



Night Prayer

From the Liturgy of the Hours

Outside of Paschaltide

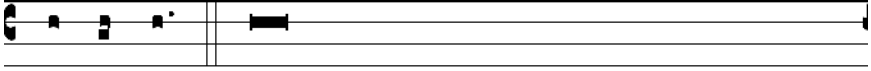
Rejoice together and celebrate the praise of God's Glory, when all who have been redeemed in the blood of Christ, from every tribe and tongue and people and nation, have been gathered into the one Church glorify the one and triune God in one canticle of praise.

Opening Invocation

O



God, come to my as-sist-ance. *R.* O Lord, make haste



to help me. *V.* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, / and to the Holy Spirit. / As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.



R. A-men. *Outside Lent:* Al- le- lu- ia

Penitential Rite

A brief period of silence followed by a penitential rite, as in Mass.

Hymn

Te lucis ante terminum,
rerum Creator, poscimus
ut pro tua clementia
sis praesul et custodia.

To Thee, before the close of day
Creator of the world, we pray
that with Thy wonted favour, Thou
wouldst be our Guard and Keeper now.

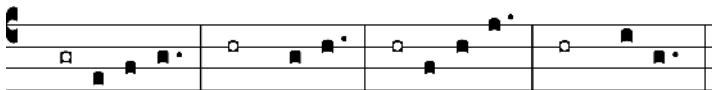
Procul recedant somnia
et noctium phantasmata;
hostemque nostrum comprime,
ne pollutantur corpora.

From all ill dreams defend our eyes,
from nightly fears and fantasies:
tread under foot our ghostly foe,
that no pollution we may know.

Praesta, Pater piissime,
Patrique compar Unice,
cum Spiritu Paraclito
regnans per omne saeculum.

O Father, that we ask be done
through Jesus Christ Thine only Son,
who, with the Holy Ghost and Thee,
shall live and reign eternally.

Psalmody



Ant. Night holds no terrors for me * sleeping under *God's* wings.

Psalm 91

Safe in God's sheltering care

I have given you the power to tread upon serpents and scorpions. (Luke 1:19)

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High * and abides in the shade of the Almighty * says to the Lord: "My refuge, * my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!"

It is he who will free you from the snare * of the fowler who seeks to destroy you; * he will conceal you with his pinions * and under his wings you will find refuge.

You will not fear the terror of the night * nor the arrow that flies by day, * nor the plague that prowls in the darkness * nor the scourge that lays waste at noon.

A thousand may fall at your side, * ten thousand fall at your right, * you, it will never approach; * his faithfulness is buckler and shield.

Yours eyes have only to look * to see how the wicked are repaid, * you who have said: "Lord, my refuge!" * and have made the Most High your dwelling.

Upon you no evil shall fall, * no plague approach where you dwell. * For you has he commanded his angels, * to keep you in all your ways.

They shall bear you upon their hands * lest your foot against a stone. * On the lion and the viper you will tread * and trample the young lion and the dragon.

Since he clings to me in love, I will free him; * protect him for he knows my name. * When he calls I shall answer: "I am with you." * I will save him in distress and give him glory.

With length of life I will content him; * I shall let him see my saving power.

Glory 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.

Ant. Night holds no terrors for me * sleeping under God's wings.

Reading

A short scripture reading is read, followed by a brief period of silence.

Responsory

VI

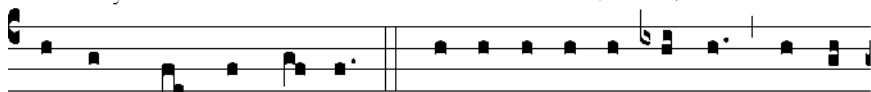
I

N- to your hands, O Lord, I com-mend my spir- it.

All repeat



℞. In-to your hands. √. You have re-deemed us, Lord, God of truth.



℞. I com-mend my spir- it. √. Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to



the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir- it ℞. In-to your hands.

Canticle of Simeon

(Luke: 2:29-32)

Christ is the light of the nations and the glory of Israel.

