

The Blessing of the Light

(The Lucernarium)

and

Compline



Introduction

The Blessing of the Light

(also known in Latin as *The Lucernarium*) is an ancient service, going back to the origins of Christian worship.

In it Christians give thanks for and celebrate Christ our light.

It can be used as a service on its own, or as a preface to Evening Prayer or Compline.

Compline

The ancient office of Compline derives its name from a Latin word meaning 'completion' (*completorium*).

It is above all a service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day.

It is most effective when the ending is indeed an ending, without additions, conversation or noise.

Daily, Seasonal and other Variations to Compline

can be found at the back of this booklet, beginning on page 19.

Alleluia and Reciting the Psalms and Responses

The Alleluias included in the Easter form of the Responsory are for use from Easter Day until the Day of Pentecost, not at other times.

The Alleluia following the opening versicles and responses is always used, except in Lent.

When reciting the psalms and responses, a pause is observed at the end of each line where there is a * notation.

Conclusion

The response in square brackets [] is normally used only if The Holy Eucharist is to be celebrated the following day.

Silence is kept

The Officiant may begin with the following

A Prayer Before the Office

Eternal Father, through Jesus your Son,
in union with Mary the mother of Jesus,
N, and all the saints,
I / We humbly offer this holy Office as a sign of love.
I / We offer this Office to the glory of the Holy Trinity
and for the salvation of the whole world.

All **Amen.**

The Paschal Candle, or another large candle, is lit.

*Before or during the singing of the hymn Phos Hilaron,
other candles may be lit.*

*If incense is to be offered, it is appropriate during the singing of the
Phos Hilaron or during the recitation of A Song of the Evening Sacrifice.*

Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

(or)

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.
All **A light no darkness can extinguish.**

One of the following two versions of the hymn Phos Hilaron is sung.

O Gladsome Light

1 O glad-some light, O grace of God the Fa-ther's face,
2 As day fades in - to night, we see the eve-ning light,
3 To you of right be - longs all praise of ho - ly songs,

the e - ter - nal splen-dour wear - ing; ce - les - tial, ho - ly, blest,
our hymn of praise out - pour - ing, Fa - ther of might un - known,
O Son of God, life - giv - er; you, there - fore, O Most High,

our Sav - iour Je - sus Christ, joy - ful in your ap - pear - ing.
Christ, his in - car - nate Son, and Ho - ly Spirit, a - dor - ing.
the world will glo - ri - fy, and shall ex - alt for ev - er.

Text: Phos Hilaron, Greek hymn, (200?); Tr Robert Bridges (1844-1930)

Tr. © Oxford University Press.

Music: Melody Geneva, 1551; harm. Claude Goudimel (1514-1572) and others

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NUNC DIMITTIS

(or)

O Gracious Light

1 O gra - cious Light, Lord Je - sus Christ, in you the
 2 Now sun - set comes, but light shines forth; the lamps are
 3 Wor - thy are you of end - less praise, O Son of

Fa - ther's glo - ry shone. Im - mor - tal, ho - ly,
 lit to pierce the night. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and
 God, life - giv - ing Lord; where - fore you are through

blest is he, and blest are you, his ho - ly Son.
 Spir - it: God who dwells in the e - ter - nal light.
 all the earth and in the high - est heaven a - dored.

Text: *Phos Hilaron*, Greek hymn, (200?); para. F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984).

Para. © 1985 The Church Pension Fund..

Music: Thomas Tallis (1505?-1585)

LM
 TALLIS'S CANON
 Lower key 664

Thanksgiving

The Officiant sings or says,

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One of the following, or a seasonal prayer of thanksgiving, is sung or said

1 †

Blessèd are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe!

You led your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day
and a pillar of fire by night.

Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ.

May his word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;

for you are full of loving kindness for your whole creation,

and we, your creatures, glorify you,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

2 †

We praise and thank you, O God,

for you are without beginning and without end.

Through Christ you are the creator and preserver

of the whole world; but, above all, you are his God and Father,

the giver of the Spirit, and the ruler of all that is, seen and unseen.

You made the day for the works of light and the night

for the refreshment of our minds and bodies.

O loving Lord and source of all that is good,

accept our evening sacrifice of praise.

As you have conducted us through the day...keep us now in Christ;

grant us...a night free from sin; and, at the end,

bring us to everlasting life. Through Christ and in the Holy Spirit,

we offer you all glory, honour, and worship, now and forever.

Amen.

3 Advent †

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe,
creator of light and darkness.

In this holy season, when the sun's light is swallowed up
by the growing darkness of the night,

you renew your promise to reveal among us

the splendour of your glory,

enfleshed and visible to us in Jesus Christ your Son.

Through the prophets you teach us to hope for his reign of peace.

Through the outpouring of his Spirit, you open our blindness to the glory of his presence. Strengthen us in our weakness. Support us in our stumbling efforts to do your will and free our tongues to sing your praise. For to you all honour and blessing are due, now and forever.

Amen.

4 Christmas and Epiphany †

Blessed are you, Lord our God, our eternal Father and David's king. You have made our gladness greater and increased our joy by sending to dwell among us the Wonderful Counsellor, the Prince of Peace. Born of Mary, proclaimed to the shepherds, and acknowledged to the ends of the earth, your unconquered Sun of righteousness destroys our darkness and establishes us in freedom. All glory in the highest be to you, through Christ, the Son of your favour, in the anointing love of his Spirit, this night and forever and ever. **Amen.**

5 Lent †

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, the shepherd of Israel, their pillar of cloud by day, their pillar of fire by night. In these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance that in this pilgrimage of prayer we might learn to be your people once more. In fasting and service you bring us back to your heart. You open our eyes to your presence in the world and you free our hands to lead others to the radiant splendour of your mercy. Be with us in these journey days for without you we are lost and will perish. To you alone be dominion and glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

6 Resurrection †

We praise and thank you, O God our Father, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him you have enlightened us by revealing the light that never fades, for dark death has been destroyed and radiant life is everywhere restored. What was promised is fulfilled: we have been joined to God, through renewed life in the Spirit of the risen Lord. Glory and praise to you, our Father, through Jesus your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Spirit, in the kingdom of light eternal, forever and ever.

Amen.

A Song of the Evening Sacrifice

*A Song of the Evening Sacrifice (verses from Psalm 141)
may be used and incense may be offered*

**All Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, *
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

O Lord, I call to you; come to me quickly; *
hear my voice when I cry to you.

Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord,
and guard the door of my lips; *
let not my heart incline to any evil thing.

**All Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, *
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

Let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers, *
nor eat of their choice foods.

But my eyes are turned to you, Lord God; *
in you I take refuge; do not leave me defenceless.

**All Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, *
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

The Officiant continues with The Order for Compline:

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.
All Amen

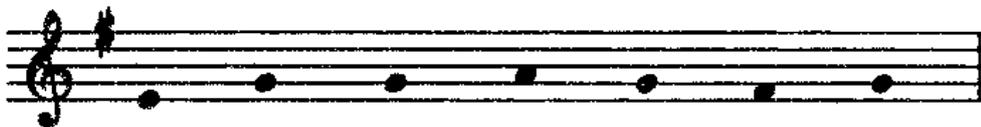
Our help is in the name of the Lord
All Who has made heaven and earth.

A period of silence follows for reflection on the past day.

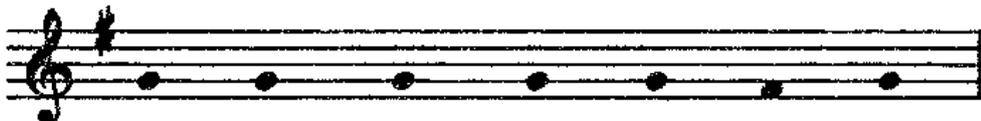
**All Most merciful God, we confess to you,
before the whole company of heaven and one another,
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed,
and in what we have failed to do.
Forgive us our sins, heal us by your Spirit
and raise us to new life in Christ.
Amen.**

Responsory

This Responsory is sung or said.



