



St. Charles  
Borromeo  
Church

# Vespers

Friday Evening Prayer  
Passion of St. John the Baptist  
August 29, 2025



## 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:* Do not be afraid to face them,

*All:*       **for I am with you, says the Lord.**

*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:* Do not be afraid to face them,

*All:*       **for I am with you, says the Lord.**

## 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.

# PSALMODY

## Psalm 116:10-19 Thanksgiving in the Temple

*Through Christ let us offer God a continual sacrifice of praise (Hebrews 13:15)*

### Antiphon:

*Leader:* He sent an executioner to behead John

*All:* **who was in prison.**

*Leader:* I trusted, even when I said:

“I am sorely afflicted,”

and when I said in my alarm:

“No man can be trusted.”

***All:* How can I repay the Lord  
for his goodness to me?**

**The cup of salvation I will raise;  
I will call on the Lord’s name.**

My vows to the Lord I will fulfill  
before all his people.

O precious in the eyes of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful.

**Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;  
you have loosened my bonds.**

**A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:  
I will call on the Lord’s name.**

My vows to the Lord I will fulfill  
before all his people,  
in the courts of the house of the Lord,  
in your midst, O 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:* He sent an executioner to behead John

*All:* **who was in prison.**



## Psalm Prayer

*Leader:* Father, precious in your sight is the death of the saints, but precious above all is the love with which Christ suffered to redeem us. In this life we fill up in our own flesh what is still lacking in the sufferings of Christ; accept this as our sacrifice of praise, and we shall even now taste the joy of the new Jerusalem.

**Canticle: Revelation 4:11; 5:9, 10, 12:** Redemption hymn

**Antiphon**

*Leader:* By your own blood, Lord, you brought us back to God;  
*All:* **from every tribe and tongue, and people and nation,  
you made us a kingdom for our God.**

O Lord our God, you are worthy  
to receive glory and honor and power.

**For you have created all things;  
by your will they came to be and were made.**

Worthy are you, O Lord,  
to receive the scroll and break open its seals.

**For you were slain;  
with your blood you purchased for God  
men of every race and tongue,  
of every people and nation.**

You made of them a kingdom,  
and priests to serve our God,  
and they shall reign on the earth.

**Worthy is the Lamb that was slain  
to receive power and riches,  
wisdom and strength,  
honor and glory and praise.**

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:* By your own blood, Lord, you brought us back  
to God;  
*All:* **from every tribe and tongue, and people and  
nation, you made us a kingdom for our God.**

**READING:** Acts 13:23-25

According to his promise, God has brought forth from David’s descendants Jesus, a savior for Israel. John heralded the coming of Jesus by proclaiming a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. As John’s career was coming to an end, he would say, “What you suppose me to be I am not. Rather, look for one who comes after me. I am not worthy to unfasten the sandals of his feet.”

**RESPONSORY**

*Reader:* The friend of the bridegroom rejoices upon hearing the bridegroom’s voice.

*All:* — **The friend of the bridegroom rejoices upon hearing the bridegroom’s voice.**

Now my joy is complete.  
— **upon hearing the bridegroom’s voice.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.  
— **The friend of the bridegroom rejoices upon hearing the bridegroom’s voice.**



# GOSPEL CANTICLE

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

*The soul rejoices in the Lord*

*Leader:* I am not the Christ; I have been sent before him to prepare his way.

*All:* **He must increase, and I must decrease.**

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:* I am not the Christ; I have been sent before him to prepare his way.

*All:* **He must increase, and I must decrease.**

# INTERCESSIONS

*Reader:* Let us pray joyfully to God our Father who called John the Baptist to proclaim the coming of the kingdom of Christ:

**O Lord, guide our feet into the way of peace.**

You called John the Baptist from his mother’s womb to prepare the way of your Son,  
— help us to follow in that path which the Baptist opened before the Lord Jesus.

**O Lord, guide our feet into the way of peace.**

May your Church, in imitation of the Baptist, fearlessly point out the Lamb of God,  
— so that people in every age may acknowledge that the Lord comes to them.

**O Lord, guide our feet into the way of peace.**

John the Baptist did not exalt himself but acknowledged his role as forerunner of the Christ,  
— teach us to acknowledge that you are the giver of all our good gifts and that we must use them in your service.

**O Lord, guide our feet into the way of peace.**

You called John the Baptist to give testimony to you by his life and even by his death,  
— help us to imitate his unceasing witness to your truth.

**O Lord, guide our feet into the way of peace.**

Remember those who have died,  
— give them a place of light, happiness, and peace.

**O Lord, guide our feet into the way of peace.**

# 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 called John the Baptist  
to be the herald of your Son’s birth and death.  
As he gave his life in witness to truth and justice,  
so may we strive to profess our faith in your gospel.  
Grant 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:*

May the Lord Jesus, who loved children, bless you and  
keep you in his love, now and for ever.  
– Amen.

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.