

Corpus Christi - Solemnity

Vespers (Evening Prayer)

Introduction

O God, come to our aid.
O Lord, make haste to help us.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen. Alleluia.

Hymn

Of the glorious Body telling,
O my tongue, its mysteries sing,
And the Blood, all price excelling,
Which the world's eternal King,
In a noble womb once dwelling,
Shed for this world's ransoming.

Given for us, for us descending,
Of a Virgin to proceed,
Man with man in converse blending,
Scattered he the Gospel seed,
Till his sojourn drew to ending
Which he closed in wondrous deed.

At the last great Supper lying
Circled by his brethren's band,
Meekly with the law complying,
First he finished its command,
Then, immortal Food supplying,
Gave himself with his own hand.

Word made Flesh, by word he maketh
Very bread his Flesh to be;
Man in wine Christ's Blood partaketh:
And if senses fail to see,
Faith alone the true heart waketh
To behold the mystery.

Humbly we, before him bending,
This great Sacrament revere;
Types and shadows have their ending,
For the newer rite is here;
Faith, our outward sense befriending,
Makes the inward vision clear.

Glory let us give, and blessing
To the Father and the Son;
Honour, might and praise addressing,
While eternal ages run;
Ever too his love confessing,
Who, from both, with both is one.

Psalm 109 (110)

The Messiah, king and priest

“He must be king so that he may put all his enemies under his feet” (1 Cor 15:25).

Christ the Lord is a priest for ever. Like Melchizedek he made an offering of bread and wine.

The Lórd’s revelátion to my Máster: †
‘Sít on my ríght: *
your fóes I will pút beneath your féet.’

The Lórd will wíeld from Síon †
your scéptre of pówer: *
rúle in the mídst of all your fóes.

A prínce from the dáy of your bírth †
on the hóly móuntains; *
from the wómb before the dáwn I begót you.

The Lórd has sworn an óath he will not chánge. †
‘You are a príest for éver, *
a príest like Melchízedeck of óld.’

The Máster stánding at your ríght hand *
will shatter kíngs in the dáy of his wráth.

He shall drínk from the stréam by the wáyside *
and thérefore he shall líft up his héad.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Christ the Lord is a priest for ever. Like Melchizedek he made an offering of bread and wine.

Psalm 115 (116B)

Thanksgiving in the Temple

“Through him [Christ], let us offer God an unending sacrifice of praise” (Heb 13:15).

I will take the chalice of salvation and offer a thanksgiving sacrifice.

I trústed, éven when I sáid: *
‘I am sórely afflícted,’

and when I said in my alarm: *
'No man can be trusted.'

How can I repay the Lord *
for his goodness to me?
The cup of salvation I will raise; *
I will call on the Lord's name.

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil *
before all his people.
O precious in the eyes of the Lord *
is the death of his faithful.

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; *
you have loosened my bonds.
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make; *
I will call on the Lord's name.

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil *
before all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord, *
in your midst, O Jerusalem.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

I will take the chalice of salvation and offer a thanksgiving sacrifice.

Canticle

(Apocalypse 19)

The wedding of the Lamb

You are the Way, you are the Truth; you, Lord, are the life of the world.

Alleluia.
Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, *
his judgements are true and just.

Alleluia.

Alleluia.
Praise our God, all you his servants, *
you who fear him, small and great.

Alleluia.

Alleluia.
The Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns, *
let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory.

Alleluia.

Alleluia.
The marriage of the Lamb has come, *
and his bride has made herself ready.

Alleluia.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen.

You are the Way, you are the Truth; you, Lord, are the life of the world.

Short Reading

1 Corinthians 11:23-25

This is what I received from the Lord, and in turn passed on to you: that on the same night that he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread, and thanked God for it and broke it, and he said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this as a memorial of me.' In the same way he took the cup after supper, and said, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this as a memorial of me.'

Short Responsory

He gave them the bread of heaven to eat, alleluia, alleluia.
– *He gave them the bread of heaven to eat, alleluia, alleluia.*
Man has tasted the food of angels.
– *He gave them the bread of heaven to eat, alleluia, alleluia.*
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
– *He gave them the bread of heaven to eat, alleluia, alleluia.*

Canticle

Magnificat

My soul rejoices in the Lord

O sacred feast, in which we partake of Christ: his sufferings are remembered, our minds are filled with his grace and we receive a pledge of the glory that is to be ours, alleluia.

My soul glóirifies the Lórd, *
my spirit rejóices in Gód, my Sáviour.
He looks on his sérvant in her lówliness; *
henceforth all áges will cáll me bléssed.

The Almíghty works márvels for me. *
Hóly his náme!
His mércy is from age to áge, *
on thóse who féar him.

He púts forth his árm in stréngth *
and scátters the proud-héarted.
He casts the míghty from their thrónes *
and ráises the lówly.

He fills the stárving with good thínghs, *
sends the rích away éempty.

He protects Ísrael, his sérvant, *
remémbering his mércy,
the mercy prómised to our fáthers, *
to Ábraham and his sóns for éver.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

O sacred feast, in which we partake of Christ: his sufferings are remembered, our minds are filled with his grace and we receive a pledge of the glory that is to be ours, alleluia.

Prayers and intercessions

At the supper to which all are invited, Christ gives his body and blood for the life of the world.

Earnestly we beseech him, saying:

– *Lord Jesus Christ, give us the bread of eternal life.*

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, you have commanded us to celebrate the eucharistic meal in remembrance of you:

enrich your Church with the worthy celebration of these mysteries.

– *Lord Jesus Christ, give us the bread of eternal life.*

Lord Jesus Christ, eternal high priest, you have committed to your priests the ministration of your sacraments:

help them to do their part in your work with the unfailing gladness of genuine charity.

– *Lord Jesus Christ, give us the bread of eternal life.*

Lord Jesus Christ, manna from heaven, you make into one all who share the one bread:

grant peace and concord to all who believe in you.

– *Lord Jesus Christ, give us the bread of eternal life.*

Lord Jesus Christ, heavenly physician, you give an eternal remedy and a pledge of resurrection to those who eat your bread:

grant health to the ailing and a real hope to sinners.

– *Lord Jesus Christ, give us the bread of eternal life.*

Lord Jesus Christ, king who is to come, we know that whenever we celebrate these mysteries, we proclaim your death until you come again:

bring all those who have died in you to share your resurrection.

– *Lord Jesus Christ, give us the bread of eternal life.*

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us,

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

Lord Jesus Christ,

you gave your Church an admirable sacrament
as the abiding memorial of your passion.

Teach us so to worship the sacred mystery of your Body and Blood
that its redeeming power may sanctify us always.

Who live and reign with God the Father

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.