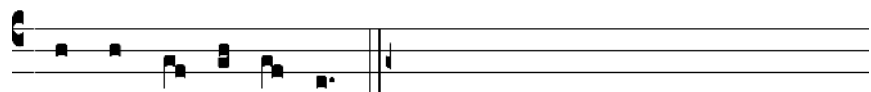
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P

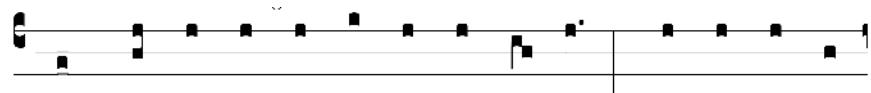
Ro-tect us, Lord, as we stay a-wake, watch o-ver us as



we sleep: that a-wake, we may keep watch with Christ, and



a-sleep, rest in his peace.



I. Lord, now you let your ser-vant go in peace; your word has been

Concluding Prayer

Ÿ. Let us pray.

The concluding prayer is said.

℞. Amen.

Blessing

M

Ay the all-pow-er-ful Lord grant us a rest-ful night

and a peace-ful death. ℞. A-men.

Antiphon in Honour of the Blessed Virgin

Ant.
6.

A

-ve, Re-gí-na cœ-ló-rum, Ave, Dómi-na Ange-ló-

rum : Salve, ra-dix, salve, porta, Ex qua mundo lux est

orta : Gaude, Virgo glo-ri-ó-sa, Super omnes spe-ci-ó-sa,

Va-le, o valde de-có-ra, Et pro no-bis Christum exó-ra.

Hail, O Queen of Heav'n enthron'd, / Hail, by angels Mistress own'd / Root of Jesse, Gate of morn, / Whence the world's true light was born.

Glorious Virgin, joy to thee, / Lovliest whom in Heaven they see, / Fairest thou where all are fair! / Plead with Christ our sins to spare.

Ant.

I.

A

Lma Red-emptó-ris Ma-ter, * quæ pérvia cœ-li

Porta ma-nes, et stel-la ma-ris, succúrre cadénti, Súрге-re

qui cu-rat, pó-pu-lo : tu quæ ge-nu-ísti, Na-tú-ra mi-ránte,

tu-um sanctum Ge-ni-tó-rem, Virgo pri-us ac po-sté-ri-us,

Gabri-élis ab o-re Súmens il-lud Ave, pecca-tó-rum mi-se-ré-re.

Loving mother of the Redeemer, / gate of heaven, star of the sea, / assist your
people who have fallen yet strive to rise again.

To the wonderment of nature you bore your Creator, / yet remained a virgin after
as before.

You who received Gabriel's joyful greeting, / have pity on us poor sinners.



Adapted from the General Instruction of the Liturgy of the Hours:

Jesus has commanded us to do as he did. On many occasions he said: “Pray”, “ask”, “seek” “in my name”. He taught us that prayer is necessary, that it should be humble, watchful, persevering, confident in the Father’s goodness, single-minded, and in conformity with God’s nature.

Prayer directed to God must be linked with Christ, the Lord of all, the one Mediator through whom alone we have access to God. He unites to himself the whole human community in such a way that there is an intimate bond between the prayer of Christ and the prayer of all humanity. In Christ and in Christ alone human worship of God receives its redemptive value and attains its goal.

Though prayer in private and in seclusion is always necessary and to be encouraged and is practised by the members of the Church through Christ in the Holy Spirit, there is a special excellence in the prayer of the community. Christ himself has said: “Where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there in their midst” (Mt 18:20).

In the Holy Spirit Christ carries out through the Church “the task of redeeming humanity and giving perfect glory to God”, not only when the Eucharist is celebrated and the sacraments administered but also in other ways and especially when the Liturgy of the Hours is celebrated. All who offer this prayer are fulfilling a duty of the Church, and also sharing in the highest honour given to Christ’s bride, because as they render praise to God they are standing before God’s throne in the name of Mother Church, united with that hymn of praise which is sung in the heavenly places throughout all ages.

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Antiphons in Honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary from the *Antiphonarium Praemonstratense*.
Other chant settings courtesy of the Church Music Association of America.

<http://musicasacra.com>

Translation of *Te lucis* by J. M. Neale and *Ave Regina* by Fr Edward Caswall.

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English translation of the *Nunc Dimittis* and the *Gloria Patri* by the International Consultation on English Texts (ICET).

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