

THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS
OF
THE COMMUNITY OF SAINT JOHN CASSIAN
ORDER OF SAINT BENEDICT



VIGILS or NOCTURNS *(Midnight Prayer)*

V. Show us Your mercy, O Lord; +

R. And grant us Your salvation.

(bowing) + Glory 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.

except during Lent:

Alleluia.

OFFICE HYMN

PSALMS *(eight in number)*

after each,

(bowing) + Glory 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**.

READING

Here follows a brief reading from Scripture or Tradition, beginning with the Officiant singing:

Wisdom. Let us attend.

The Lector then continues:

A reading from _____

The Lector concludes the reading by chanting the final phrase of the text in the appropriate tone. The people then respond, in like tone:

Thanks be to God.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

A period of silent prayer is here observed.

Before major Feast Days (including the Feasts of Saints with whom the Community has special relationship, an Old Testament Canticle and a Gospel reading should follow.

TE DEUM

You are *God*: we **praise You**; *

You are the Lord: we **acclaim You**;

You are the *eternal Father*: *

All creation *worships You*.
To You all angels, all the powers of *heaven*, *
Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in *endless praise*:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of *power and might*, *
heaven and earth are full of *Your glory*.
The glorious company of *apostles praise You*. *
The noble fellowship of prophets praise You.
The white-robed army of *martyrs praise You*.
Throughout the world the holy *Church acclaims You*; *
Father, of majesty unbounded,
Your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,
and the Holy Spirit, *advocate and guide*.
You, Christ, are the *King of Glory*, *
the eternal Son of the *Father*.
When You became man *to set us free*, *
You did not shun *the Virgin's womb*.
You overcame *the sting of death*, *
and opened the kingdom of heaven to *all believers*.
You are seated at God's right *hand in glory*. *
We believe that You will come *and be our judge*.
Come then, Lord, and help Your people,
bought with the price of *Your own blood*, *
and bring us with Your saints
to glory everlasting. *Amen*. +

+ Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us. (x3) (*bowing with each*)

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. +
O Lord, blot out our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities.
O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (x3)

(*bowing*) + Glory 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*.

All then make the sign of the cross on their foreheads, and prostrate in silent prayer, facing the altar or iconostasis. This is repeated three times, led by the Officiant.

Then, bowing with each,

Blessed are You, O Lord, teach me Your statutes. +
Blessed are You, O Master, give me understanding of Your statutes. +
Blessed are You, O Holy One, enlighten me by Your statutes. +

(bowing) + Glory 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.**

THE GREAT LITANY

All standing, the Intercessor, as appointed, then sings the prayers, standing in the midst of the people (the people sing the drone throughout, and respond as noted).

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying,
“Lord, have mercy.”

For the peace of God and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For peace to the whole world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the union of all,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house of worship, and for all who enter with faith and reverence to receive the love
of Christ and the everlasting grace of God, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For [N.], our Presiding Bishop, for [N.], our Bishop, for the venerable priesthood and diaconate
in Christ, for monastics, hermits, and ascetics, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the
Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the leaders of this country and all civil authorities, for all those who do the work of peace in
the world, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

That He will aid them and grant them victory in every adversity, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For this land, for the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to preserve
it, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For this [town/city], for every town and city, and for all the faithful who dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and oppressed, for the unemployed and destitute, for prisoners and captives, and all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphaned, for the sick and the suffering, and all who care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our deliverance from all tribulation, danger, wrath, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have gone before us in the Way, and for all those who have departed this life in faith, hope, and the love of God, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this beloved community of faith and kinship, that we may thrive and grow abundantly in the Way of Christ, and by His grace attain to the Mystery of His eternal Kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Remembering our most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-Virgin Mary, with blessed John Cassian, blessed Benedict, blessed Antony the Great, and all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

To You, O Lord our God.

