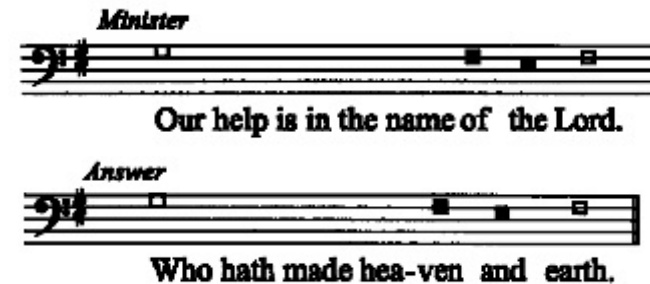
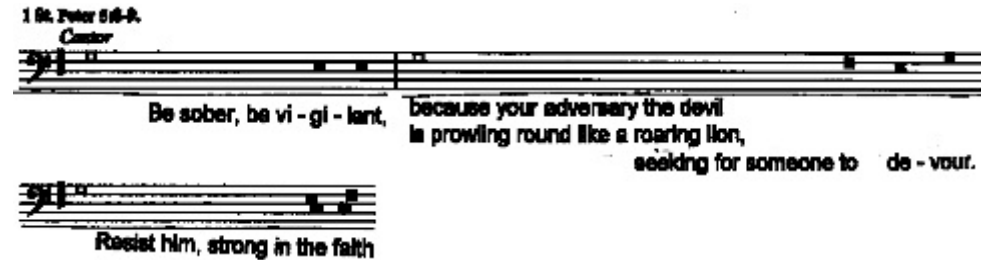


Night Prayer for The Presentation of the Lord



Preparation



Dear friends: forty days ago we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now we recall the day on which He was presented in the Temple, when He was offered to the Father and shown to His people. As a sign of His coming among us, His mother was purified, as we now come to Him for cleansing. In their old age Simeon and Anna recognized Him as their Lord, as we today sing of His glory. In this Eucharist, we celebrate both the joy of His coming and His searching judgement, looking back to the day of His birth and forward to the coming days of His passion:

*Within our darkest night
you kindle the fire that never dies away,
that never dies away. **Taize***

God is light.
In him there is no darkness.

If we live in the light,
as God is in the light,

we have fellowship with one another,
and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

Most merciful God,
we confess to you,
before the whole company of heaven and one another,
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed
and in what we have failed to do.
Forgive us our sins,
heal us by your Spirit
and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.

May the Father forgive us by the death of his Son
and strengthen us to live in the power of the Spirit all our days.
Amen.



O God, make speed to save us.



O Lord, make haste to help us.



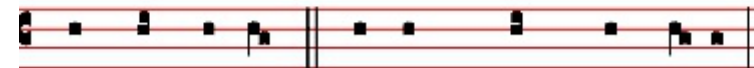
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;



As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,



world without end. Amen.



Praise ye the Lord. The Lord's name be praised.

The Word of God *Psalmody*

Psalm 122

- 1 I was glad when they said to me, ●
'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'
- 2 And now our feet are standing ●
within your gates, O Jerusalem;
- 3 Jerusalem, built as a city ●
that is at unity in itself.
- 4 Thither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, ●
as is decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.

5 For there are set the thrones of judgement, ●
the thrones of the house of David.

6 O pray for the peace of Jerusalem: ●
‘May they prosper who love you.

7 ‘Peace be within your walls ●
and tranquillity within your palaces.’

8 For my kindred and companions’ sake, ●
I will pray that peace be with you.

9 For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, ●
I will seek to do you good.

Scripture Readings

3: Thus says the Lord God: ¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight - indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.

² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap;

³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness.

Psalm 134

1 Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, ●
you that by night stand in the house of the Lord.

2 Lift up your hands towards the sanctuary ●
and bless the Lord.

3 The Lord who made heaven and earth ●
give you blessing out of Zion.

³⁶ There was a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, Mary, Joseph and the child Jesus returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Reflection

[Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

For thou hast redeemed me, Lord God of truth.
I commend my spirit.

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost.
Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.]

The following responsory may be said or sung



In-to thy hands, O Lord, I com-mend my spi-rit.



In-to thy hands, O Lord, I com-mend my spi-rit.



For thou hast re-deem-ed me, O Lord, thou God of truth.



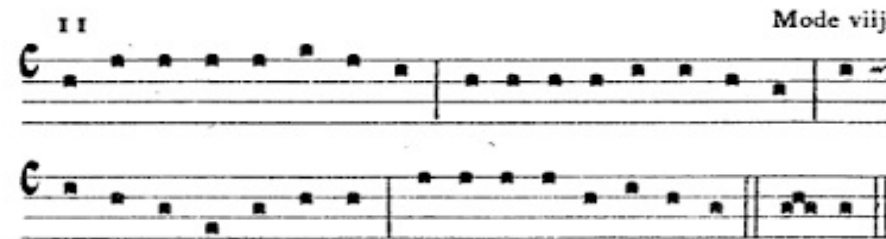
I com-mend my spi-rit.



Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Ghost.



In-to thy hands, O Lord, I com-mend my spi-rit.



The following hymn is sung

Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world, we pray
That you, with steadfast love, would keep
Your watch around us while we sleep.

From evil dreams defend our sight,
From fears and terrors of the night;
Tread underfoot our deadly foe
That we no sinful thought may know.

O Father, that we ask be done
Through Jesus Christ, your only Son;
And Holy Spirit, by whose breath
Our souls are raised to life from death. Amen.

