

The first collect should be the Collect of the Day for the particular day or for the preceding Sunday, which may be followed by collects for local circumstances.

(The final collect is always the Collect for Grace)

COLLECT FOR GRACE

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have safely brought us to the beginning of this day; defend us with your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by your governance, may be righteous in your sight; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Benedicamus and Blessing.

Let us bless the Lord:

Thanks be to God!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit ✠ be with you (*us*) all.

Amen.

(Silent prayer)

The Lessons and Prayers of the Church at

MATINS

(morning lessons and prayers)



A hymn of invocation to the Holy Spirit or another hymn may be sung.

Opening Versicles, Gloria Patri, and Laus Tibi (ascription of praise)

O Lord, open my lips;

and my mouth will declare Your praise.

Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

make haste to help me, O Lord.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Praise to You, O Christ. Alleluia!

THE VENITE

The following CHRISTMAS Invitatory precedes and follows the the Venite.

Unto us the Christ is born.

Oh, come, let us worship him.

The Venite

Psalm 95:1-7a

(chanted versions: LSB pp. 220f; 236f / LW pp. 209f; 237f / TLH pp. 33f)

The Office Hymn

THE PSALMS

An antiphon suitable to the CHRISTMAS season, such as the following, may precede and follow each Psalm.

a. A prince from the day of Your birth,

from the womb before daybreak have I begotten You.

AT MID-AFTERNOON (VESPERS)

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help that in all our doings begun, continued, and ended in You we may glorify Your holy name and finally by your mercy obtain eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

IN LATE AFTERNOON

O Lord, our dwelling place and our peace, You have pity on our weaknesses, put far from us all worry and fearfulness that, having confessed our sins and commending ourselves to your gracious mercy, we may, when night shall come, commit ourselves, our work, and all we love into Your keeping, receiving from You the gift of quiet sleep; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

IN THE EVENING

O Lord God, the life of all the living, the light of the faithful, the strength of those who labor, and the repose of the blessed dead, grant us a peaceful night free from all disturbance that after a time of quiet slumber we may by your goodness be endued in the new day with the guidance of Your Holy Spirit and enabled in peace to render thanks to You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

(The final collect is always the Collect for Peace)

COLLECT FOR PEACE

O God, from Whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Benedicamus and Blessing.

Let us bless the Lord:

Thanks be to God!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you (us) all.

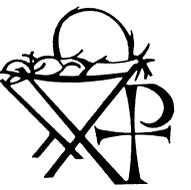
Amen.

(Silent prayer)

The Lessons and Prayers of the Church at

VESPERS

(evening lessons and prayers)



CHRISTMAS

A hymn of invocation to the Holy Spirit or another hymn may be sung.

Opening Versicles, Gloria Patri, and Laus Tibi (ascription of praise)

O Lord, open my lips;

and my mouth will declare Your praise.

Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

make haste to help me, O Lord.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Praise to You, O Christ. Alleluia!

THE PSALMS

An antiphon suitable to the CHRISTMAS season, such as the following, may precede and follow each Psalm.

a. A prince from the day of Your birth,

from the womb before daybreak have I begotten You.

b. The Lord has said to me:

You are my Son, today I have begotten You.

c. The Lord has sent redemption to His people.

He has commanded His covenant forever.

d. Of the fruit of your body

will I set upon your throne.

e. Christ the Lord, our Saviour, everlasting God and Mary's Son,

we praise You evermore.

One or more Psalms are sung or said, each concluding with the Gloria Patri.

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS

One or more Scripture Lessons follow.

After each reading follows:

O Lord, have mercy upon us.

Thanks be to You, O Lord.

After the final reading follows the Responsory for CHRISTMAS

The Lord was made flesh and dwelt among us. And we beheld His glory, the glory as of the Only-begotten of the Father,

full of grace and truth.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Full of grace and truth.

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

Full of grace and truth.

(John 1:1, 14)

A Hymn may follow.

The Sermon

may follow.

The offerings may be received.

The Office Hymn

THE GOSPEL CANTICLE

Then may be said or chanted the Versicle.

Let my prayer be set before You as incense,

And the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

(Psalm 141:2)

The following CHRISTMAS antiphon for the MAGNIFICAT may precede and follow the canticle.

Today Christ is born; today salvation has appeared.

Today the just exult and say, Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia.

The Magnificat

The song of Mary (Luke 1:46-55)

(chanted versions: LSB pp. 231f, 248f / LW pp. 228f or 225f / TLH pp. 43f)

(or the hymn version, LSB 933-935 / LW 211 / TLH 275).

or

The following antiphon for the may precede and follow the NUNC DIMITTIS (for after dark)

Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping

that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.

The Nunc Dimittis

The song of Simeon (Luke 2:29-32)

(chanted versions: LSB pp. 165, 182, 199f / LW pp. 152f, 173f, 230f / TLH pp. 29f, 43f)

(or LSB 211, 937-938 / LW 185 / TLH 137)

THE PRAYERS

The EVENING SUFFRAGES, the GREAT LITANY,

or another suitable LITANY may be used instead of the following.

(LSB pp. 282f, 285f, or 288f / LW pp. 273-287 / TLH pp. 110-118 and TLH 661)

The Prayers: The Kyrie, the Lord's Prayer, the Salutation and the Collects.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father, Who art in heaven...

The Lord be with you.

OR

O Lord, hear my prayer.

And with your spirit.

And let my cry come to You.

Let us pray...

Each collect may be preceded with a versicle befitting the CHRISTMAS season and the subject of the prayer, such as the following:

- a. At evening you will know that the Lord will come,
and in the morning, then you will see the glory of the Lord.
- b. As the bridegroom from his chamber
Comes forth the Lord to run His race.
- c. The Word was made flesh. Alleluia!
And dwelled among us. Alleluia!
- d. Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord.
God is the Lord, Who has showed us light.
- e. Unto us a Child is born. Alleluia!
Unto us a Son is given. Alleluia!
- f. Unto you is born this day a Saviour. Alleluia!
Who is Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

The first collect should be the Collect of the Day for the particular day or for the preceding Sunday, which may be followed by collects for local circumstances, including the following: