

THURSDAY  
**VESPERS**  
PSALM 144 I

143

alt. He is my comfort and my  
refuge. In him I put my trust.

Blest be the Lord, my rock,  
who trains my hands for battle,  
my fingers for war.

He is my merciful love, my fortress;  
he is my stronghold, my savior,  
my shield in whom I take refuge.  
He brings peoples under my rule.

Lord, what is man that you regard him,  
the son of man that you keep him in mind,  
man who is merely a breath,  
whose days are like a passing shadow?

Lower your heavens, O Lord, and come down  
Touch the mountains; wreathe them in smoke

Flash your lightnings; rout the foe.  
Shoot your arrows, and put them to flight.

Reach down with your hand from on high;  
rescue me, Save me from the many waters,  
from the hands of foreign foes

whose mouths speak only emptiness,  
whose hands are raised in perjury.

Glory...

alt. Blessed are the people  
whose God is the Lord.

## PSALM 144 II

To you, O God, will I sing a new song;  
I will play on the ten-stringed harp  
to you who give kings their victory,  
who redeemed David, your servant, from the evil sword.  
Rescue me, free me from the hands of foreign foes,  
whose mouths speak lies,  
whose right hands are raised in perjury.  
Let our sons then flourish like saplings,  
grown tall and strong from their youth,  
our daughters graceful as columns,  
as though they were carved for a palace.  
Let our barns be filled to overflowing  
with crops of every kind;  
our sheep increasing by thousands,  
tens of thousands in our fields,  
our cattle heavy with young.  
No ruined wall, no exile,  
no sound of weeping in our streets.  
Blessed the people of whom this is true;  
blessed the people whose God is the Lord!  
Glory...

THURSDAY

145  
alt. Now the victorious reign of  
our God has begun.

REVELATION 11: 17-18; 12: 10B-12A

We give you thanks, O Lord, Almighty God,  
you who are and who were.

For you have assumed your great power  
and you have begun your reign.

The nations raged, but your wrath has come,  
and the time for the dead to be judged,  
and to reward your servants the prophets †  
and the holy ones and those who fear your name,  
the small and the great alike.

Now have come the salvation †  
and the power and the kingdom of our God,  
and the authority of his Anointed One,  
for the accuser of our brethren is cast down  
who accused them before our God day and night.

They conquered him by the blood of the Lamb,  
and by the word of their witness;

love for their life did not deter them from death.  
Therefore, rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell therein.  
Glory...

alt. If you hunger for holiness,  
God will satisfy your longing,  
good measure, and flowing over.

## MAGNIFICAT

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked upon his handmaid in her lowliness; †  
for behold, from this day forward,  
all generations will call me blessed.  
For the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
His mercy is from age to age  
for those who fear him.  
He has made known the strength of his arm,  
and has scattered the proud in their conceit of heart.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones  
and has exalted those who are lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and has sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
mindful of his mercy,  
even as he promised to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his descendants forever.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be for ever. Amen.