

VESPERS

alt. Those who sow in tears will
reap in joy.

PSALM 126

When the Lord brought back the exiles of Zion,
we thought we were dreaming.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter;
on our tongues, songs of joy.

Then they said among the nations,
“What great deeds the Lord worked for them!”

What great deeds the Lord worked for us!
Indeed, we were glad.

Bring back our exiles, O Lord,
as streams in the Negeb.

Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap.

They go out, they go out, full of tears,
bearing seed for the sowing;

they come back, they come back with a song,
bearing their sheaves.

Glory...

alt. May the Lord build our
house and guard our city.

PSALM 127

If the Lord does not build the house,
in vain do its builders labor;

if the Lord does not guard the city,
in vain does the guard keep watch.

In vain is your earlier rising,
your going later to rest,

you who toil for the bread you eat,
when he pours gifts on his beloved while they slumber.

Yes, children are a gift from the Lord,
a reward, the fruit of the womb.

Like arrows in the hand of a warrior,
so the sons of one's youth.

Blessed is the warrior
who has filled his quiver with these arrows!

He will have no cause for shame,
when he disputes with his foes in the gateways.

Glory...

alt. He is the first-born of all creation, in every way the primacy is his.

COLOSSIANS 1:12-20

Let us give thanks to the Father who has made us worthy to share the heritage of the holy ones in light.

He delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions, principalities or powers.

All were created through him and for him, and he exists before all things, and in him all things hold together.

He is the head of the body, the Church, the beginning, the firstborn from the dead that he may have primacy in all things.

For in him all the fullness was pleased to dwell, and through him, to reconcile all things to himself, both those on the earth, and those in the heavens, making peace through the blood of his cross.

Glory...

alt. The Almighty has done great
things for me, and holy is his
Name.

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.