

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 127 (*antiphon Ephesians 2*)

P: You are no longer strangers

C: You are no longer foreigners

P: You are fellow citizens with the saints

C: and members of the household of God

P: unless the Lord builds the house

C: those who build it labor in vain

P: unless the Lord watches over the city

C: the watchman stays awake in vain.

P: it is in vain that you rise up early

C: and go to rest late

P: eating the bread of anxious toil
C: **for he gives sleep to His beloved**

P: Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord,
C: **the fruit of the womb a reward.**

P: like arrows in the hand of a warrior
C: **are the children of one's youth**

P: blessed is the man
C: **who fills his quiver with them!**

P: He shall not be put to shame
C: **when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.**

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.**

P: You are no longer strangers
C: **You are no longer foreigners**

P: You are fellow citizens with the saints
C: **and members of the household of God**

Sit

HYMN:

#447 (stanzas 1-3; 7-9)

FIRST READING –

Isaiah 62:1-5

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,
until her righteousness goes forth as brightness,
and her salvation as a burning torch.

²The nations shall see your righteousness,
and all the kings your glory,
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.

³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

⁴You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate,
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,
and your land Married;
for the Lord delights in you,
and your land shall be married.

⁵For as a young man marries a young woman,
so shall your sons marry you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
so shall your God rejoice over you.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING –

Revelation 12:1-6

And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. ²She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth.

³And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. ⁴His tail swept down a third of the stars of

heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. ⁵ She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, ⁶ and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

THIRD READING –

John 19:25-27

but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

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

Stand

HYMN “My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord.” # 934

OFFERING

+ PRAYERS +

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: Holy God, by Your Son's holy incarnation, You sanctified all stages of life. Grant us courage to defend the weakest among us, especially the unborn and aged, that we would with our lips and lives protect and honor the preciousness intrinsic to every human being; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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: "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!

Acknowledgments

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