



St. Charles  
Borromeo  
Church

# Vespers

Friday Evening Prayer  
Memorial of St. Clare  
August 11, 2023



## INTRODUCTION

Leader: God, + come to my assistance.

**All: Lord, make haste to help me.**

Leader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

**All: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

## PSALMODY

### Psalm 116:1-9 Thanksgiving

*We must endure many trials before entering God's kingdom  
(Acts 14:21)*

#### **Antiphon:**

*Leader:* Lord, keep my soul from death,

*All:* **never let me stumble.**

*Leader:* I love the Lord for he has heard  
the cry of my appeal;  
for he turned his ear to me  
in the day when I called him.

*All:* **They surrounded me, the snares of death, with the  
anguish of the tomb;  
they caught me, sorrow and distress.  
I called on the Lord's name.**

O Lord, my God, deliver me!

**How gracious is the Lord, and just;  
our God has compassion.  
The Lord protects the simple hearts;  
I was helpless so he saved me.**

Turn back, my soul, to your rest  
for the Lord has been good;  
he has kept my soul from death,  
my eyes from tears  
and my feet from stumbling.

**I will walk in the presence of the Lord  
in the land of the living.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be for ever. Amen.

#### **Antiphon:**

*Leader:* Lord, keep my soul from death,

*All:* **never let me stumble.**

## Psalm Prayer

*Leader:* God of power and mercy, through your Son's passion and resurrection you have freed us from the bonds of death and the anguish of separation from you. Be ever with us on our pilgrimage; then we shall sing rather than weep. Keep our feet from stumbling, so that we may be able to follow you until we come to eternal rest.

**Psalm 121:** Guardian of his people  
*Never again will they hunger and thirst, never again know scorching heat*  
(Revelation 7:16)

**Antiphon:**

*Leader:* My help comes from the Lord,

*All:* **who made heaven and earth.**

I lift up my eyes to the mountains:  
from where shall come my help?  
My help shall come from the Lord  
who made heaven and earth.

**May he never allow you to stumble!**  
**Let him sleep not, your guard.**  
**No, he sleeps not nor slumbers,**  
**Israel's guard.**

The Lord is your guard and your shade;  
at your right side he stands.  
By day the sun shall not smite you  
nor the moon in the night.

**The Lord will guard you from evil,  
he will guard your soul.**  
**The Lord will guard your going and coming both now  
and for ever.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be for ever. Amen.

**Antiphon:**

*Leader:* My help comes from the Lord,

*All:* **who made heaven and earth.**

**Psalm Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ, you have prepared a quiet place for us  
in your Father's eternal home. Watch over our welfare  
on this perilous journey, shade us from the burning heat  
of day, and keep our lives free of evil until the end.

**Canticle: Revelation 15:3-4:** Hymn of adoration

**Antiphon**

*Leader:* King of all the ages

*All:* **your ways are perfect and true.**

Mighty and wonderful are your works,  
Lord God Almighty!  
Righteous and true are your ways,  
O King of the nations!

**Who would dare refuse you honor,  
or the glory due your name, O Lord?**

Since you alone are holy,  
all nations shall come  
and worship in your presence.  
Your mighty deeds are clearly seen.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be for ever. Amen.**

**Antiphon**

*Leader:* King of all the ages

*All:* **your ways are perfect and true.**



**READING:** 1 Corinthians 7:32b, 34

The unmarried man is busy with the Lord’s affairs, concerned with pleasing the Lord. The virgin—indeed, any unmarried woman—is concerned with things of the Lord, in pursuit of holiness in body and spirit.

**RESPONSORY**

*Reader:* The virgins are led into the presence of the King, amid gladness and joy, alleluia, alleluia.

**All: – The virgins are led into the presence of the King, amid gladness and joy, alleluia, alleluia.**

They are brought into the King’s dwelling place,  
– **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.  
– **The virgins are led into the presence of the King, amid gladness and joy, alleluia, alleluia.**

## GOSPEL CANTICLE

**Canticle of Mary:** Luke 1:46-55

*The soul rejoices in the Lord*

*Leader:* Come, spouse of Christ, receive the crown

*All:* **the Lord has prepared for you from all eternity.**

My + soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior for he has looked with favor 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 in every generation.

**He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.

**He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty**

He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

**Antiphon:**

*Leader:* Come, spouse of Christ, receive the crown

*All:* **the Lord has prepared for you from all eternity.**



## INTERCESSIONS

*Reader:* Christ extolled those who practiced virginity for the sake of the kingdom. Let us praise him joyfully and pray to him:

*All: Jesus, example of virgins, hear us.*

Christ, you presented the Church to yourself as a chaste virgin to her spouse,  
– keep her holy and inviolate.

*Jesus, example of virgins, hear us.*

Christ, the holy virgins went out to meet you with their lamps alight,  
– keep the fidelity of your consecrated handmaids burning brightly.

*Jesus, example of virgins, hear us.*

Lord, your virgin Church has always kept its faith whole and untarnished,

– grant all Christians a whole and untarnished faith.

*Jesus, example of virgins, hear us.*

You have given your people joy in celebrating the feast of your holy virgin Scholastica,

– give us constant joy through her intercession.

*Jesus, example of virgins, hear us.*

You have admitted the holy virgins to your marriage banquet,  
– in your mercy lead the dead to your heavenly feast.

*Jesus, example of virgins, hear us.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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

God of mercy,  
you inspired Saint Clare with the love of poverty.

By the help of her prayers  
may we follow Christ in poverty of spirit  
and come to the joyful vision of your glory  
in the kingdom of heaven.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

**– Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

*If a priest or deacon presides, he dismisses the people:*

The Lord be with you.

**– And with your spirit.**

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

**– Amen.**

Go in peace.

**– Thanks be to God.**

*In the absence of a priest or deacon and in individual  
recitation, Evening Prayer concludes:*

*Leader:* May the Lord + bless us,  
protect us from all evil  
and bring us to everlasting life.

**– Amen.**