FESTAL COLLECT

The Officiant then sings the Festal Collect or Collect of the Day, opening with:

V. Lord, hear our prayer;

R. And let our cry come to you.

V. Let us pray.

PSALM 51

(bowing) + Glory 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.*

COLLECTS OF THE HOUR

The Officiant then sings the Collects of the Hour:

V. Peace be to all.

R. And to your spirit.

V. Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

R. To you, O Lord.

All bow as the following prayers are sung by the Officiant:

Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in Your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit: One God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Almighty God, Father and Creator of All; Lord and Master, only-begotten Son Jesus Christ; Holy Spirit, eternal Mother and Comforter: One God, One Power, One Truth: Have mercy on us sinners, and by the judgments You know, through Your most holy Wisdom, save us unworthy servants; for blessed are You to the ages of ages. *Amen.*

V. May the help of God remain with us always; +

R. And with our absent brethren.

V. Let us bless the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

CLOSING DOXOLOGY

+ Now to God who is able to strengthen us according to His Gospel, through the light and proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the Mystery that was hidden in secret for countless ages: to Him, the God of Wisdom, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

MATINS *(Morning Prayer)*

V. O Lord, open my lips; +

R. And my mouth shall proclaim Your praise.

(bowing) + Glory 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.

except during Lent:

Alleluia.

INVITATORY

One of the following is then sung by all:

Come, let us *sing to **the Lord***; *

let us shout for joy to the Rock of *our salvation*.

Let us come before His Presence *with thanksgiving*, *

and raise a loud shout *to Him with psalms*.

For the Lord *is a **great God***, *

and a great King *above **all gods***.

In His hand are the caverns *of **the earth***, *

and the heights of the hills *are also **His***.

The sea is His, *for He **made it***, *

and His hands have molded *the **dry land***.

Come, let us bow down *and bend **the knee***, *

and kneel before the *Lord our **Maker***.

For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture,

and the *sheep of **His hand***. *

Oh, that today you would *hearken to **His voice***.

(bowing) + Glory 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**.

or;

bowing with each,

O come, let us worship God our King; +

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ our King and God; +

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God. +

PSALMS *(three in number)*

after each,

(*bowing*) + Glory 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*.

READING

Here follows a brief reading from Scripture or Tradition, beginning with the Officiant singing:

Wisdom. Let us attend.

The Lector then continues:

A reading from _____

The Lector concludes the reading by chanting the final phrase of the text in the appropriate tone. The people then respond, in like tone:

Thanks be to God.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

A period of silent prayer is here observed.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

V. Let us pray.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be Your Name,
Your Kingdom come,
Your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread;
forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the Kingdom, the power,
and the glory are Yours:
now and forever. Amen. +

The officiant then prays the sentence of absolution:

+ May the almighty and merciful Lord loose us from the bonds of sin. *Amen*.

OFFICE HYMN

COLLECT

V. Lord, hear our prayer;
R. And let our cry come to you.
V. Let us pray.

The Officiant then sings the Collect of the Hour:

Heavenly Father, in You we live and move and have our being. We humbly pray You so to guide and govern us by Your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget You, but may remember that we are ever walking in Your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit: One God, now and forever. *Amen.*

LITANY

V. Save Your people, O Lord, and bless Your *inheritance*;
R. Govern and uphold them, *now and always*.
V. Day by *day* we *bless You*;
R. We praise Your *Name for ever*.
V. Lord, keep us from *all sin this day*;
R. Have mercy on us, *Lord, have mercy*.
V. Give peace, O Lord, *in all the world*;
R. And guide our hearts in *the Way of Truth*.
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, *be forgotten*;
R. Nor the hope of the poor be *taken away*.
V. Lord, show us Your *love and mercy*;
R. For we put *our trust in You*.
V. In You, O *Lord, is our hope*;
R. And we shall never *hope in vain*.

bowing with each,

Blessed are You, O Lord, teach me Your statutes. +
Blessed are You, O Master, give me understanding of Your statutes. +
Blessed are You, O Holy One, enlighten me by Your statutes. +