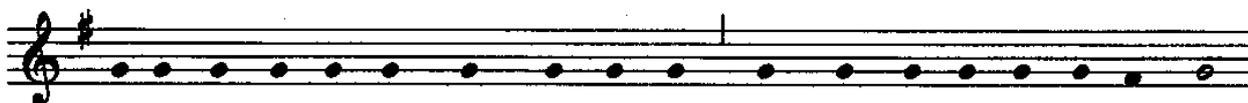
O God, make speed to save us.



All O Lord, make haste to help us.



All Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spi-rit:*



as it was in the be-ginn-ing, is now, and shall be for ev-er. A-men.

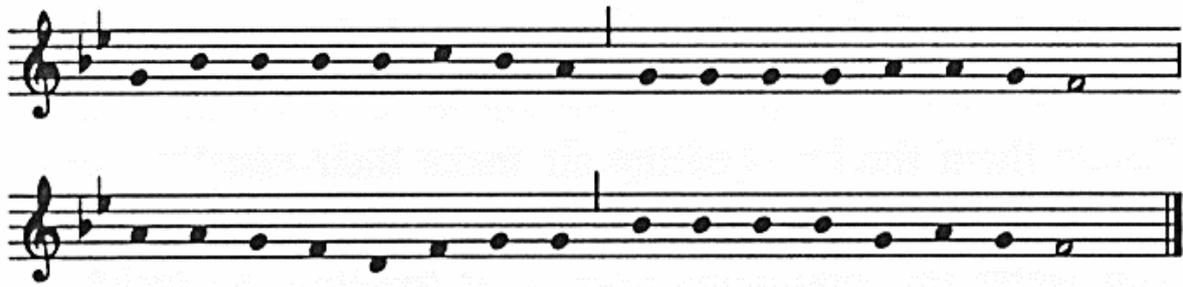


Al - le - lu - ia!

(Omitted in Lent)

The following or another suitable hymn may be sung:

Hymn



Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world, we pray
That you, with steadfast love, would keep
Your watch around us while we sleep.

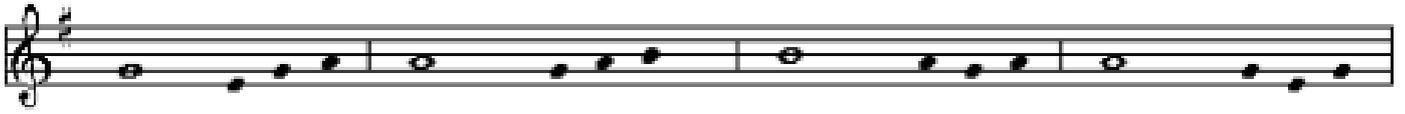
From all ill dreams defend our eyes,
From nightly fears and fantasies;
Redeem through us our evil foe,
That we no lasting harm may know.

O Wisest Guide, grant all we ask,
Fulfil in us your holy task,
Surround us with your love and care,
And lead us on, your life to share.

All praise to God, sustaining us,
Redeeming and transforming us,
Thanksgiving in eternity,
All praise, beloved Trinity.

The Word of God

One or more of the following psalms may be chanted using the psalm tone below or said



Psalm 4

- 1 Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness; *
you set me at liberty when I was in trouble;
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- 2 How long will you nobles dishonour my glory; *
how long will you love vain things and seek after falsehood?
- 3 But know that the Lord has shown me his marvellous kindness; *
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.
- 4 Stand in awe, and sin not; *
commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.
- 5 Offer the sacrifices of righteousness *
and put your trust in the Lord.
- 6 There are many that say, 'Who will show us any good?' *
Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon us.
- 7 You have put gladness in my heart, *
more than when their corn and wine and oil increase.
- 8 In peace I will lie down and sleep, *
for it is you Lord, only, who make me dwell in safety.
- All **Glory to the Father
and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning
is now and shall be forever.
Amen.**



