

OFFICE HYMNS

Vigils

I.

Creator of the stars of night,
Your people's everlasting light;
Jesus, Redeemer, save us all,
and hear Your servants as they call.

Born of a Virgin, forth You came
into a world of sin and shame,
to make the Church Your holy Bride,
whom by Your blood You purified.

At Your dread Name, majestic now,
all knees must bend, all hearts must bow,
to You who in the Father's stead
will judge the living and the dead.

To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
laud, honor, might, and glory be,
from age to age eternally. Amen.

Matins

I.

O splendor of God's glory bright,
O Thou that bringest light from light,
O Light of Light, light's Living Spring,
O Day, all days illumining.

O Thou true Sun, on us Thy glance
let fall in royal radiance,
the Spirit's sanctifying beam
upon our earthly senses stream.

Our mind be in God's keeping placed,
our body true to Him and chaste,
where only faith her fire shall feed
to burn the tares of Satan's seed.

And Christ to us for food shall be;
from Her our drink that wellet free:
the Spirit's wine, that maketh whole,
and waning not, exalts the soul.

To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
laud, honor, might, and glory be,
from age to age eternally. Amen.

II.

Now in the sun's new dawning ray,
lowly of heart, our God we pray
that He from harm may keep us free
in all the deeds this day shall see.

May every heart be pure from sin,
and folly find no place therein:
scant meed of food, excess denied,
wear down in us the body's pride.

That when the light of day is gone,
and night in course shall follow on,
we, free from cares the world affords,
may chant the praise that is our Lord's.

All laud to God the Father be,
all praise, Eternal Son, to Thee;
all glory, as is ever meet,
to God the Holy Paraclete. Amen.

III.

Now that the daylight fills the sky,
we lift our hearts to God on high,
that He, in all we do or say,
would keep us free from harm this day:

Would guard our hearts and tongues from strife,
from anger's din would hide our life,
from all ill sights would turn our eyes,
would close our ears from vanities;

Would keep our inmost conscience pure
our souls from folly would secure;
would bid us check the pride of sense,
with due and holy abstinence.

So we, when this new day is gone,
and night in turn is drawing on,
with conscience by the world unstained,
shall praise His Name for vict'ry gained.

All laud to God the Father be.
All laud, Eternal Son, to thee.
All laud for ever, as is meet,
To God, the Holy Paraclete. Amen.

IV.

Now that the daylight fills the sky,
we lift our hearts to God on high,
that He, in all we do or say,
would keep us free from harm this day.

From evil may He guard our eyes,
our ears from empty praise and lies;
from selfishness our hearts release,
that we may serve and know His peace.

That we, when this new day is gone,
and night in turn is drawing on,
with conscience free from sin and blame,
may praise and bless His holy Name.

To God the Father, heav'nly Light,
to Christ revealed in earthly night,
to God the Holy Spir't we raise
our equal and unceasing praise. Amen.

V.

The dawn is sprinkling in the east
its golden shower, as day flows in;
fast mount the pointed shafts of light:
farewell to darkness and to sin!

Away, ye midnight phantoms all!
Away, despondence and despair!
Whatever guilt the night has brought
now let it vanish into air.

So, Lord, when that last morning breaks,
looking to which we sigh and pray,
O may it to Thy minstrels prove
the dawning of a better day.

To God the Father glory be,
and to His sole-begotten Son;
Glory, O Holy Spir't, to Thee,
while everlasting ages run. Amen.

Terce

I.

Come, Holy Spir't, who ever One
are with the Father and the Son:
it is the hour, our souls possess
with Your full flood of holiness.

Let flesh and heart and lips and mind
sound forth our faith to humankind;
and love light up our mortal frame,
till others catch the living flame.

Grant this, O Father, ever One
with Christ, Your sole-begotten Son,
and Holy Spir't, whom all adore,
reigning and blessed forevermore. Amen.

II.

Now Holy Spirit, ever One
with God the Father and the Son,
pour forth into our hearts, we pray,
the fullness of Your grace today.

Let mouth and tongue, mind, sense, and strength,
God's mighty actions tell at length;
let love in flames of living fire
the hearts of all the world inspire.

Almighty Father, hear our cry,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord most high,
whom with the Spirit we adore,
for ever and for evermore. Amen.

III.

The golden sun lights up the sky,
imparting vigor to the day;
amid our customary round,
we offer You our prayer and praise.

At the third hour You took Your Cross,

You stumbled, Lord, beneath its weight;
now help us bear our daily trials,
and strive to follow where You lead.

