

VESPERS OF THE DEAD

When this Office follows the bringing of the body into the Church, or after any other liturgical function for the Dead, or after the Office of the Day, omitting the Dual Prayer Our Father & Hail Mary, it is begun at once with the first Antiphon. In all other cases, it begins with the Dual Prayer.

The Antiphons are not doubled when this Office is said as the Common Office for the Dead through the year. But they are doubled whenever it is celebrated as a matter of special obligation or commemoration, such as: All Souls' Day; the Day of death or burial; a special commemoration of the death, such as Third Day's Mind, the Week's Mind, or the Year's Mind and other like Anniversaries; and at any other time that the Office is solemnly celebrated.

Our Father, Hail Mary, *if appointed.*

Ant. I will walk * before the Lord in the land of the living.

Psalm 116

I AM well pleased, * that the Lord hath heard the voice of my prayer;

That he hath inclined his ear unto me; * therefore will I call upon him as long as I live.

The snares of death compassed me round about, * and the pains of hell gat hold upon me.

I shall find trouble and heaviness, and I will call upon the Name of the Lord; * O Lord, I beseech thee, deliver my soul.

Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; * yea, our God is merciful.

The Lord preserveth the simple: * I was in misery, and he helped me.

Turn again then unto thy rest, O my soul; * for the Lord hath rewarded thee.

And why? thou hast delivered my soul from death, * mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling.

I will walk before the Lord * in the land of the living.

Rest eternal * grant unto them, O Lord.

And let light perpetual * shine upon them.

Ant. I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

Ant. Woe is me, * that I am constrained to dwell with Mesech.

Psalm 120

WHEN I was in trouble I called upon the Lord, * and he heard me.

Deliver my soul, O Lord, from lying lips, * and from a deceitful tongue.

What reward shall be given or done unto thee, thou false tongue? * even mighty and sharp arrows, with hot burning coals.

Woe is me, that I am constrained to dwell with Mesech, * and to have my habitation among the tents of Kedar.

My soul hath long dwelt among them * that are enemies unto peace.

I labour for peace, but when I speak unto them thereof, * they make them ready to battle.

Rest eternal * grant unto them, O Lord.

And let light perpetual * shine upon them.

Ant. Woe is me, that I am constrained to dwell with Mesech.

Ant. The Lord * shall preserve thee from all evil; yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.

Psalm 121

I WILL lift up mine eyes unto the hills; * from whence cometh my help.

My help cometh even from the Lord, * who hath made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved; * and he that keepeth thee will not sleep.

Behold, he that keepeth Israel * shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord himself is thy keeper; * the Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand;

So that the sun shall not burn thee by day, * neither the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil; * yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.

The Lord shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in, * from this time forth for evermore.

Rest eternal * grant unto them, O Lord. And let light perpetual * shine upon them.

Ant. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil; yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.

Ant. If thou, Lord, * wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss; O Lord, who may abide it?

Psalm 130

OUT of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord; * Lord, hear my voice.

O let thine ears consider well * the voice of my complaint.

If thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss, * O Lord, who may abide it?

For there is mercy with thee; * therefore shalt thou be feared.

I look for the Lord; my soul doth wait for him; * in his word is my trust.

My soul fleeth unto the Lord before the morning watch; * I say, before the morning watch.

O Israel, trust in the Lord; for with the Lord there is mercy, * and with him is plenteous redemption.

And he shall redeem Israel * from all his sins.

Rest eternal * grant unto them, O Lord. And let light perpetual * shine upon them.

Ant. If thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss; O Lord, who may abide it?

Ant. Despise not, * O Lord, the works of thine own hands.

Psalm 138

I WILL give thanks unto thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; * even before the gods will I sing praise unto thee.

I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy Name, because of thy loving-kindness and truth; * for thou hast magnified thy Name, and thy Word, above all things.

When I called upon thee, thou heardest me; * and enduedst my soul with much strength.

All the kings of the earth shall praise thee, O Lord; * for they have heard the words of thy mouth.

Yea, they shall sing in the ways of the Lord, * that great is the glory of the Lord.

For though the Lord be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly; * as for the proud, he beholdeth them afar off.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, yet shalt thou refresh me; * thou shalt stretch forth thy hand upon the furiousness of mine enemies; and thy right hand shall save me.

The Lord shall make good his loving-kindness toward me; * yea, thy mercy, O Lord, endureth for ever; despise not then the works of thine own hands.

Rest eternal * grant unto them, O Lord. And let light perpetual * shine upon them.

Ant. Despise not, O Lord, the works of thine own hands.

All stand for the Versicle.

℣ I heard a voice from heaven, saying unto me. **℟** Blessed are the dead, which die in the Lord.

Ant. on Mag. All * that the Father hath given unto me shall come unto me, and him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out.

Canticle of the Blessed Virgin Mary

MY soul doth magnify the Lord, *
And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded * the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold, from henceforth * all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me; * and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him * throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm; * he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat, * and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things; * and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel; * as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Rest eternal * grant unto them, O Lord.

And let light perpetual * shine upon them.

Ant. All that the Father hath given unto me shall come unto me, and him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out.

The following Preces are said kneeling:

Our Father **aloud, then secretly until** **∕** And lead us not into temptation. **℟** But deliver us from evil.

When the Antiphons are doubled, the following Psalm 146 is omitted.

Psalm 146

PRAISE the LORD, O my soul: while I live will I praise the Lord; * yea, as

long as I have any being, I will sing praises unto my God.

O put not your trust in princes, nor in any child of man; * for there is no help in them.

For when the breath of man goeth forth, he shall turn again to his earth, * and then all his thoughts perish.

Blessed is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, * and whose hope is in the Lord his God:

Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that therein is; * who keepeth his promise for ever.

Who helpeth them to right that suffer wrong; * who feedeth the hungry.

The Lord looseth men out of prison; * the Lord giveth sight to the blind.

The Lord helpeth them that are fallen; * the Lord careth for the righteous.

The Lord careth for the strangers; he defendeth the fatherless and widow: * as for the way of the ungodly, he turneth it upside down.

The Lord thy God, O Sion, shall be King for evermore, * and throughout all generations.

Rest eternal * grant unto them, O Lord.

And let light perpetual * shine upon them.

∕ From the gate of hell. **℟** Deliver *his soul*, O Lord.

∕ May *he* rest in peace. **℟** Amen.

∕ O Lord, hear my prayer. **℟** And let my cry come unto thee.

∕ The Lord be with you. **℟** And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Then follows the Collect(s), from those given below, according to the occasion:

If the body be absent:

ABSOLVE, O Lord, the *soul* of thy *servant N.* from every bond of sin, that though *he* be dead unto the world, yet *he* may live unto thee: and that

whatsoever sins *he* may have committed through the frailty of the flesh in *his* earthly conversation may be done away by the pardon of thy most merciful loving-kindness. Through. **℟** Amen.

If the body be present:

O GOD, whose nature and property is ever to have mercy and to forgive, receive our humble petitions for the *soul* of thy *servant* N., which thou hast commanded to depart out of this world: deliver *him* not into the hands of the enemy, neither forsake *him* at the last; but command *him* to be received by the holy Angels, and brought unto the country of paradise; that forasmuch as *he* hoped and believed in thee, *he* may not undergo the pains of hell, but be made partaker of everlasting felicity. Through. **℟** Amen.

On the third, seventh, and thirtieth day after burial:

WE beseech thee O Lord, that the *soul* of thy *servant* N., whom *three (or seven or thirty)* days since we did commit unto the ground: may be partaker of the fellowship of thine elect; and that thou wouldest pour upon *him* the continual dew of thy mercy. Through. **℟** Amen.

On the Anniversary:

O GOD, to whom alone belongeth the forgiveness of sins: grant, we pray thee, to the *soul* of thy *servant* whose burial we now commemorate; to find a place of refreshing, and the blessedness of thy rest, and to enjoy the glory of everlasting light. Through. **℟** Amen.

On the Commemoration of all the faithful departed:

O GOD, the Creator and Redeemer of all them that believe: grant unto the souls of thy servants and handmaidens the remission of all their sins; that as they have ever desired thy merciful pardon, so by the supplications of their brethren they may receive the same. Who livest and reignest. **℟** Amen.

Through the year, the following three Collects are said:

O GOD, who didst cause thy servants, for whom we pray, to enjoy the dignity of the priesthood, and some to be bishops, after the order of thine Apostles: grant unto them, we beseech thee, finally to rejoice in the company of those Saints in heaven whose ministry they did sometime share on earth.

O GOD, who desirest not the death of a sinner but rather that all mankind should be saved : we beseech thee mercifully to grant that the brethren, kinsfolk, and benefactors of our congregation, who have passed out of this world, may by the intercession of blessed Mary Ever-Virgin and of all thy Saints come to enjoy with them everlasting blessedness.

O GOD, the Creator and Redeemer of all them that believe: grant unto the souls of thy servants and handmaidens the remission of all their sins; that as they have ever desired thy merciful pardon, so by the supplications of their brethren they may receive the same. Who livest and reignest. **℟** Amen.

℣ Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord. **℟** And let light perpetual shine upon them.

℣ ✠ May they rest in peace. **℟** Amen.