look upon mortals no more, \*  
nor the inhabitants of the land of rest.  
My dwelling is plucked up and removed from me \*  
as if it were a shepherd's tent.  
My life has been rolled up as if by a weaver, he cuts me off from the loom: \*  
from day to night you bring me to an end.  
I cry for help until morning, \*  
Like a lion he breaks all my bones.

From day to night you bring me to an end: \*  
 Like a swallow or a crane I will clamor, I will moan like a dove.  
 My eyes are weary \*  
 with looking upward.  
 O LORD, I am oppressed; be my security! \*  
 What can I say, or what can he answer, because he himself has done it?  
 Before you I will call to mind all my years \*  
 in the bitterness of my soul.  
 O LORD, if by these things people live, and in all these is the life of my spirit,  
 you shall restore me to health and make me live. \*  
 Behold, in peace my bitterness is most bitter.  
 You have held back my life from the pit of destruction: \*  
 You have cast all my sins behind your back.  
 For hell cannot thank you, death cannot praise you; \*  
 those who go down to the pit cannot hope for your faithfulness.  
 The living, the living, they thank you, as I do this day; \*  
 fathers make known to the children your faithfulness.  
 O LORD, save me, \*  
 and we will sing our psalms all the days of our lives, in the house of the LORD.  
  
 Rest eternal \* grant unto them, O LORD.  
 And let light perpetual \* shine upon them.

*Ant. on Canticle. From the gates of the Grave † and the portals of hell \* deliver my soul, O LORD.*

A reading from 1 Corinthians 15:35-41 (NRSV)



BUT someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. Not all flesh is alike, but there is one flesh for human beings, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. There are both heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one thing, and that of the earthly is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; indeed, star differs from star in glory.

Here ends the Reading.

*Ant. on Ben. I am who I am, † the Resurrection and the Life: he who believes in me, though he die yet shall he live; \* and who ever lives and believes in me, shall never die.*

**The Song of Zechariah** *Benedictus Dominus Deus*  
*Luke 1: 68-79*



BLESSED be the Lord, the God of Israel; \*  
he has come to his people and set them free.  
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \*  
born of the house of his servant David.  
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,  
that he would save us from our enemies, \*  
from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers \*  
and to remember his holy covenant.  
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
Free to worship him without fear, \*  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.  
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \*  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
To give his people knowledge of salvation \*  
by the forgiveness of their sins.  
In the tender compassion of our God \*  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
To shine on those who dwell in darkness  
and the shadow of death, \*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Rest eternal \* grant unto them, O LORD  
And let light perpetual \* shine upon them.

*Ant. on Ben. I am who I am, the Resurrection and the Life: he who believes in me, though he die yet shall he live; \* and who ever lives and believes in me, shall never die.*

## **The Prayers**



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 for ever. Amen.

V. FROM the gates of hell;  
R. deliver *their souls* (or *his* or *her soul*), O Lord.  
V. May *they* (or *him* or *she*) rest in peace;  
R. Amen.  
V. Lord, hear my prayer;  
R. And let my cry come to you.  
V. Let us pray:

#### Collect of the Day



GOD, the Maker and Redeemer of all believers;  
Grant to the faithful departed  
the unsearchable benefits of the passion of your Son;  
that on the day of his appearing  
they may be manifested as your children. Amen.

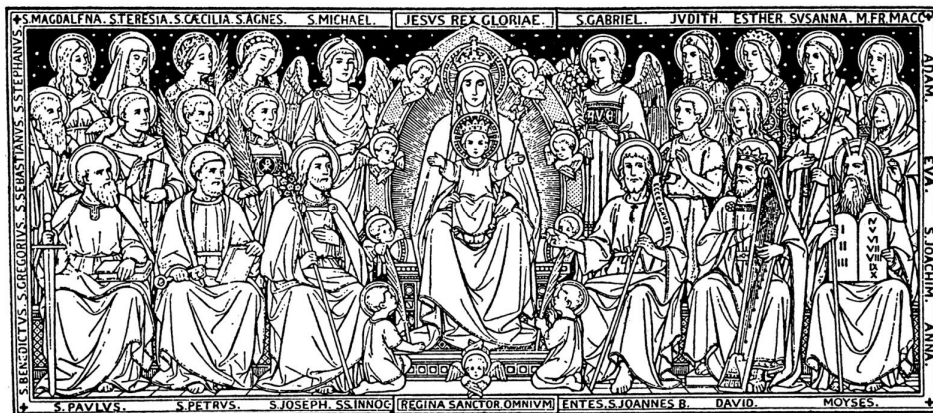
#### A Collect for All the Faithful Departed



GOD, whose mercies cannot be numbered:  
accept our prayers on behalf of the souls of your departed servants;  
and grant them an entrance into the land of light and joy,  
in the fellowship of your Saints.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.

