

*A Prayer before the Office may be said.*

## **The Angelus**

The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary, and she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.*

*Blessèd are you among women*

*and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.*

*Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners,*

*now and at the hour of our death.*

*Amen.*

Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done unto me according to your word.

*Hail Mary...*

And the word was made flesh, and dwelt among us

*Hail Mary...*

Pray for us, O holy mother of God,

that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

Pour forth, we ask you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts,

that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son

was made known by the message of an angel,

may by his passion and cross be brought to the glory

of his resurrection, through the same Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

## The Preparation

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

O God, make speed to save us.

**All O Lord, make haste to help us.**

You have been my helper

**All and under the shadow of your wings will I rejoice.**

*Psalm 63.8*

## Hymn

Give me the wings of faith to rise  
Within the veil, and see  
The saints above, how great their joys,  
How bright their glories be.

Once they were mourning here below,  
And wet their couch with tears;  
They wrestled hard, as we do now,  
With sins and doubts and fears.

I ask them whence their victory came;  
They, with united breath,  
Ascribe their conquest to the Lamb,  
Their triumph to his death.

...continued

Our glorious Leader claims our praise  
For his own pattern given;  
While the long cloud of witnesses  
Show the same path to heaven

Text: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

CM

Music: Henry Lahee (1826-1912)

NATIVITY

## The Word of God

### ***Psalmody***

*The following Psalms are chanted:*

<i>Monday</i>	Psalm 15	<i>Thursday</i>	Psalm 121	<i>Or, on All Saints' or any day:</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	Psalm 42:1-7	<i>Friday</i>	Psalm 125	Psalm 24:1-6
<i>Wednesday</i>	Psalm 96	<i>Saturday</i>	Psalm 133	

*Each Psalm ends with:*

**All    Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be forever. Amen.**

### ***The Reading***

#### *Monday*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

*Philippians 4.4-7*

## *Tuesday*

You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

*Hebrews 12.22-24*

## *Wednesday*

Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see 'the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven' with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

*Matthew 24.30,31*

## *Thursday*

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

*Ephesians 4.11-13*

## *Friday*

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

*Hebrews 12.1,2*

## *Saturday*

Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

*Daniel 12.2,3*

*Silence or this Responsory may follow the reading.*

## Responsory

Blessed are the poor in spirit,

**All for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

*Matthew 5.3*

*A brief silence is kept before the Prayers.*

## Prayers

Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,  
let us make our prayer in the power of the Spirit,  
looking to Jesus the pioneer of our faith.

That with the noble fellowship of the prophets  
we may discern the signs of your kingdom in our midst,

**All we pray to you, O Lord.**

That with the glorious company of the apostles  
we may proclaim your gospel throughout the world,

**All we pray to you, O Lord.**

That with the white-robed army of martyrs  
we may be ready to suffer for the truth's sake,

**All we pray to you, O Lord.**

That with all who are anointed by your Spirit  
we may bring good news to the poor and freedom to the oppressed,

**All we pray to you, O Lord.**

That with the saints in light  
we may bind up the brokenhearted and comfort all who mourn,

**All we pray to you, O Lord.**

That within the whole company of Christ's pilgrim people  
we may come to the inheritance of the saints in glory,

**All we pray to you, O Lord.**

In communion with all the saints,  
let us commend the world to the mercy and protection of God.

*A brief silence is kept for people to add their own prayers and petitions.*

## **The Collect**

*The Collect of the day or the following prayer is then said:*

Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awakening  
into the house and gate of heaven,  
to enter that gate and dwell in that house,  
where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling, but one equal light;  
no noise nor silence, but one equal music;  
no fears nor hopes, but one equal possession;  
no ends or beginnings, but one equal eternity;  
in the habitations of your glory and dominion,  
world without end.

**All Amen.**

*Eric Milner-White (1963)  
after John Donne (1631)*

## ***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.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
forever and ever.**

***All* Amen.**

## **The Blessing**

May God give us grace to follow the saints in glory;  
and the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
be with you and remain with you always.

***All* Amen.**