



VESPERS

Evening Prayer

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DEAD



VESPERS

or EVENING PRAYER

Introduction

STANDING

O God, come to our aid. O Lord, make haste to help us.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spi-rit.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ev-er shall be,
world with- out end. A- men. Al- le- lu- ia.

Hymn

O Christ, the King of boundless might,
You rendered glory unto God
And made us fitting in his sight
By shattering death's bitter rod.

Our weakness you once came to meet
And, conquering, the battle fought,
Who, dying, crushed beneath your feet
The victory the serpent wrought.

Our Champion, you rose again,
And by your paschal mystery
Have granted us, once dead through sin,
A life renewed eternally.

Bestow on us this life of grace
That when, O Bridegroom, you return,
We may be found before your face
Awake with lamps that brightly burn.

Lead us, Just Judge, into your rest,
For we confess the Trinity;
Bestow on us your splendour blest,
Who live by faith in charity.

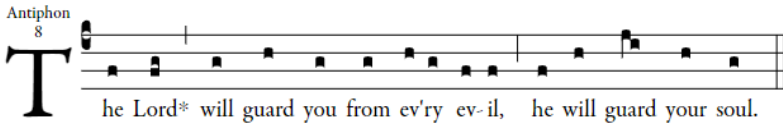
Now that his earthly life has passed,
Call forth your servant, we implore,
Who longs to enter heav'n at last
To praise you there forevermore.

Psalmody

Antiphon 1

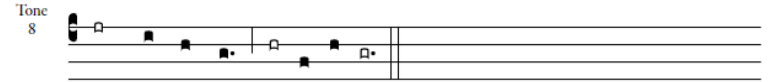
SEATED

Antiphon
8



he Lord* will guard you from ev'ry ev-il, he will guard your soul.

Tone
8



Psalm 120(121) *Levavi oculos*

I lift up my eyes | *to the* **móuntains**;^{*}
from whére shall | *come my* **hélp**?
My hélp shall cóme | *from the* **Lórd***
who made héa- | *ven and* **éarth**.

May he néver állow | *you to* **stúmb**le!^{*}
Let him sléep | *not, your* **guárd**.
Nó, he sléeps | *not nor* **slúmb**ers,^{*}
Ís- | *ra-el's* **guárd**.

The Lórd is your guárd | *and your* **sháde**;^{*}
at your ríght | *side he* **stánds**.
By dáy the sún | *shall not* **smíte** you*
nor the móon | *in the* **níght**.


The Lórd will guárd | *you from* **évil**,^{*}
he will | *guárd your* **sóul**.
The Lord will guárd your gó- | *ing and* **cóming***
both nów | *and for* **éver**.

Glory be to the Father and | *to the* **Son**,*
and to the | *Holy* **Spirit**.

As it was in the beginning is now and | *ever shall be,**
 world without | *end A-men.*

The first antiphon is repeated.

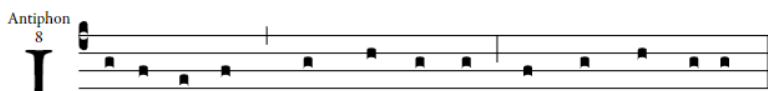
Antiphon
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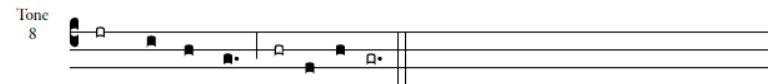
Antiphon 2

Antiphon
8



f you, O Lord,* should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?

Tone
8



Psalm 129(130) *De profundis*

Out of the dépths I crý to | *you, O Lórd,**
 Lórd, | *hear my vóice!*
 O lét your éars | *be at-téntive**
 to the vóice | *of my pléading.*

If you, O Lórd, should | *márk our guílt,**
 Lórd, who | *would sur-víve?*
 But with yóu is | *fóund for-gívenness:**
 for thís | *we re-vére you.*

My sóul is wáiting | *for the Lórd.**
 I cóunt | *on his wórd.*
 My sóul is lónging | *for the Lórd**
 more than watch- | *man for dáybreak.*

Let the wáitchman | *cóunt on* **daybreak***
and Ísrael | *on the* **Lórd**.

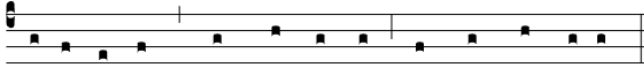
Be cáuse with the Lórd | *there is* **mercy***
and fúlness | *of* **re-démption**,
Ísrael indéed he | *will re-deem**
from áll | *its i-níquity*.

Glory be to the Father and | *to the* **Son**,*
and to the | *Holy* **Spirit**.

As it was in the beginning is now and | *ever* **shall be**,*
world without | *end* **A-men**.

The second antiphon is repeated.

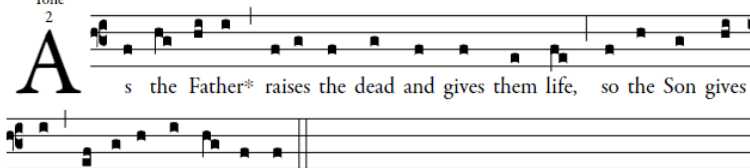
Antiphon
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I f you, O Lord,* should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?