¶ After the Collect, there is said, and always in the plural:

V. Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord;  
R. And let light perpetual shine upon them.  
V. May they rest in peace.  
R. Amen.



# OFFICE OF THE DEAD: Evening Prayer – Form 1



## The Psalter

*Ant 1. I will walk † before the LORD of Life \* in the land of the living.*

**PSALM 116.** *Dilexi, quoniam.*



LOVE the LORD, because he has heard  
the voice of my supplication, \*

because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

The cords of death entangled me;  
the grip of the grave took hold of me; \*

I came to grief and sorrow.

Then I called upon the Name of the LORD: \*

"O LORD, I pray you, save my life."

Gracious is the LORD and righteous; \*

our God is full of compassion.

The LORD watches over the innocent; \*

I was brought very low, and he helped me.



Turn again to your rest, O my soul. \*  
 for the LORD has treated you well.  
 For you have rescued my life from death, \*  
 my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.  
 I will walk in the presence of the LORD \*  
 in the land of the living.  
 I believed, even when I said, "I have been brought very low." \*  
 In my distress I said, "No one can be trusted."  
 How shall I repay the LORD \*  
 for all the good things he has done for me?  
 I will lift up the cup of salvation \*  
 and call upon the Name of the LORD.  
 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD \*  
 in the presence of all his people.  
 Precious in the sight of the LORD \*  
 is the death of his servants.  
 O LORD, I am your servant; \*  
 I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;  
 you have freed me from my bonds.  
 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving \*  
 and call upon the Name of the LORD.  
 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD \*  
 in the presence of all his people,  
 In the courts of the LORD'S house, \*  
 in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!

Rest eternal \* grant unto them, O LORD  
 And let light perpetual \* shine upon them.

*Ant 1. I will walk before the Lord of Life \* in the land of the living.*

*Ant 2. Too long, † O LORD, have I had to live \* among the enemies of peace.*

**PSALM 120.** *Ad Dominum.*



WHEN I was in trouble, I called to the LORD; \*  
 I called to the LORD, and he answered me.  
 Deliver me, O LORD, from lying lips \*  
 and from the deceitful tongue.  
 What shall be done to you, and what more besides, \*  
 O you deceitful tongue?  
 The sharpened arrows of a warrior, \*  
 along with hot glowing coals.  
 How hateful it is that I must lodge in Meshech \*  
 and dwell among the tents of Kedar!



Too long have I had to live \*  
among the enemies of peace.  
I am on the side of peace, \*  
but when I speak of it, they are for war.

Rest eternal \* grant unto them, O LORD  
And let light perpetual \* shine upon them.

*Ant 2. Too long, O LORD, have I had to live \* among the enemies of peace.*

*Ant 3. The LORD and Giver of Life † shall preserve you from all evil; \* it is even he who shall keep your soul.*

**PSALM 121.** *Levavi oculos.*



LIFT up my eyes to the hills; \*  
from where is my help to come?  
My help comes from the LORD, \*  
the maker of heaven and earth.  
He will not let your foot be moved \*  
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel \*  
shall neither slumber nor sleep;  
The LORD himself watches over you; \*  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand,  
So that the sun shall not strike you by day, \*  
nor the moon by night.  
The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; \*  
it is he who shall keep you safe.  
The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, \*  
from this time forth for evermore.

Rest eternal \* grant unto them, O LORD.  
And let light perpetual \* shine upon them.