At the third hour Your faithful band
was clothed with light on Pentecost;
bestow Your Spirit on us now,
and give us strength to do Your will.

O God, creation's ruling force,
O Jesus, crucified for us,
O Spirit, love's life-giving pow'r,
we praise and bless you ev'ry hour. Amen.

Sext

I.

O God of Truth, O Lord of might,
You order time and change aright;
You send the early morning ray,
and light the glow of perfect day:

Quench now on earth the flames of strife;
from passion's heat preserve our life;
and while You keep our bodies whole,
pour healing peace upon our souls.

Almighty Father, hear our cry,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord Most High,
whom with the Spirit we adore,
for ever and for evermore. Amen.

None

I.

O God, creation's secret force,
Yourself unmoved, all motion's source,
You, from the morn till evening ray,
through all its changes, guide the day.

Grant us, when this short life is passed,
the glorious evening that shall last;
that, by a holy death attained,
eternal glory may be gained.

Almighty Father, hear our cry,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord Most High,
whom with the Spirit we adore
for ever and for evermore. Amen.

Vespers

I.

O Trinity of blessed Light,
O Unity of sovereign might,
the fiery sun now goes his way;
shed full within our hearts Your ray.

To You our morning song of praise,
to You our ev'ning prayer we raise,
O grant us with Your saints on high
to praise You through eternity.

To God the Father, heav'nly Light,
to Christ revealed in earthly night,
to God the Holy Spir't we raise
our equal and unceasing praise. Amen.

II.

O God that all things didst create,
and that the heav'ns doth regulate,
Who clothes the day with radiant light,
and gives the gracious sleep of night.

Day sinks; we thank Thee for thy gift,
night comes; to Thee again we lift
our prayers and vows and hymns, that we
against all ills defended be.

That so, when shadows round us creep
and all is hid in darkness deep,
faith may not feel the gloom; and night
borrow from faith's clear gleam new light.

From snares of sense, Lord, keep us free
and let our hearts dream but of Thee.
Let not the envious foe draw near
to vex our quiet rest with fear.

Almighty Father, hear our cry,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord Most High,
whom with the Spirit we adore
for ever and for evermore. Amen.

III.

Most holy God, the Lord of heav'n,
who in the high arched sky has placed
the sun that flames up from the east
and brings the splendors of the dawn:

for You the dazzling star shines forth,
which in its gleaming path declares
the wonders of Your glorious pow'r,
and beckons us to worship You.

The day departs, the evening stars
serenely light the dark'ning sky;
the moon with cool reflected glow
will bring the silences of night.

You, Holy One, Creator, Lord,
You in the primal world once set
the bound'ries of the day and night,
and ordered seasons in their round.

Like sun and day, shine in our hearts;
like moon and night, give loving peace.
Free us from bonds of blinding sin,
and guide us on our path to You. Amen.

Compline

I.

To You before the close of day,
Creator of all things we pray,
that in Your constant clemency
our guard and keeper You would be.

Save us from troubled, restless sleep,
from all ill dreams Your children keep;
so calm our minds that fears may cease
and rested bodies wake in peace.

A healthy life we ask of You,
the fire of love in us renew,
and when the dawn new light will bring,
Your praise and glory we shall sing.

Almighty Father, hear our cry,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord Most High,
whom with the Spirit we adore,
for ever and for evermore. Amen.

II.

O Christ, Redeemer of the world,
Word of the Father throned on high,
Light from the Light invisible,
and watchful guardian over all:

The whole creation's architect,
You set the bounds of night and day;
give to our wearied bodies rest,
through night's enfolding quietness.

Lord, while we live for this short time,
as mortals clothed in earth-bound frame,
refresh us now with restful sleep,
that waking we might watch with You.

All glory be to You, Lord Christ,
who, conqu'ring death, reign gloriously
with God, Creator of all things,
and with the Spirit, Comforter. Amen.

III.

O Christ, You are both light and day,
You drive away the shadowed night;
as Daystar You precede the dawn,
the herald of the Light to come.

We pray You, O most holy Lord,
to be our guardian while we sleep;
bestow on us who rest in You
the blessing of a quiet night.

Although our eyes in sleep be closed,
let hearts in constant vigil watch;
with Your right hand you protect those
who believe and trust in You.

Defender of us all, look down,
repel our dread, malicious foe;
direct Your faithful household, Lord,
whom You have purchased with Your blood.

O Christ, Redeemer of the world,
O God, our maker and our end,
O Spirit, bond of peace and love,
to You be thanks and endless praise. Amen.