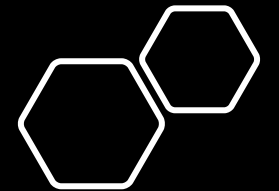




St. Charles
Borromeo
Church

Vespers

Friday Evening Prayer
Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas
December 29, 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 110:1-5, 7 The Messiah, king, and priest

Christ's reign will last until all his enemies are made subject to him (1 Corinthians 15:25)

Antiphon:

Leader: You have been endowed from your birth with princely gifts;

All: **in eternal splendor, before the dawn of light on earth, I have begotten you.**

Leader: The Lord's revelation to my Master:

"Sit on my right:
your foes I will put beneath your feet."

All: **The Lord will wield from Zion
your scepter of power:
rule in the midst of all your foes.**

A prince from the day of your birth
on the holy mountains;
from the womb before the dawn I begot you.

The Lord has sworn an oath he will not change.

**"You are a priest for ever,
a priest like Melchizedek of old."**

The Master standing at your right hand
will shatter kings in the day of his great wrath.

**He shall drink from the stream by the wayside
and therefore he shall lift up his head.**

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: You have been endowed from your birth with princely gifts;

All: **in eternal splendor, before the dawn of light
on earth, I have begotten you.**

Psalm Prayer

Leader: Father, we ask you to give us victory and peace. In Jesus Christ, our Lord and King, we are already seated at your right hand. We look forward to praising you in the fellowship of all your saints in our heavenly homeland.

Psalm 130 A cry from the depths

He himself will save his people from their sins
(Matthew 1:21)

Antiphon:

Leader: With the Lord is unfailing love;

All: **great is his power to save.**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading.

**If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you.**

My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
Let the watchman count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord.

**Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity.**

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: With the Lord is unfailing love;

All: **great is his power to save.**

Psalm Prayer

Leader: Listen with compassion to our prayers, Lord. The forgiveness of sins is yours. Do not look on the wrong we have done, but grant us your merciful kindness.

Canticle: Colossians 1:12–20 Christ the first-born of all creations and first-born from the dead.

Antiphon

Leader: In the beginning, before time began, the Word was God;

All: **today he is born, the Savior of the world.**

Let us give thanks to the Father for having made you worthy to share the lot of the saints in light.

He rescued us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of his beloved Son. Through him we have redemption, the forgiveness of our sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creatures. In him everything in heaven and on earth was created, things visible and invisible.

All were created through him; all were created for him. He is before all else that is. In him everything continues in being.

It is he who is head of the body, the church! he who is the beginning, the first-born of the dead, so that primacy may be his in everything.

It pleased God to make absolute fullness reside in him and, by means of him, to reconcile everything in his person, both on earth and in the heavens, making peace through the blood of his cross.

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: In the beginning, before time began, the Word was God;

All: **today he is born, the Savior of the world.**

READING: 1 John 1:1–3

This is what we proclaim to you:
what was from the beginning,
what we have heard,
what we have seen with our eyes,
what we looked upon
and our hands have touched—
we speak of the word of life.

(This life became visible;
we have seen it and bear witness to it
and proclaim to you the eternal life
that was with the Father
and became visible to us.)

What we have seen and heard
we proclaim in turn to you
so that you may share life with us.
This fellowship of ours is with the Father
and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

Responsory

Reader: The Word was made man and he lived among us.

All: – **The Word was made man and he lived among us.**

He was in the beginning with God,
– **and lived among us.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
– **The Word was made man and he lived among us.**

GOSPEL CANTICLE

Canticle of Mary: Luke 1:46-55

The soul rejoices in the Lord

Leader: The King of heaven humbled himself to be born of a virgin,

All: **that he might restore man to the kingdom he had lost.**

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: The King of heaven humbled himself to be born
of a virgin,

All: **that he might restore man to the kingdom he
had lost.**

INTERCESSIONS

Reader: Let us ask the Father of mercies who anointed his Son with the Holy Spirit and sent him to preach the good news to the poor:

God of mercy, have mercy on us.

Merciful, ever-living God, you desire all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of your truth. We thank you for giving your only-begotten Son to the world,
— let the whole world rejoice in his birth.

God of mercy, have mercy on us.

You sent him to proclaim the good news to the poor, to announce release to captives and to proclaim a time of favor,
— grant freedom and peace to all.

God of mercy, have mercy on us.

You directed the wise men to adore your Son,
— receive the homage of our faith and prayer.

God of mercy, have mercy on us.

After the wise men you called all people out of the darkness and into your wonderful light, so that at Jesus' name every knee should bend,
— make us go forth as witnesses of the good news.

God of mercy, have mercy on us.

You made Christ, born in Bethlehem, a light to the nations,
— reveal your glory to our brothers and sisters who have died.

God of mercy, have mercy on 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

All-powerful and unseen God,
the coming of your light into our world
has made the darkness vanish.
Teach us to proclaim the birth of your Son Jesus Christ.
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:*

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