*Ant 3. The LORD and Giver of Life shall preserve you from all evil; \* it is even he who shall keep your soul.*

*Ant 4. If you, O LORD, † were to note what is done amiss, \* O LORD, who could stand?*

**PSALM 130.** *De profundis.*



OUT of the depths have I called to you, O LORD;  
LORD, hear my voice; \*  
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, \*  
O LORD, who could stand?  
For there is forgiveness with you; \*  
therefore you shall be feared.  
I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; \*  
in his word is my hope.  
My soul waits for the LORD,  
more than watchmen for the morning, \*  
more than watchmen for the morning.  
O Israel, wait for the LORD, \*  
for with the LORD there is mercy;  
With him there is plenteous redemption, \*  
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

Rest eternal \* grant unto them, O LORD.  
And let light perpetual \* shine upon them.

*Ant 4. If you, O LORD, were to note what is done amiss, \* O LORD, who could stand?*

## **The Lessons**

A reading from Wisdom 4:7-20 (NRSV)



UT the righteous, though they die early, will be at rest. For old age is not honored for length of time, or measured by number of years; but understanding is gray hair for anyone, and a blameless life is ripe old age. There were some who pleased God and were loved by him, and while living among sinners were taken up. They were caught up so that evil might not change their understanding or guile deceive their souls. For the fascination of wickedness obscures what is good, and roving desire perverts the innocent mind. Being perfected in a short time, they fulfilled long years; for their souls were pleasing to the Lord, therefore he took them quickly from the midst of wickedness. Yet the peoples saw and did not understand, or take such a thing to heart, that God's grace and mercy are with his elect, and that he watches over his holy ones. The righteous who have died will condemn the ungodly who are living, and youth that is quickly perfected will condemn the prolonged old age of the unrighteous. For they will see the end of the wise, and will not understand what the Lord purposed for them, and for what he kept them safe. The unrighteous will see, and will have contempt for them, but the Lord will laugh them to scorn. After this they will become dishonored corpses, and an outrage among the dead forever; because he will dash them speechless to the ground, and shake them from the foundations; they will be left utterly dry and barren, and they will suffer anguish, and the memory of them will perish. They will come with dread when their sins are reckoned up, and their lawless deeds will convict them to their face.

Here ends the Reading.

*Ant. on Mag. All, says the LORD, † whom the Father has given to me shall come to me:  
\* and the one who comes to me, I will in no wise cast out.*

**The Song of Mary Ever-Blessed Magnificat**  
*Luke 1:46-55*



Y 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 for ever.

Rest eternal \* grant unto them, O LORD  
And let light perpetual \* shine upon them.

*Ant. on Mag. All, says the LORD, whom the Father has given to me shall come to me: \*  
and the one who comes to me, I will in no wise cast out.*

A reading from 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NRSV)



UT we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about  
those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who  
have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again,  
even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have  
died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who

are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those  
who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's  
call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead  
in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the

clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Here ends the Reading.

*Ant. on Nunc. All of us † go down to the dust; \* yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

**The Song of Simeon** *Nunc Dimittis*  
*Luke 2:29-32*



LORD, you now have set your servant free \*  
to go in peace as you have promised;  
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, \*  
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:  
A Light to enlighten the nations, \*  
and the glory of your people Israel.

Rest eternal \* grant unto them, O LORD  
And let light perpetual \* shine upon them.

*Ant. on Nunc. All of us go down to the dust; \* yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

## **The Prayers**



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 for ever. Amen.

V. FROM the gates of hell;  
R. deliver *their souls* (or *his* or *her soul*), O Lord.  
V. May *they* (or *him* or *she*) rest in peace;  
R. Amen.  
V. Lord, hear my prayer;

R. And let my cry come to you.

V. Let us pray:

Collect of the Day



GOD, the Maker and Redeemer of all believers;  
Grant to the faithful departed  
the unsearchable benefits of the passion of your Son;  
that on the day of his appearing  
they may be manifested as your children. Amen.

A Collect for All the Faithful Departed



GOD, whose mercies cannot be numbered:  
accept our prayers on behalf of the souls of your departed servants;  
and grant them an entrance into the land of light and joy,  
in the fellowship of your Saints.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.