Psalm 91

- 1 Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High *
and abides under the shadow of the Almighty,
- 2 Shall say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my stronghold, *
my God, in whom I put my trust.'
- 3 For he shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler *
and from the deadly pestilence.
- 4 He shall cover you with his wings
and you shall be safe under his feathers; *
his faithfulness shall be your shield and buckler.
- 5 You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, *
nor of the arrow that flies by day;
- 6 Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, *
nor of the sickness that destroys at noonday.
- 7 Though a thousand fall at your side
and ten thousand at your right hand, *
yet it shall not come near you.
- 9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge *
and the Most High your stronghold,
- 10 There shall no evil happen to you, *
neither shall any plague come near your tent.
- 11 For he shall give his angels charge over you, *
to keep you in all your ways.
- 12 They shall bear you in their hands, *
lest you dash your foot against a stone.
- 13 You shall tread upon the lion and adder; *
the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

14 Because they have set their love upon me,
therefore will I deliver them; *
I will lift them up, because they know my name.

15 They will call upon me and I will answer them; *
I am with them in trouble,
I will deliver them and bring them to honour.

16 With long life will I satisfy them *
and show them my salvation.

Psalm 134

1 Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, *
you that by night stand in the house of the Lord.

2 Lift up your hands towards the sanctuary *
and bless the Lord.

3 The Lord who made heaven and earth *
give you blessing out of Zion.

At the end of the psalm, the following is chanted or said:

All **Glory be 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.**

Reading

The following, a seasonal, or some other reading of Scripture is used.

You, O Lord, are in the midst of us and we are called by your name;
leave us not, O Lord our God. *Jeremiah 14.9*

(or)

The servants of the Lamb shall see the face of God, whose name
will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night: they will not need
the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for God will be their light,
and they will reign forever and ever. *Revelation 22.4, 5*

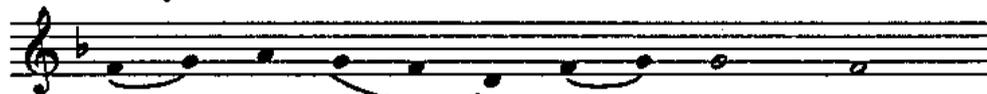
Responsory



In - to your hands, O Lord, I com - mend my spi - rit.
In - to your hands, O Lord, I com - mend my spi - rit.



For you have re - deemed me, Lord God of truth.



I com - mend my spi - rit.



Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spi - rit.



In - to your hands, O Lord, I com - mend my Spi - rit.

Or from Easter to the Day of Pentecost:



In - to your hands, O Lord, I com - mend my spi - rit.
In - to your hands, O Lord, I com - mend my spi - rit.

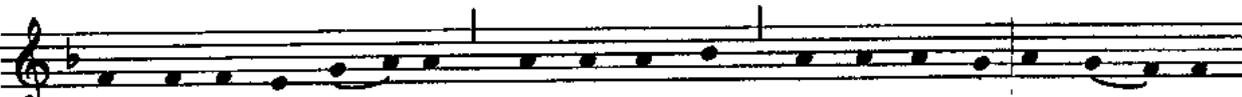


Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



For you have re - deemed me, Lord God of truth.

Repeat: Alleluia! Alleluia!



Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho ly Spi - rit;

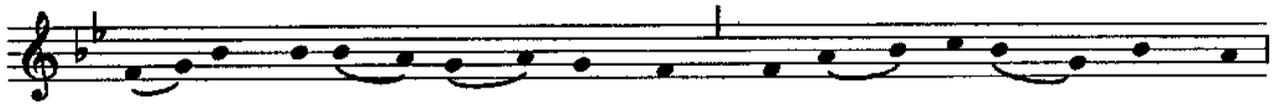
Repeat: Into your hands ...

