

An Order for the Office of Vespers

Blessing: May the Lord Almighty grant us peace towards the day's ending. **Amen.**

A Candle is lit: Blessed are you, Sovereign God, our light and our salvation, to you be glory and praise for ever. May the light of Christ dispel the darkness of our hearts. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Blessed be God for ever.**

That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful. Let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

Incense is burned: Let my prayer be counted as incense before you, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. (Ps 141.2)

Little Chapter: Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (Col. 3.16) **R. Thanks be to God.**

Confession:

We confess to our loving God, before the whole company of heaven and one another, that we have sinned, through our own fault, in thought, word and deed and in what we have left undone.

Wherefore we pray God to forgive us our sins and to keep us in eternal life. Amen.

May the almighty, and merciful God grant us forgiveness of all our sins and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Versicle:

V. O God make speed to save us R. O Lord make haste to help us.

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. Alleluia. [in Lent: Praise to you, O Lord, King of eternal glory]

Psalm An Evening Psalm is said

Hymn

Glory to thee, my God, this night; For all the blessings of the light; Keep me, O keep me, King of kings; Beneath thine own almighty wings.

Forgive me, Lord, for thy dear Son, The ill that I this day have done, That with the world, myself and thee, I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below, Praise him above, ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Chapter: If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1.7) *(or another short passage of scripture is read).* **R. Thanks be to God.**

A Homily or Address may be given.

Responsory:

V. The Lord is my light and salvation; the Lord is the strength of my life. R. The Lord is my light and salvation; the Lord is the strength of my life.

V. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. R. the Lord is the strength of my life.

V. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. **R. The Lord is my light and salvation; the Lord is the strength of my life.**

V. You have done great things, O God. **R. Holy is your name.**

Magnificat:

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; ♦
he has looked with favour 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, ♦
from generation to generation.**

**He has shown strength with his arm ♦
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,**

**Casting down the mighty from their thrones ♦
and lifting up the lowly.**

**He has filled the hungry with good things ♦
and sent the rich away empty.**

**He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, ♦
to remember his promise of mercy,**

**The promise made to our ancestors, ♦
to Abraham and his children for ever. *Luke 1.46-55***

**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.**

V. You have done great things, O God. **R. Holy is your name.**

The Dismissal

Collect

O GOD, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto your servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey your commandments, and also, that by you we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

OUR Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in 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, the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

(Benediction may take place at this point. See next page.)

or

Blessing:

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us. The Lord lift up his countenance upon us and give us peace. Amen.

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Their eyes were opened, and they recognised him (*Luke 24.31*)

Having recognised Jesus in the breaking of bread in the eucharist, we recognise again his presence with us in the bread which is his body.

It is the same eucharistic and heavenly bread which is revealed and adored in the monstrance on the altar throne. Here we are blessed with that on which we have already been fed; Jesus the bread of life.

If the Blessed Sacrament has not already been exposed, the following, or other suitable hymn is sung:

O Saving Victim, opening wide	All praise and thanks to thee ascend,
The gate of heaven to man below,	For evermore blest One in Three;
Our foes press hard on every side;	O grant us life that shall not end,
Thine aid supply, thy strength bestow.	In our true native land with thee. Amen.

The Blessed Sacrament is exposed to view.

After a period of adoration, the following or other suitable hymn is sung.

Therefore we before him bending,	Glory let us give and blessing,
This great Sacrament revere;	To the Father and the Son;
Types and shadows have their ending,	Honour, might and praise addressing
For the newer rite is here;	While eternal ages run;
Faith our outward sense befriending,	Ever too his love confessing
Makes the inward vision clear.	Who, from both, with both is One. Amen.

Other hymns may be sung;

Be Still for the glory of the Lord	Jesus good, above all other
Let all mortal flesh keep silence	He is Lord, he is Lord
All heaven declares the glory of the risen	Love divine, all loves excelling
Lord	Thee we adore, O hidden Saviour thee
All I once held dear	Ubi Caritas et amore

The Collect.

Benediction is given

We recite The Divine Praises

Blessed be God. **Blessed be God.**

Blessed be His Holy Name. **Blessed be His Holy Name.**

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man. **Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.**

Blessed be the Name of Jesus. **Blessed be the Name of Jesus.**

Blessed be His Most Sacred Heart. **Blessed be His Most Sacred Heart.**

Blessed be His Most Precious Blood. **Blessed be His Most Precious Blood.**

Blessed be Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. **Blessed be Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.**

Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete. **Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.**

Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most Holy. **Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most Holy.**

Blessed be her Holy and Immaculate Conception. **Blessed be her Holy and Immaculate Conception.**

Blessed be her Glorious Assumption. **Blessed be her Glorious Assumption.**

Blessed be the Name of Mary, Virgin and Mother. **Blessed be the Name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.**

Blessed be St. Joseph, her most chaste spouse. **Blessed be St. Joseph, her most chaste spouse.**

Blessed be God in His Angels and in His Saints forever. **Blessed be God in His Angels and in His Saints forever.**

May the heart of Jesus, in the Most Blessed Sacrament, be praised, adored, and loved with grateful affection, at every moment, in all the tabernacles of the world, even to the end of time, **Amen.**

As the Sacrament is returned to the tabernacle one of the following hymns is sung:

All for Jesus! All for Jesus!

Soul of my Saviour

Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour

Sweet Sacrament divine

Now thank we all our God