¶ After the Collect, there is said, and always in the plural:

V. Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord;

R. And let light perpetual shine upon them.

V. May they rest in peace.

R. Amen.





# OFFICE OF THE DEAD: Morning Prayer — Form 2



## The Invitatory and Psalter

**Venite PSALM 95:1-7**

*Ant. The King, by whom and in whom all things live and move and have their being,  
\* O come, let us worship.*



OME, let us sing to the LORD; \*  
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.  
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*  
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

*Ant. The King, by whom and in whom all things live and move and have their being,  
\* O come, let us worship.*

For the LORD is a great God, \*  
and a great King above all gods.  
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \*  
and the heights of the hills are his also.  
The sea is his, for he made it, \*  
and his hands have molded the dry land.



*Ant. The King, by whom and in whom all things live and move and have their being,  
\* O come, let us worship.*

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*  
and kneel before the LORD our Maker.  
For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. \*  
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

*Ant. The King, by whom and in whom all things live and move and have their being,  
\* O come, let us worship.*

Rest eternal \*  
grant unto them, O LORD.  
And let light perpetual \*  
shine upon them.

*Ant. The King, by whom and in whom all things live and move and have their being,  
\* O come, let us worship.*

### **The Psalm or Psalms Appointed**

*Ant 1. You, O LORD, spread a table † before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \* you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.*

PSALM 23 *Dominus regit me*



HE LORD is my shepherd; \*

I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
and leads me beside still waters.

He revives my soul \*

and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; \*  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \*  
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Rest eternal \* grant unto them, O LORD.  
And let light perpetual \* shine upon them.

*Ant 1. You, O LORD, spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \* you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.*

*Ant 2. All the paths † of the LORD are love and faithfulness \*  
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.*

PSALM 25 *Ad te, Domine, levavi*



O you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; \*  
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.  
Let none who look to you be put to shame; \*  
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.  
Show me your ways, O LORD, \*  
and teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me, \*

for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, \*

for they are from everlasting.

Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; \*

remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

Gracious and upright is the LORD; \*

therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

He guides the humble in doing right \*

and teaches his way to the lowly.

All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness \*

to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

For your Name's sake, O LORD, \*

forgive my sin, for it is great.

Who are they who fear the LORD? \*

he will teach them the way that they should choose.

They shall dwell in prosperity, \*

and their offspring shall inherit the land.

The LORD is a friend to those who fear him \*

and will show them his covenant.

My eyes are ever looking to the LORD, \*

for he shall pluck my feet out of the net.

Turn to me and have pity on me, \*

for I am left alone and in misery.

The sorrows of my heart have increased; \*

bring me out of my troubles.

Look upon my adversity and misery \*

and forgive me all my sin.

Look upon my enemies, for they are many, \*

and they bear a violent hatred against me.

Protect my life and deliver me; \*

let me not be put to shame, for I have trusted in you.

Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, \*

for my hope has been in you.

Deliver Israel, O God, \*  
out of all his troubles.

Rest eternal \* grant unto them, O LORD.  
And let light perpetual \* shine upon them.

*Ant 2. All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness \*  
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.*

*Ant 3. One thing † have I asked of the LORD; one thing I seek; \*  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life*

PSALM 27 *Dominus illuminatio*



THE LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? \*  
the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?  
When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, \*  
it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.  
Though an army should encamp against me, \*  
yet my heart shall not be afraid;  
And though war should rise up against me, \*  
yet will I put my trust in him.  
One thing have I asked of the LORD; one thing I seek; \*  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;  
To behold the fair beauty of the LORD \*  
and to seek him in his temple.  
For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; \*  
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling and set me high upon a rock.  
Even now he lifts up my head \*  
above my enemies round about me.  
Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness; \*  
I will sing and make music to the LORD.  
Hearken to my voice, O LORD, when I call; \*  
have mercy on me and answer me.  
You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." \*  
Your face, LORD, will I seek.  
Hide not your face from me, \*  
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.  
You have been my helper; cast me not away; \*  
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.  
Though my father and my mother forsake me, \*  
the LORD will sustain me.  
Show me your way, O LORD; \*  
lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.  
Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, \*  
for false witnesses have risen up against me, and also those who speak malice.

What if I had not believed that I should see the goodness of the LORD \*  
in the land of the living!  
O tarry and await the LORD's pleasure;  
be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; \*  
wait patiently for the LORD.

Rest eternal \* grant unto them, O LORD.  
And let light perpetual \* shine upon them.