Keep me as the apple of your eye.

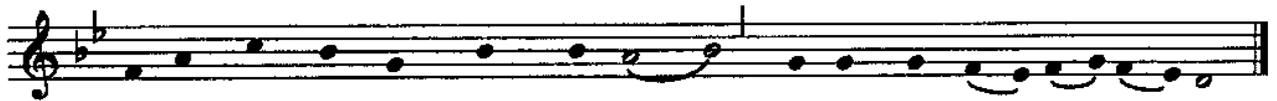
All **Hide me under the shadow of your wings.**

Gospel Canticle

May be said or sung. A seasonal refrain may replace "Save us..."



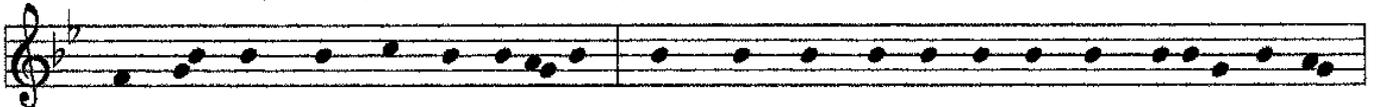
Save us,* O Lord, while wa-king, and guard us while sleep-ing,



that a-wake we may watch with Christ, and a-sleep may rest in peace.



Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled.



My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people;



A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Is-ra-el.



Glo-ry 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.

All **Save us, O Lord...**

Prayers

The following or other suitable intercessions and thanksgivings are offered.

That you will give us a quiet night and a perfect end
All **We pray to you, O Lord.**

That you will have mercy upon us and grant us your salvation
All **We pray to you, O Lord**

That you will keep us this night without sin
All **We pray to you, O Lord.**

That you will guard us and give us your blessing
All **We pray to you, O Lord.**

That you will bring us with *N* and all your saints
to glory everlasting
All **We pray to you, O Lord.**

Silence is kept. Other prayers are offered ending with:

Lord, it is night.
All **The night is for stillness.**

It is night after a long day.
What has been done has been done;
what has not been done has not been done; let it be.

The night is dark.
Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives
rest in you.

The night is quiet.
Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all dear to us,
and all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn.
All **Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys,
new possibilities.**

The Collect

This or another suitable prayer is said:

Lighten our darkness, Lord, we pray;
and in your great mercy
defend us from all perils and dangers of this night;
for the love of your only Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

The Conclusion

In peace we will lie down and sleep;
All **for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.**

Abide with us, Lord Jesus,
All **for the night is at hand and the day is now past.**

As the night watch looks for the morning,
All **so do we look for you, O Christ.**

[Come with the dawning of the day
All **and make yourself known
in the breaking of the bread.]**

The Blessing

The Lord bless us and watch over us;
the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us;
the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace.

All **Amen.**

Daily, Seasonal and Other Variations for Compline

Ordinary Time

Sunday

Psalms 104.1,21-33;134

Short Reading: *the following or some other*

You, O Lord, are in the midst of us, and we are called by your name;
leave us not, O Lord our God.

Jeremiah 14.9

Collect

Almighty God,
by triumphing over the powers of darkness
Christ has prepared a place for us in the new Jerusalem:
may we, who have this day given thanks for his resurrection,
praise him in the eternal city
of which he is the light;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Monday

Psalm 4

Short Reading: *the following or some other*

Thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel:
In returning and rest you shall be saved;
in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.

Isaiah 30.15

Collect

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us
through the silent hours of this night, so that we
who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world,
may rest upon your eternal changelessness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Tuesday

Psalm 143

Short Reading: *the following or some other*

Jesus said, 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

Matthew 11.28-end

Collect

Look down, O God, from your heavenly throne,
illuminate the darkness of this night with your celestial brightness,
and from the children of light banish the deeds of darkness;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Wednesday

Psalm 31.1-5, [19-end]

Short Reading: *the following or some other*

Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God,
so that he may exalt you in due time.

Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.

1 Peter 5.6,7

Collect

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray,
and drive far from it the snares of the enemy;
may your holy angels dwell with us and guard us in peace,
and may your blessing be always upon us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thursday

Psalm 16

Short Reading: *the following or some other*

Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil is prowling round like a roaring lion, seeking for someone to devour. Resist him, strong in the faith.
1 Peter 5.8,9

Collect

Keep watch, dear Lord,
with those who wake, or watch, or weep this night,
and give your angels charge over those who sleep.
Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, sustain the dying,
calm the suffering, and pity the distressed;
all for your love's sake, O Christ our Redeemer.

Friday

Psalm 139.1-18

Short Reading: *the following or some other*

God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.

1 Thessalonians 5.9,10

Collect

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, who at this evening hour lay in the tomb and so hallowed the grave to be a bed of hope for all who put their trust in you: give us such sorrow for our sins, which were the cause of your passion, that when our bodies lie in the dust, our souls may live with you for ever.

Saturday

Psalm 91

Short Reading: *the following or some other*

A sabbath rest still remains for the people of God; for those who enter God's rest also cease from their labours as God did from his. Let us therefore make every effort to enter that rest.

Hebrews 4.9-11a

Collect

Stay with us, O God, this night, so that by your strength we may rise with the new day to rejoice in the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ our Saviour.

The Seasons

Advent

Psalm 143

Short Reading: *the following or some other*

Keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.

Mark 13.35-end

Nunc dimittis

Refrain:

All **Come, O Lord, and visit us in peace;
that we may rejoice before you with a perfect heart.**

Collect

Stir up your power, O God, and come among us.
Heal our wounds, calm our fears and give us peace;
through Jesus our Redeemer.

Blessing

Restore us again, O God of hosts; show us the light of your countenance and we shall be saved. Bless and keep us, this night and always.

Christmas

Psalm 31.1-5, [19-end]

Short Reading: *the following or some other*

In him was life and the life was the light of all people.
The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.

John 1.4,5

Nunc dimittis

Refrain:

All **Alleluia. The Word was made flesh, alleluia,
and dwelt among us. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Collect

We give you thanks, O God,
for the gift to the world of our Redeemer;
as we sing your glory at the close of this day,
so may we know his presence in our hearts,
who is our Saviour and our Lord,
now and for ever.

Blessing

May the love of the Word made flesh enfold us,
his joy fill our lives,
his peace be in our hearts;
and the blessing of God be with us
this night and always.

Epiphany

Psalm 16

Short Reading: *the following or some other*

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

Titus 2.11

Nunc dimittis

Refrain:

All **Alleluia.**
Christ the light of the world, alleluia,
has manifested his glory.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Collect

King of kings and Lord of lords,
making the true light to shine:
lighten our darkness now and evermore
that with our lips and in our lives
we may praise you;
for you are our God, now and for ever.

Blessing

May the living waters of Christ cleanse us,
may the Spirit descend upon us,
and the blessing of God be with us
this night and always.

Lent

Psalm 139.1-18

Short Reading: *the following or some other*

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Isaiah 58. 6,7

Nunc dimittis

Refrain:

All **Christ died for us,
so that, whether we wake or sleep,
we might live with him.**

Collect

Almighty God,
may we, by the prayer and discipline of Lent,
enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings;
that by following in the Way,
we may come to share in the glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessing

May God bless us,
that in us may be found love and humility,
obedience and thanksgiving,
discipline, gentleness and peace.

Passiontide and Holy Week

Psalm 139.1-18

Short Reading: *the following or some other*

I will pour out a spirit of compassion and supplication
on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem,
so that, when they look on the one whom they have pierced,
they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child,
and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.

Zechariah 12.10

Nunc dimittis

Refrain:

All **Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the tree,
that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.**

Collect

Almighty God,
as we stand at the foot of the cross of your Son,
help us to see and know your love for us,
so that in humility, love and joy
we may place at his feet
all that we have and all that we are;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Blessing

May God bless us,
that in us may be found love and humility,
obedience and thanksgiving,
discipline, gentleness and peace.