Gospel Canticle

Tonus Peregrinus

The Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon) is sung or said

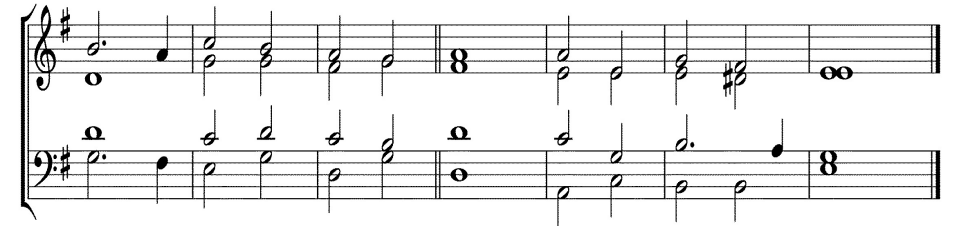
Save us, O Lord, while we are awake, protect us while we sleep,
that we may keep watch with Christ
and rest with him in peace.

NUNC DIMITTIS

A. IIIa



Save us, Lord while we are a-wake, pro-tect us while
we sleep, that we may keep watch with Christ and rest
with him in peace. Al-le-lu-ia

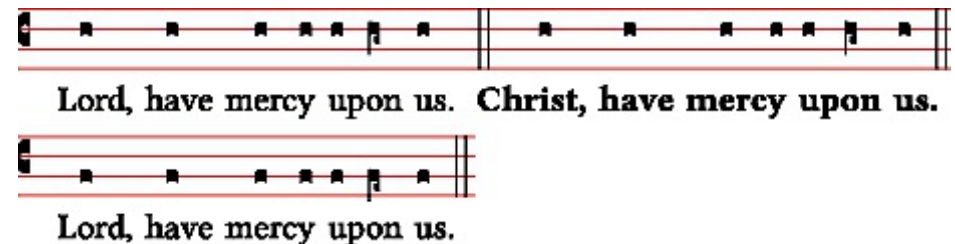


LORD, now lettest thou thy servant de | part in | peace :
ac | cording | to thy | word.
For mine eyes have | seen thy sal | vation:
which thou hast prepared before the | face of | all | people.
To be a light to | lighten the | Gentiles :
and to be the | glory " of thy | people | Israel.
Glory be to the Father, and | to the | Son :
and | to the | Holy | Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and | ever | shall be :
world without | end. | Amen.

Save us, O Lord, while we are awake,
protect us while we sleep, that we may keep watch with Christ
and rest with him in peace.

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer.



Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil. Amen.



Blessed art thou, Lord God of our fathers:



to be praised and glorified above all for ever.



Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.



let us praise and magnify him for ever.



Blessed art thou, O Lord, in the firmament of heaven:



to be praised and glorified above all for ever.

Silence may be kept.

The lighted Easter Candle is brought forward.

The priest sings...

Jesus Christ is the light of the world,
A light no darkness can quench.

After all have lit their candles, the priest says...

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.
Your light shines on us and all peoples shall see your glory.
Blessed be God for ever.

You gave us Jesus to be the light of the world;
he makes our darkness to be light.
Blessed be God for ever.

Through the Holy Spirit your love burns within us,
bearing witness to your truth.
Blessed be God for ever.

As we bear your light,
may our lips never cease to sing your praise.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

Father, we have sung your praise with shepherds and angels:
may Christ be born in our hearts today.

Praise to Christ our light.

We have shared in the joy of Simeon and Anna;
help us, like them, to trust your word.

Praise to Christ our light.

We have greeted Jesus, the light of the world;
may we be filled with the light of your love.

**Help us, who now extinguish these candles,
never to forsake the light of Christ.**

(The church candles are extinguished)

Here we share with the whole community of the baptized.

**Help us, who are marked with the cross,
to share the Lord's death and resurrection.**

Here we turn from the crib to the cross

**Help us, for whom Lent is near,
to enter deeply into the Easter mystery.**

The Collects

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord;
and by thy great mercy defend us
from all perils and dangers of this night;
for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

One or more of the following Collects shall be said :

Almighty and ever-living God,
clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son
was this day presented in the Temple,
in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to you
with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

[Tuesday]

Look down, O Lord, from your heavenly throne,
illuminate the darkness of this night
with your celestial brightness,
and from the children of light
banish the deeds of darkness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE CONCLUSION



We will lay us down in peace and take our rest.



For it is thou, Lord, only that makest us dwell in safety.



Abide with us, O Lord,



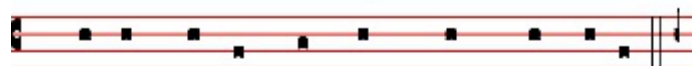
for it is toward evening and the day is far spent.



As the watchmen look for the morning,



so do we look for thee, O Christ.



The Lord be with you. And with thy spi-rit.



Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.



The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son



and the Holy Ghost, bless us and preserve us. **Amen.**

May the souls of the faithful, through the mercy of God,
rest in peace. **Amen.**

The Conclusion

The liturgy traditionally ends with a Hymn to the Blessed Virgin.

*1 From Advent Sunday until the Feast of the Presentation
Alma Redemptoris Mater*

Mother of Christ! Hear thou thy people's cry,
Star of the deep, and portal of the sky!
Mother of Him Who thee from nothing made,
Sinking we strive and call to thee for aid;
Oh, by that joy which Gabriel brought to thee,
Thou Virgin, pure, let us thy mercy see.

[Yorkshire or other 10 10 10 10 10 10]