*Ant 3. One thing have I asked of the LORD; one thing I seek; \* that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life*

## **The Lessons**

A reading from Lamentations 3:22-33 (NRSV)



HE steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,  
his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.  
“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul,  
“therefore I will hope in him.”

The Lord is good to those who wait for him,  
to the soul that seeks him.  
It is good that one should wait quietly  
for the salvation of the Lord.  
It is good for one to bear  
the yoke in youth,  
to sit alone in silence  
when the Lord has imposed it,  
to put one's mouth to the dust  
(there may yet be hope),  
to give one's cheek to the smiter,  
and be filled with insults.

For the Lord will not  
reject forever.  
Although he causes grief, he will have compassion  
according to the abundance of his steadfast love;  
for he does not willingly afflict  
or grieve anyone.

Here ends the Reading.

*Ant. on Canticle. Because he is bound to me † in love, says the LORD, therefore will I deliver him; \* I will protect him, because he knows my Name.*

**A Song of Creation** *Benedicite, omnia opera Domini*  
Song of the Three Young Men, 35-65



GLORIFY the Lord, all you works of the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Let the people of God glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
Glorify the Lord, O priests and servants of the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O spirits and souls of the righteous, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
You that are holy and humble of heart, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Let us glorify the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

*Ant. on Canticle. Because he is bound to me in love, says the LORD, therefore will I deliver him; \*I will protect him, because he knows my Name.*

A reading from Colossians 2:9-15; 3:1-4 (NRSV)



IN Christ the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it. [ . . . ] So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Here ends the Reading.

*Ant. on Ben.* As you, therefore, † have received Christ Jesus the Lord; \* continue to live your lives in him.

**The Song of Zechariah** *Benedictus Dominus Deus*  
*Luke 1: 68-79*



BLESSED be the Lord, the God of Israel; \*  
he has come to his people and set them free.  
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \*  
born of the house of his servant David.  
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,  
that he would save us from our enemies, \*  
from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers \*  
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
Free to worship him without fear, \*  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \*  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
To give his people knowledge of salvation \*  
by the forgiveness of their sins.  
In the tender compassion of our God \*  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
To shine on those who dwell in darkness  
and the shadow of death, \*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Rest eternal \* grant unto them, O LORD  
And let light perpetual \* shine upon them.

*Ant. on Ben.* As you, therefore, † have received Christ Jesus the Lord; \* continue to live your lives in him.

## **The Prayers**



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 for ever. Amen.

Let us pray for the whole people of God: Those with whom we gather and those whom we love yet see no longer.

Let us pray for the recent dead:

SILENCE may be kept

V. INTO your hands, O LORD;  
R. We commend their spirits.



GOD, whose nature and property is ever  
to have mercy and to forgive,  
receive our petitions for the *soul* of thy *servant* N.,  
who has departed out of this world:  
deliver *him* not into the hand of the enemy;  
neither forsake *him* at the last;  
but command *him* to be received by the holy Angels  
and brought to the country of paradise;  
that as *he* clove to you in life,  
*he* may likewise cleave to you in death, as partakers of your everlasting felicity.  
through Jesus Christ our LORD. Amen.

Let us pray for those whom we remember this day:

SILENCE may be kept

V. LORD, show us your love and mercy;  
R. For we put our trust in you.



GOD, to whom alone belongs the life of all who live :  
grant, we pray, to the soul of your servants [N.]  
whom we now remember before you; to find a place of refreshment  
and the blessedness of your rest,  
and to enjoy the glory of everlasting light.  
through Jesus Christ our LORD. Amen.

Let us pray for those who mourn:

SILENCE may be kept

V. BEHOLD, the dwelling of God is with humanity, and we shall be your people;

R. You, O LORD, shall wipe away every tear from our eyes.



RANT, O Lord, to all who are bereaved  
the spirit of faith and courage  
that they may have strength to meet the days to come  
with steadfastness and patience;  
not sorrowing as those without hope, but in thankful remembrance  
of your great goodness,  
and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love.

And this we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Let us pray for the living:

SILENCE may be kept

V. SHINE on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death;

R. And guide our feet into the ways of peace.



LORD Jesus Christ, by your death you took away the sting of death:  
Grant to us your servants so to follow in faith  
where you have led the way that we may at length fall asleep  
peacefully in you and wake up in your likeness;  
for your tender mercies' sake. Amen.