(bowing) + Glory 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.*

The Officiant then gives the blessing:

May the ineffable and eternal God, through the prayers and intercessions of our most holy Mothers and Fathers, bless us, sanctify us, and bring us at last to His Heavenly Kingdom, for He is good and the lover of humankind. *Amen.* +

V. May the help of God remain with us always; +
R. And with our absent brethren.

V. Let us bless the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

CLOSING DOXOLOGY

+ To the King of Hosts, immortal, invisible, the only God, be all honor and glory, both now and ever, and to the ages of ages. *Amen.*

TERCE *(Midmorning Prayer)*

V. O God, make speed to save me. +

R. O Lord, make haste to help me.

(bowing) + Glory 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.

except during Lent:

Alleluia.

OFFICE HYMN

PSALMS *(three in number)*

after each,

+ Glory 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***.

READING

Here follows a brief reading from Scripture or Tradition, beginning with the Officiant singing:

Wisdom. Let us attend.

The Lector then continues:

A reading from _____

The Lector concludes the reading by chanting the final phrase of the text in the appropriate tone. The people then respond, in like tone:

Thanks be to God.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

A period of silent prayer is here observed.

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Officiant then sings,

O Lord, as You have taught us, make us worthy now to pray:

All sing:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be Your Name,
Your Kingdom come,
Your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread;
forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.

COLLECT

V. Lord, hear our prayer;
R. And let our cry come to you.
V. Let us pray.

The Officiant then sings the Collect of the Hour:

Heavenly Father, send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts, to direct and rule us according to Your will, to comfort us in all affliction, to defend us from all error, and to lead us into all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit: One God, now and forever. *Amen.*

V. May the help of God remain with us always; +
R. And with our absent brethren.

V. Let us bless the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

CLOSING DOXOLOGY

+ May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, through the grace and power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

SEXT *(Noonday Prayer)*

V. O God, make speed to save me. +

R. O Lord, make haste to help me.

(bowing) + Glory 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.

except during Lent:

Alleluia.

OFFICE HYMN

PSALMS *(three in number)*

after each,

(bowing) + Glory 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.**

READING

Here follows a brief reading from Scripture or Tradition, beginning with the Officiant singing:

Wisdom. Let us attend.

The Lector then continues:

A reading from _____

The Lector concludes the reading by chanting the final phrase of the text in the appropriate tone. The people then respond, in like tone:

Thanks be to God.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

A period of silent prayer is here observed.

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Officiant then sings,

O Lord, as You have taught us, make us worthy now to pray:

All sing:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be Your Name,
Your Kingdom come,
Your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread;
forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.

COLLECT

V. Lord, hear our prayer;
R. And let our cry come to you.
V. Let us pray.

The Officiant then sings the Collect of the Hour:

Lord Jesus Christ, You said to Your apostles, 'Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you.' Regard not our sins, O Lord, but the faith of Your Church, and grant us the peace and unity of that Heavenly Kingdom, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit You live and reign: One God, now and forever. *Amen.*

V. May the help of God remain with us always; +
R. And with our absent brethren.

V. Let us bless the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

CLOSING DOXOLOGY

+ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

NONE *(Afternoon Prayer)*

V. O God, make speed to save me. +

R. O Lord, make haste to help me.

(bowing) + Glory 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.

except during Lent:

Alleluia.

OFFICE HYMN

PSALMS *(three in number)*

after each,

(bowing) + Glory 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.**

READING

Here follows a brief reading from Scripture or Tradition, beginning with the Officiant singing:

Wisdom. Let us attend.

The Lector then continues:

A reading from _____

The Lector concludes the reading by chanting the final phrase of the text in the appropriate tone. The people then respond, in like tone:

Thanks be to God.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

A period of silent prayer is here observed.

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Officiant then sings,

O Lord, as You have taught us, make us worthy now to pray:

All sing:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be Your Name,
Your Kingdom come,
Your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread;
forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.

