

## *Order of Vespers*

*Stand*

**P**: O Lord, open my lips,

**C**: and my mouth will declare Your praise.

**P**: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

**C**: make haste to help me, O Lord.

**C**: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

+ PSALMODY +

### **PSALM - *Psalm 27***

**P**: Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud

**C**: be gracious to me and answer me

**P**: The Lord is my light and my salvation

**C**: whom shall I fear?

**P**: The Lord is the stronghold of my life

**C**: of whom shall I be afraid?

**P**: one thing have I asked of the Lord

**C**: that will I seek after

**P**: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord

**C**: all the days of my life

**P**: to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord

**C:** and to inquire in his temple

**P:** For He will hide me in His shelter

**C:** in the day of trouble

**P:** He will conceal me under the cover of His tent

**C:** He will lift me high upon a rock

**C:** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son\*  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the be- ginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**P:** The Lord is my light and my salvation

**C:** whom shall I fear?

*Sit*

OFFICE HYMN “Behold the Man”

Behold the man before you:  
The One who would restore you  
Stands silent in your stead.  
He waits for His conviction—  
Your rightful crucifixion.  
He bows His holy, weary head.

Hands, feet, and shoulders bleeding,  
To God the Father pleading  
For your own heart and soul.  
Come, sinner, watch in wonder:  
His body laden under  
The ransom of your sin in whole.

Exposed and bare, He covers  
Your shame with grace that hovers  
Upon you night and day.  
His final breath expended—  
The reign of death upended.  
His verdict kills the devil's sway.

Behold your God, here buried:  
Your sin and sorrows carried  
Into the earthen tomb.  
But wait with expectation:  
The Lord of your salvation  
Will rescue you from graven doom.

Christ, God and man, is living!  
His risen body giving  
Proof that our Savior won.  
Your hands will raise to bless Him,  
Your lips will e'er confess Him:  
The born and dead and risen One!

+ READINGS +

OLD TESTAMENT –

*Numbers 18:1–7*

<sup>1</sup> So the Lord said to Aaron, “You and your sons and your father’s house with you shall bear iniquity connected with the sanctuary, and you and your sons with you shall bear iniquity connected with your priesthood. <sup>2</sup> And with you bring your brothers also, the tribe of Levi, the tribe of your father, that they may join you and minister to you while you and your sons with you are before the tent of the testimony. <sup>3</sup> They shall keep guard over you and over the whole tent, but shall not come near to the vessels of the sanctuary or to the altar lest they, and you, die. <sup>4</sup> They

shall join you and keep guard over the tent of meeting for all the service of the tent, and no outsider shall come near you. <sup>5</sup> And you shall keep guard over the sanctuary and over the altar, that there may never again be wrath on the people of Israel. <sup>6</sup> And behold, I have taken your brothers the Levites from among the people of Israel. They are a gift to you, given to the Lord, to do the service of the tent of meeting. <sup>7</sup> And you and your sons with you shall guard your priesthood for all that concerns the altar and that is within the veil; and you shall serve. I give your priesthood as a gift, and any outsider who comes near shall be put to death.”

**P**: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C**: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE –

*Hebrews 7:20–28*

<sup>20</sup> And it was not without an oath. For those who formerly became priests were made such without an oath, <sup>21</sup> but this one was made a priest with an oath by the one who said to Him: “The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, ‘You are a priest forever.’”

<sup>22</sup> This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant.

<sup>23</sup> The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, <sup>24</sup> but He holds His priesthood permanently, because He continues forever. <sup>25</sup> Consequently, He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

<sup>26</sup> For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a High Priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. <sup>27</sup> He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for His own

sins and then for those of the people, since He did this once for all when He offered up Himself. <sup>28</sup> For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

**P**: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C**: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL -

*John 17:1-19*

When Jesus had spoken these words, He lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son that the Son may glorify You, <sup>2</sup> since You have given Him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom You have given Him. <sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. <sup>4</sup> I glorified You on earth, having accomplished the work that You gave Me to do. <sup>5</sup> And now, Father, glorify Me in Your own presence with the glory that I had with You before the world existed.

<sup>6</sup> "I have manifested Your name to the people whom You gave Me out of the world. Yours they were, and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything that You have given Me is from You.

<sup>8</sup> For I have given them the words that You gave Me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. <sup>9</sup> I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. <sup>10</sup> All Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, which You have given Me, that

they may be one, even as We are one. <sup>12</sup> While I was with them, I kept them in Your name, which You have given Me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup> But now I am coming to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. <sup>14</sup> I have given them Your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>15</sup> I do not ask that You take them out of the world, but that You keep them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As You sent Me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> And for their sake I consecrate Myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

**P**: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C**: **Thanks be to God.**

#### RESPONSORY

**P**: Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

**C**: **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

**P**: In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.

**C**: **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

**P**: Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

**C**: **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

SERMON

+ CANTICLE - *MAGNIFICAT* +

*Stand*

HYMN "My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord" # 934

OFFERING

+ PRAYER +

*Stand*

KYRIE

**C**: Lord, have mercy;  
Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy.

LORD'S PRAYER

**C**: 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.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the  
glory forever and ever. Amen.

## COLLECTS

**P**: O Lord, hear my prayer.

**C**: **And let my cry come to You.**

**P**: Almighty God, on the night before His crucifixion, Your Son prayed for our protection from the evil one. Keep us in that baptismal name which You bestowed on us at the font, that having been made members of Your one, holy Christian Church, the gates of hell may not prevail against us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**C**: **Amen.**

## BENEDICAMUS

**P**: Let us bless the Lord.

**C**: **Thanks be to God.**

## BENEDICTION

**P**: The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C**: **Amen.**

HYMN: "Hear Us, Father, When We Pray"

#773

### Acknowledgments

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