Let us pray for the Church:

SILENCE may be kept

V. BY, one Spirit we are all baptized into one Body;

R. And we all drink of one Spirit.



eternal Lord God, who holds all souls in life:  
We humbly ask you to shed forth upon your whole Church  
in paradise and on earth the bright beams of your light and peace;  
and grant that we, following the good examples of  
all those who loved and served you here,  
may at the last enter with them into your unending joy. Amen.

¶ After the Collect, there is said, and always in the plural:

V. Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord;

R. And let light perpetual shine upon them.

V. May they rest in peace.

R. Amen.

# OFFICE OF THE DEAD: Evening Prayer — Form 2



## The Psalter

*Ant 1. I will lift up † the cup of salvation \* and call upon the Name of the LORD.*

**PSALM 116.** *Dilexi, quoniam.*



LOVE the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication,  
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

The cords of death entangled me;  
the grip of the grave took hold of me; \*

I came to grief and sorrow.

Then I called upon the Name of the LORD: \*

"O LORD, I pray you, save my life."

Gracious is the LORD and righteous; \*

our God is full of compassion.

The LORD watches over the innocent; \*

I was brought very low, and he helped me.

Turn again to your rest, O my soul. \*

for the LORD has treated you well.

For you have rescued my life from death, \*  
 my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.  
 I will walk in the presence of the LORD \*  
 in the land of the living.  
 I believed, even when I said, "I have been brought very low." \*  
 In my distress I said, "No one can be trusted."  
 How shall I repay the LORD \*  
 for all the good things he has done for me?  
 I will lift up the cup of salvation \*  
 and call upon the Name of the LORD.  
 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD \*  
 in the presence of all his people.  
 Precious in the sight of the LORD \*  
 is the death of his servants.  
 LORD, I am your servant; \*  
 I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;  
 you have freed me from my bonds.  
 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving \*  
 and call upon the Name of the LORD.  
 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD \*  
 in the presence of all his people,  
 In the courts of the LORD'S house, \*  
 in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!

Rest eternal \* grant unto them, O LORD  
 And let light perpetual \* shine upon them.

*Ant 1. I will lift up the cup of salvation \* and call upon the Name of the LORD.*

*Ant 2. Too long, † O LORD, have I had to live \* among the enemies of peace.*

**PSALM 120.** *Ad Dominum.*



WHEN I was in trouble, I called to the LORD; \*  
 I called to the LORD, and he answered me.  
 Deliver me, O LORD, from lying lips \*  
 and from the deceitful tongue.  
 What shall be done to you, and what more besides, \*  
 O you deceitful tongue?  
 The sharpened arrows of a warrior, \*  
 along with hot glowing coals.  
 How hateful it is that I must lodge in Meshech \*  
 and dwell among the tents of Kedar!  
 Too long have I had to live \*  
 among the enemies of peace.

I am on the side of peace, \*  
but when I speak of it, they are for war.

Rest eternal \* grant unto them, O LORD  
And let light perpetual \* shine upon them.

*Ant 2. Too long, O LORD, have I had to live \* among the enemies of peace.*

*Ant 3. The LORD shall watch over † your going out and your coming in, \*  
from this time forth for evermore.*

**PSALM 121.** *Levavi oculos.*



LIFT up my eyes to the hills; \*  
from where is my help to come?  
My help comes from the LORD, \*  
the maker of heaven and earth.  
He will not let your foot be moved \*  
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel \*  
shall neither slumber nor sleep;  
The LORD himself watches over you; \*  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand,  
So that the sun shall not strike you by day, \*  
nor the moon by night.  
The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; \*  
it is he who shall keep you safe.  
The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, \*  
from this time forth for evermore.

Rest eternal \* grant unto them, O LORD.  
And let light perpetual \* shine upon them.

*Ant 3. The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, \* from this time  
forth for evermore.*

*Ant 4. O LORD, † hear my voice; \* let your ears consider well the voice of my  
supplication.*

**PSALM 130.** *De profundis.*



OUT of the depths have I called to you, O LORD;  
LORD, hear my voice; \*  
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.  
If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, \*  
O LORD, who could stand?



For there is forgiveness with you; \*  
therefore you shall be feared.

I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; \*  
in his word is my hope.  
My soul waits for the LORD,  
more than watchmen for the morning, \*  
more than watchmen for the morning.  
O Israel, wait for the LORD, \*  
for with the LORD there is mercy;  
With him there is plenteous redemption, \*  
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

Rest eternal \* grant unto them, O LORD.  
And let light perpetual \* shine upon them.

*Ant 4. O LORD, hear my voice; \* let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.*

## **The Lessons**

A reading from Romans 6:3-11 (NRSV)



O you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Here ends the Reading.

*Ant. on Mag. If the Spirit † of him who raised Jesus Christ from the dead dwells in you, \* he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit which dwells in you.*



**The Song of Mary Ever-Blessed *Magnificat***  
*Luke 1:46-55*



Y 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 for ever.

Rest eternal \* grant unto them, O LORD  
And let light perpetual \* shine upon them.

*Ant. on Mag. If the Spirit † of him who raised Jesus Christ from the dead dwells in you, \* he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit which dwells in you.*

A reading from John 15:1-9 (NRSV)



ESUS said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love."

Here ends the Reading.

*Ant. on Nunc. All of us † go down to the dust; \* yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

### **The Song of Simeon** *Nunc Dimittis*

*Luke 2:29-32*



LORD, you now have set your servant free \*  
to go in peace as you have promised;  
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, \*  
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:  
A Light to enlighten the nations, \*  
and the glory of your people Israel.

Rest eternal \* grant unto them, O LORD  
And let light perpetual \* shine upon them.

*Ant. on Nunc. All of us go down to the dust; \* yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

## **The Prayers**



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 for ever. Amen.

Let us pray for the whole people of God: Those with whom we gather and those whom we love yet see no longer.

Let us pray for the recent dead:

*SILENCE may be kept*

*V. INTO your hands, O LORD;*

*R. We commend their spirits.*



GOD, whose nature and property is ever  
to have mercy and to forgive,  
receive our petitions for the *soul* of thy servant **N.**,  
who has departed out of this world:  
deliver *him* not into the hand of the enemy;  
neither forsake *him* at the last;

but command *him* to be received by the holy Angels  
and brought to the country of paradise;  
that as *he* clove to you in life,  
*he* may likewise cleave to you in death, as partakers of your everlasting felicity.  
through Jesus Christ our LORD. Amen.

Let us pray for those whom we remember this day:

**SILENCE may be kept**

**V.** LORD, show us your love and mercy;

**R.** For we put our trust in you.



GOD, to whom alone belongs the life of all who live :  
grant, we pray, to the soul of your servants **[N.]**  
whom we now remember before you; to find a place of refreshment  
and the blessedness of your rest,  
and to enjoy the glory of everlasting light.  
through Jesus Christ our LORD. Amen.

Let us pray for those who mourn:

**SILENCE may be kept**

**V.** BEHOLD, the dwelling of God is with humanity, and we shall be your people;

**R.** You, O LORD, shall wipe away every tear from our eyes.



RANT, O Lord, to all who are bereaved  
the spirit of faith and courage  
that they may have strength to meet the days to come  
with steadfastness and patience;  
not sorrowing as those without hope, but in thankful remembrance  
of your great goodness,  
and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love.

And this we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Let us pray for the living:

**SILENCE may be kept**

V. SHINE on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death;  
R. And guide our feet into the ways of peace.



ORD Jesus Christ, by your death you took away the sting of death:  
Grant to us your servants so to follow in faith  
where you have led the way that we may at length fall asleep  
peacefully in you and wake up in your likeness;  
for your tender mercies' sake. Amen.

Let us pray for the Church:

SILENCE may be kept

V. BY, one Spirit we are all baptized into one Body;  
R. And we all drink of one Spirit.



eternal Lord God, who holds all souls in life:  
We humbly ask you to shed forth upon your whole Church  
in paradise and on earth the bright beams of your light and peace;  
and grant that we, following the good examples of  
all those who loved and served you here,  
may at the last enter with them into your unending joy. Amen.

¶ After the Collect, there is said, and always in the plural:

V. Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord;  
R. And let light perpetual shine upon them.  
V. May they rest in peace.  
R. Amen.

