



St. Charles
Borromeo
Church

Vespers

Friday Evening Prayer
December 22, 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 135: Praise for the wonderful things God does for us

He has won us for himself. . . and you must proclaim what he has done for you. He has called you out of darkness into his own wonderful light (1 Peter 2:9).

Antiphon:

Leader: Our King will come from Zion;

All: **the Lord, God-is-with-us, is his mighty name.**

Leader: Praise the name of the Lord,
praise him, servants of the Lord,
who stand in the house of the Lord
in the courts of the house of our God.

All: **Praise the Lord for the Lord is good.
Sing a psalm to his name for he is loving.
For the Lord has chosen Jacob for himself
and Israel for his own possession.**

For I know the Lord is great,
that our Lord is high above all gods.
The Lord does whatever he wills,
in heaven, on earth, in the seas.

**He summons clouds from the ends of the earth;
makes lightning produce the rain;
from his treasuries he sends forth the wind.**

The first-born of the Egyptians he smote,
of man and beast alike.

Signs and wonders he worked
in the midst of your land, O Egypt,
against Pharaoh and all his servants.

**Nations in their greatness he struck
and kings in their splendor he slew.
Sihon, king of the Amorites,
Og, the king of Bashan,
and all the kingdoms of Canaan.
He let Israel inherit their land;
on his people their land he bestowed.**

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.

Leader: Our King will come from Zion;

All: **the Lord, God-is-with-us, is his mighty name.**

Psalm 135 (Part 2)

Antiphon:

Leader: Wait for the Lord

All: **and he will come to you with his saving power.**

Lord, your name stands for ever,
unforgotten from age to age:
for the Lord does justice for his people;
the Lord takes pity on his servants.

**Pagan idols are silver and gold,
the work of human hands.
They have mouths but they cannot speak;
they have eyes but they cannot see.**

They have ears but they cannot hear;
there is never a breath on their lips.
Their makers will come to be like them
and so will all who trust in them!

**Sons of Israel, bless the Lord!
Sons of Aaron, bless the Lord!
Sons of Levi, bless the Lord!
You who fear him, bless the Lord!**

From Zion may the Lord be blessed,
he who dwells in Jerusalem!

**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: Wait for the Lord

All: **and he will come to you with his saving power.**

Psalm Prayer

Leader: Father, your name and your memory last forever.
We stand to pray in your house and praise you with psalms of joy. We ask you in your kindness to have mercy on us in our lowliness.

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

Antiphon

Leader: Eagerly I watch for the Lord;

All: **I wait in joyful hope for the coming of God my Savior.**

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: Eagerly I watch for the Lord;

All: **I wait in joyful hope for the coming of God my
Savior.**

READING: James 5:7–8, 9b

Reader: Be patient, my brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer awaits the precious yield of the soil. He looks forward to it patiently while the soil receives the winter and the spring rains. You, too, must be patient. Steady your hearts, because the coming of the Lord is at hand. See! The judge stands at the gate.

RESPONSORY

Reader: Come and set us free, Lord God of power and might.
All: Come and set us free, Lord God of power and might.

Let your face shine upon us and we shall be saved,
— **Lord God of power and might.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
— **Come and set us free, Lord God of power and might.**

GOSPEL CANTICLE

Canticle of Mary: Luke 1:46-55

The soul rejoices in the Lord

Leader: O King of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart;

All: **O Keystone of the mighty arch of man, come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust.**

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: O King of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart;

All: **O Keystone of the mighty arch of man, come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust.**

INTERCESSIONS

Reader: To Christ our Lord, who humbled himself for our sake, we joyfully say:

Come, Lord Jesus!

Lord Jesus, by your coming you rescued the world from sin,
— cleanse our souls and bodies from guilt.

Come, Lord Jesus!

By the mystery of your incarnation we are made your brothers and sisters,
— do not let us become estranged from you.

Come, Lord Jesus!

Do not judge harshly,
— those you redeemed with such great cost.

Come, Lord Jesus!

No age, O Christ, is without your goodness and holy riches,
— enable us to merit the enduring crown of your glory.

Come, Lord Jesus!

Lord, to you we commend the souls of your departed servants,
— having died to the world, may they be alive in you for ever.

Come, Lord Jesus!

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 our Father,
you sent your Son
to free us from the power of death.
May we who celebrate the coming of Christ in the flesh
share more fully in his divine life,
for he 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.**