COLLECT

V. Lord, hear our prayer;
R. And let our cry come to you.
V. Let us pray.

The Officiant then sings the Collect of the Hour:

Almighty God, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, in Your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and Your peace at the last; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit: One God, now and forever. *Amen.*

V. Eternal rest grant to Your servants, O Lord; +
R. And let light perpetual shine upon them.

V. May the help of God remain with us always; +
R. And with our absent brethren.

V. Let us bless the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

CLOSING DOXOLOGY

+ Beloved, may we be steadfast, immoveable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, for we know that in Him our labor is not in vain. *Amen.*

VESPERS *(Evening Prayer)*

V. Let my prayer be set forth in Your sight as incense;
R. The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

V. O God, make speed to save me. +
R. O Lord, make haste to help me.

(bowing) + Glory 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.

except during Lent:

Alleluia.

PHOS HILARON

All then sing together the vesper hymn.

PSALMS *(three in number)*

after each,

(bowing) + Glory 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**.

READING

Here follows a brief reading from Scripture or Tradition, beginning with the Officiant singing:

Wisdom. Let us attend.

The Lector then continues:

A reading from _____

The Lector concludes the reading by chanting the final phrase of the text in the appropriate tone. The people then respond, in like tone:

Thanks be to God.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

A period of silent prayer is here observed.

MAGNIFICAT

The Magnificat is then sung, with optional seasonal antiphon:

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*.

(*bowing*) + Glory 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*.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day He rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Officiant then gives the blessing:

May the ineffable and eternal God, through the prayers and intercessions of our most holy Mothers and Fathers, bless us, sanctify us, and bring us at last to His Heavenly Kingdom, for He is good and the lover of humankind. *Amen.* +

THE LORD'S PRAYER

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

V. Let us pray.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be Your Name,
Your Kingdom come,
Your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread;
forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the Kingdom, the power,
and the glory are Yours:
now and forever. *Amen.* +

LITANY

That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,
We entreat You, O Lord.

That Your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,
We entreat You, O Lord.

That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,
We entreat You, O Lord.

That there may be peace to Your Church and to the whole world,
We entreat You, O Lord.

That we may depart this life in Your faith and fear, and not be condemned before the great judgment seat of Christ,
We entreat You, O Lord.

That we may be bound together by Your Holy Spirit, in the communion of our most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever Virgin Mary, with blessed John Cassian, blessed Benedict of Nursia, blessed Antony the Great, [*other saint(s) commemorated*] and all Your saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,
We entreat You, O Lord.

COLLECT

V. Lord, hear our prayer;
R. And let our cry come to you.
V. Let us pray.

The Officiant then sings the Collect of the Hour:

Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgments, and all just works: Give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of Your will, and that we, being delivered from all fear and anxiety, may live in peace and quietness; and finally, by Your grace, attain to everlasting union with You, in the joy of Your eternal Kingdom; through the mercies of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit: One God, now and forever. *Amen.*

OFFICE HYMN

V. May the help of God remain with us always; +
R. And with our absent brethren.

V. Let us bless the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

CLOSING DOXOLOGY

+ Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we ask or imagine; glory to Him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.
Amen.

COMPLINE *(Night Prayer)*

+ The Lord Almighty grant us a peaceful night and a perfect end. *Amen.*

V. Our help is in the Name of the Lord:

R. The maker of heaven and earth.

CONFESSION

The Officiant then begins the confession:

Let us confess our sins to God.

All kneel for a time of silent reflection and repentance.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father:

We have sinned against You,

through our own fault,

in thought, and word, and deed,

and in what we have left undone.

For the sake of Your Son,

our Lord Jesus Christ,

forgive us all our offenses;

and grant that we may serve You

in newness of life,

to the glory of Your Name. Amen.

The Officiant then gives the absolution:

+ May Almighty God grant us forgiveness of all our sins, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

PSALMS *(three in number)*

after each,

(bowing) + Glory 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.

