

Vespers for the Feast of the Ascension

You, O Lord, are our lamp; you turn our darkness into light.

The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you.

Blessèd are you, Sovereign God
creator of light and darkness,
to you be glory and praise for ever.
As evening falls, you renew your promise
to reveal among us the light of your presence.
May your word be a lantern to our feet
and a light upon our path
that we may behold your coming among us.
Strengthen us in our stumbling weakness
and free our tongues to sing your praise,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessèd be God for ever.

*Candles are lit and Silent Reflection
whist Hail gladdening light is played*

Psalm 141

**Let my prayer rise before you as incense :
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

O Lord, I call to you; come to me quickly :
hear my voice when I cry to you.

Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord :
and guard the door of my lips.

**Let my prayer rise before you as incense :
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

Let not my heart incline to any evil thing :
let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers.
But my eyes are turned to you, Lord God :
in you I take refuge; do not leave me defenceless.

**Let my prayer rise before you as incense :
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

The Opening Prayer

That this evening may be holy, good and peaceful,
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence

**As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,
so may your mercy come down upon us
to cleanse our hearts and set us free to sing your praise,
now and forever. Amen.**

The ministry of the word

Psalm 47

¹Clap your hands together, all you peoples;
O sing to God with shouts of joy.

²For the Lord Most High is to be feared;
he is the great King over all the earth.

³He subdued the peoples under us
and the nations under our feet.

⁴He has chosen our heritage for us,
the pride of Jacob, whom he loves.

⁵God has gone up with a merry noise,
the Lord with the sound of the trumpet.

⁶O sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.

⁷For God is the King of all the earth;
sing praises with all your skill.

⁸God reigns over the nations;
God has taken his seat upon his holy throne.

⁹The nobles of the peoples are gathered together
with the people of the God of Abraham.

¹⁰For the powers of the earth belong to God
and he is very highly exalted.

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

Old Testament Reading

A Song of Christ's Appearing (1 Timothy 3:16; 6:15–16)

***Christ was believed in throughout the world,
and taken up in glory.***

**Christ Jesus was revealed in the flesh :
and vindicated in the spirit.**

He was seen by angels :
and proclaimed among the nations.

Believed in throughout the world :
he was taken up in glory.

This will be made manifest at the proper time :
by the blessed and only Sovereign,

Who alone has immortality :
and dwells in unapproachable light.

To the King of kings and Lord of lords :
be honour and eternal dominion. Amen.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen

*Christ was believed in throughout the world, and taken up in
glory.*

New Testament Reading

Responsory

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
The Lord is the strength of my life
The Lord in my light and my salvation;
The Lord is the strength of my life

The light shines in the darkness
and the darkness has not overcome it
The Lord is the strength of my life

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
The Lord in my light and my salvation;
The Lord is the strength of my life

The Magnificat

Christ was believed in throughout the world and taken up to Glory

¹My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord :
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;

²Who has looked with favour on his lowly servant :
from this day all generations will call me blessed;

³The Almighty has done great things for me :
and holy is his name.

⁴God has mercy on those who fear him :
from generation to generation.

⁵The Lord has shown strength with his arm :
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

⁶Casting down the mighty from their thrones :
and lifting up the lowly.

⁷God has filled the hungry with good things :
and has sent the rich away empty.

⁸He has come to the aid of his servant Israel :
to remember his promise of mercy,

⁹The promise made to our forebears :
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 shall be for ever. A-men.**

Christ was believed in throughout the world and taken up to Glory

The Prayers

Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy
Christ have mercy

Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy

As our Saviour taught us, we boldly pray:
Our Father, who art in heaven ...

O God,
you withdraw from our sight
that you may be known by our love help us to enter the cloud
where you are hidden,
and surrender all our certainty
to the darkness of faith
in Jesus Christ. Amen

The second collect, for peace.

Eternal God, source of all holy desires,
all good counsels and all just works:
give your servants that peace which the world cannot give,
that we may willingly obey your commandments,
and that, free from the fear of our enemies,
we may pass our time in rest and quietness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The third collect.

Lighten our darkness, Lord, we pray,
and by your great mercy
defend us from all perils and dangers of this night;
for the love of your only Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Conclusion

May Christ, who has opened the kingdom of heaven, bring us to
reign with him in glory. **Amen**

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia Alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia Alleluia