Easter

Psalm 104.1,21-33

Short Reading: *the following or some other*

The servants of the Lamb shall see the face of God,
whose name will be on their foreheads.

There will be no more night: they will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun,
for God will be their light,
and they will reign forever and ever. *Revelation 22.4, 5*

Nunc dimittis

Refrain:

All **Alleluia.**
The Lord is risen, alleluia,
as he promised to you.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Collect

Almighty God,
by triumphing over the powers of darkness
Christ has prepared a place for us in the new Jerusalem:
may we, who have this day given thanks for his resurrection,
praise him in the eternal city
of which he is the light;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessing

May the risen Lord Jesus bless us.
May he watch over us and renew us
as he renews the whole of creation.
May our hearts and lives echo his love.

From the day after Ascension Day until the Day of Pentecost

Psalm 86

Short Reading: *the following or some other*

I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy. The old shall dream dreams and the young shall see visions. *Joel 2.28*

Nunc dimittis

Refrain:

All **Alleluia.**
The Holy Spirit, the Advocate, alleluia,
shall teach you all things.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Collect

Come, O Spirit of God,
and make within us your dwelling place and home.
May our darkness be dispelled by your light,
and our troubles calmed by your peace;
may all evil be redeemed by your love,
all pain transformed through the suffering of Christ,
and all dying glorified in his risen life.

Blessing

May the Holy Spirit of God bless and sanctify us
so that we may be consecrated in the truth.

**From All Saints' Day
until the Friday before the First Sunday of Advent**

Psalms as in Ordinary Time

Short Reading: *the following or some other*

The one who endures to the end will be saved.
And this good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed
throughout the world, as a testimony to all the nations.

Matthew 24.13,14a

Nunc dimittis

Refrain:

All **○ King most blessed, on the day of judgement
number us among your chosen.**

Collect

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
bring us to the dwelling which your Son is preparing
for all who love you; give us the will each day to live in life eternal;
let our citizenship be in heaven with the blessed,
with the whole company of the redeemed and with countless angels,
praising, worshipping and adoring your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who sits upon the throne for ever and ever.

Blessing

May the light of Christ, the King of all,
shine ever brighter in our hearts,
that with all the saints in light
we may shine forth as lights in the world.

Common of the Saints

The Blessed Virgin Mary

***Psalms** as in Ordinary Time or of the season*

***Short Reading:** the following or some other*

Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord;
let it be with me according to your word.'

Luke 1.38a

Nunc dimittis

Refrain:

All **Blessed is she whose soul was pierced
by the sword of the cross.**

Collect

We give you thanks, O God,
for the gift to the world of our Redeemer;
as we sing your glory at the close of this day,
so may we know his presence in our hearts,
who is our Saviour and our Lord,
now and for ever.

Blessing

May the love of the Word made flesh enfold us,
his joy fill our lives,
his peace be in our hearts;
and the blessing of God be with us
this night and always.

Other Saints

Psalms, Collect and Blessing as in Ordinary Time or of the season

Short Reading: the following or some other

Apostles and Evangelists

You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.

In him the whole structure is joined together

and grows into a holy temple in the Lord.

Ephesians 2.19-21

Martyrs

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame.

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it.

Song of Solomon 8.6,7a

Teachers of the Faith, Bishops and other Pastors

Wisdom guided the righteous on straight paths; she showed them the kingdom of God, and gave them knowledge of holy things.

Wisdom 10.10a

Members of Religious Communities

Jesus said, 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.'

Matthew 5.3,8

Any Saint

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable,

whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing,

whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence

and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received

and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4.8,9

Nunc dimittis

Refrain:

All **Grant us your light, O Lord,**

that the darkness of our hearts being overcome,

we may receive the true light, even Christ our Saviour.

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