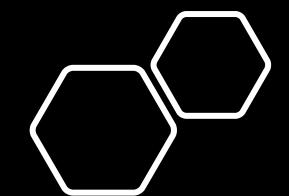




Vespers

Friday Evening Prayer
January 9, 2026



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.**

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: Romans 8 3:4

Reader: God sent his Son in the likeness of sinful flesh as a sin-offering, thereby condemning sin in the flesh, so that the just demands of the law might be fulfilled in us who live, not according to the flesh, but according to the spirit.

RESPONSORY

Reader: All peoples will be blessed in him, men and women of every race.

All: — **All peoples will be blessed in him, men and women of every race.**

All nations will acclaim his glory.

— **Men and women of every race.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

— **All peoples will be blessed in him, men and women of every race.**

GOSPEL CANTICLE

Canticle of Mary: Luke 1:46-55

The soul rejoices in the Lord

Leader: An angel warned the wise men in a dream

All: **to return to their own country by a different route.**

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: An angel warned the wise men in a dream

All: **to return to their own country by a different route.**

INTERCESSIONS

Reader: We pray now to the Father who has appointed Christ a light to the nations:

Father, hear our prayer.

Give increase to your Church,
— and spread the glory of your Son.

Father, hear our prayer.

Eternal Father, you led the wise men from the East to your Son,
— reveal him to all who seek the truth.

Father, hear our prayer.

Draw all nations into your marvelous light,
— so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bend.

Father, hear our prayer.

Send laborers into your vineyard,
— let them preach the Gospel to the poor and announce a time of grace.

Father, hear our prayer.

Grant the dead the fullness of redemption,
— that they may rejoice in the victory of Christ, your Son.

Father, hear our prayer.

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 Father,

you have made known the birth of the Savior

by the light of a star.

May he continue to guide us with his light,

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.