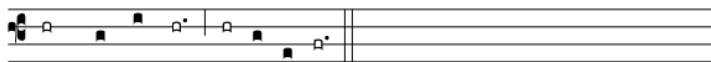
Antiphon 3:

Tone
2



A s the Father* raises the dead and gives them life, so the Son gives
life to a-ny-one he chooses.

Tone
2



(NT 5) Philippians 2:6-11

Though he was in the | *form of* **God**,*
 Jesus did not count equality with God a thing
 | *to be* **grasped**.

He emptied himself, taking the form | *of a* **servant**,*
 being born in the like- | *ness of* **men**.

And being found in human form, †
 he humbled himself and became obedient
 | *unto* **death**,*
 even death | *on a* **cross**.

Therefore God has high- | *ly ex-***alted him***
 and bestowed on him the name which is above
 | *ev'ry* **name**.

That at the name of Jesus every | *knee should* **bow**,*
 in heaven and on earth and un- | *der the* **earth**,

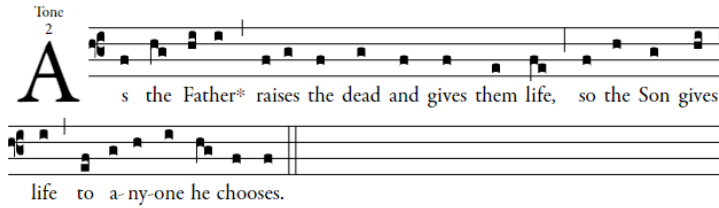
And every tongue confess that Jesus | *Christ is* **Lord**,*
 To the glory of | *God the* **Father**.

Glory be to the Father and | *to the* **Son**,*
 and to the | *Holy* **Spirit**.

As it was in the beginning is now and | *ever shall be*,*
 world without | *end* **A-men**.

The third antiphon is repeated.

Tone
2



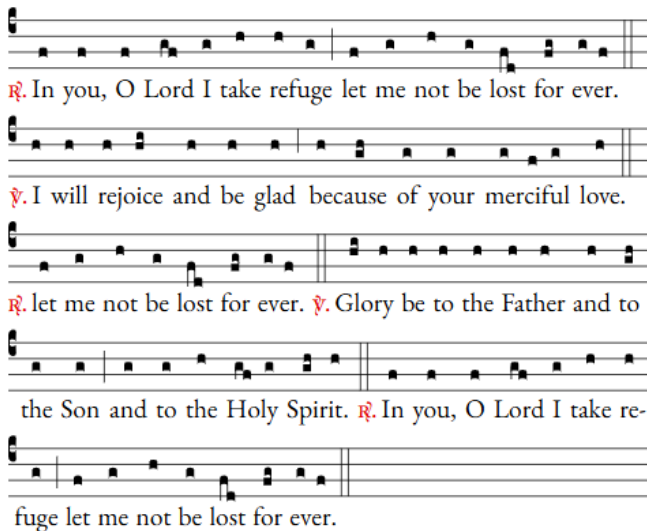
As the Father* raises the dead and gives them life, so the Son gives
life to a-ny-one he chooses.

Short reading

1 Corinthians 15:55-57

Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting?
Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from
the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Short responsory



℞. In you, O Lord I take refuge let me not be lost for ever.

℣. I will rejoice and be glad because of your merciful love.

℞. let me not be lost for ever. **℣.** Glory be to the Father and to
the Son and to the Holy Spirit. **℞.** In you, O Lord I take re-
fuge let me not be lost for ever.

Glory be to the Father and | *to the Son*,*
and to the | *Holy Spirit*.
As it was in the beginning is now and | *ever shall be*,*
world without | *end A-men*.

The Magnificat antiphon is repeated.

All that the | *Fa-ther* **gives me**
will | *come to me*;
and I will never | *turn a-way*
the | *one who comes to me*.

Intercessions

Let us pray to Christ who gives us the hope that our mortal bodies will become like his in glory.

℟. Lord, you are our life and our resurrection.

Christ, Son of the living God, you raised your friend Lazarus from the dead; grant life and glory to the faithful departed, redeemed by your precious blood.

℟. Lord, you are our life and our resurrection.

Compassionate Saviour, you wiped away all tears when you gave back to the widow of Naim her only son; comfort those who mourn because the one they love has died.

℟. Lord, you are our life and our resurrection.

Christ, our Redeemer, destroy the reign of sin in our mortal bodies; let us not receive the wages of death but the reward of eternal life.

℟. Lord, you are our life and our resurrection.

Christ, our Saviour, look on those who live without hope and do not know you; let them believe in the resurrection and the life of the world to come.

℟. Lord, you are our life and our resurrection.

You restored sight to the man born blind and opened the eyes of his faith; reveal your face to the dead who have not seen your glory.

℟. Lord, you are our life and our resurrection.

Lord, be merciful to us when we leave this earthly dwelling; make for us a home in heaven that will last for ever.

℟. Lord, you are our life and our resurrection.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, as following your teaching we say:

**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.**

Concluding Prayer

Grant, Lord, we pray,
that as our faith is built on the Risen Christ,
so too our hope may be steadfast
as we await the resurrection of all the faithful departed.
Through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. **℟. Amen.**

Conclusion

In celebrating alone, or when a lay person presides:

The Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen.

When a priest or deacon presides:

The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

May almighty God bless you, the Father, + and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ.

R. Thanks be to God.

Front cover image:

Vigil for the Dead, from a French book of hours, c. 1450.

The Hague, KB, 74 F 1, fol. 133r.