READING

Here follows a brief reading from Scripture or Tradition, beginning with the Officiant singing:

Wisdom. Let us attend.

The Lector then continues:

A reading from _____

The Lector concludes the reading by chanting the final phrase of the text in the appropriate tone. The people then respond, in like tone:

Thanks be to God.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

A period of silent prayer is here observed.

OFFICE HYMN

V. Into Your hands, O Lord, I commend my *spirit*;
R. For You have redeemed me, O Lord, *O God of truth*.
V. Keep us, O Lord, as the apple of *Your eye*;
R. Hide us under the shadow of *Your wings*.

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Officiant then sings,

O Lord, as You have taught us, make us worthy now to pray:

All sing:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be Your Name,
Your Kingdom come,
Your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread;
forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.

COLLECT

V. Lord, hear our prayer;

R. And let our cry come to you.

V. Let us pray.

The Officiant then sings one or more of the Collects:

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this life may rest in Your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

or,

Look down, O Lord, from Your heavenly throne, and illumine this night with Your celestial brightness; that by night as by day Your people may glorify Your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit: One God, now and forever. *Amen.*

NUNC DIMITTIS (SONG OF SIMEON)

Guide us waking, O Lord, and *guard us sleeping*; *
that awake we may watch with Christ,
and asleep we *may rest in peace.*

Lord, You now have set *Your servant free* *
to go in peace as *You have promised*;
For these eyes of mine have *seen the Savior*, *
whom You have prepared for all *the world to see*:
A Light to enlighten *the nations*, *
and the glory of your people *Israel.*

Glory 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.*

Guide us waking, O Lord, and *guard us sleeping*; *
that awake we may watch with Christ,
and asleep we *may rest in peace.*

V. Turn our hearts, O God, to Your Truth;

R. + And restore us in Your Image.

+ May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercies of God, rest in peace. *Amen.*

V. May the help of God remain with us always; +

R. And with our absent brethren.

V. Let us bless the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

CLOSING DOXOLOGY

+ The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us, now and forever. *Amen.*

NIGHT LITANY

The Officiant begins,

(bowing) + Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, both now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen.*

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His most pure Mother, of our holy and God-bearing Mothers and Fathers and all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and the lover of humankind. + *Amen.*

V. Let us pray for peace to the whole world, and for the salvation of our souls.

R. Lord, have mercy. (*or, Kyrie Eleison.*)

The singing of the Kyrie continues throughout, overlapping the suffrages sung by the Officiant.

For all Christians of orthodox faith.

For the one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.

For our departed sisters and brothers, and all those who have gone before us in the Way. +

For those who hate us, and those who love us.

For those who show us mercy, and for those who aid us.

For those who enjoin us in our unworthiness to pray for them.

For the release of captives.

For the safety of those who travel by land, sea, or air.

For all our beloved and holy brethren, both those here present and those afar.

For those who are lying ill, or suffering in destitution.

Let us pray for the abundance of the fruits of the earth.

And for the soul of every faithful Christian.

For all those in public service, and those who do the work of peace in the world.

For all bishops, priests, deacons, and monastics.

For prophets, mystics, hermits, and ascetics: those known to us and those known only to God.

For this holy Community and all who labor and find rest therein.

For our parents, families, friends, and teachers.

And for all our holy Fathers and Mothers, who rest now in eternal peace. +

Blessed be their habitation, in the everlasting Kingdom of God.

May they remember and intercede for us sinners, unworthy to lift our eyes to the heavens.

And let us say also for ourselves:
Lord, have mercy. (x3)

MARIAN HYMN

The appropriate seasonal Marian Antiphon is then sung by all, facing an icon of the Blessed Mother. All reverence the icon following the conclusion of the hymn.

THE PEACE

All then exchange the embrace of peace, bowing to one another and asking one another's prayers and forgiveness, saying, 'Forgive me, a sinner', and, 'Pray for me'.

The Great Silence then begins, which is observed until Matins the following morning.