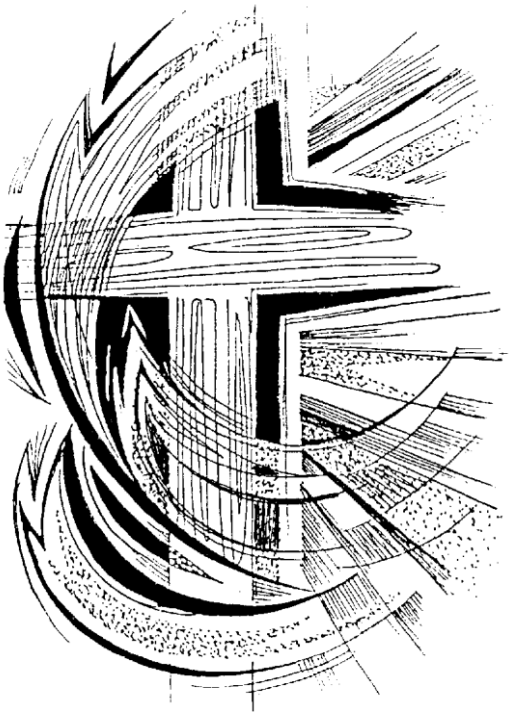
THE OFFICE FOR THE DEAD



VESPERS

BENEDICTINE COMMUNITIES
TURVEY BEDFORDSHIRE

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THE OFFICE FOR THE DEAD **VESPERS**

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 shall be for ever, amen. Alleluia!

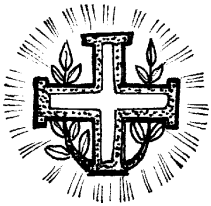
HYMN

Come, my way, my truth, my life:
Such a way as gives us breath;
Such a truth as ends all strife;
Such a life as killeth death.

Come, my light, my feast, my strength:
Such a light as shows a feast;
Such a feast as mends in length;
Such a strength as makes his guest.

Come, my joy, my love, my heart:
Such a joy as none can move;
Such a love as none can part;
Such a heart as joys in love.

George Herbert, 'The Call'



ANTIPHON 1: Tremendous * work of love! Death died when Life was slain upon the Tree.

Psalm 114

Alleluia!

I love the Lord for he has heard
the cry of my appeal;
for he turned his ear to me
in the day when I called him.

(They surrounded me, the snares of death,
with the anguish of the tomb;
they caught me, sorrow and distress.
I called on the Lord's name.
O Lord my God, deliver me!

How gracious is the Lord, and just;
our God has compassion.
The Lord protects the simple hearts;
I was helpless so he saved me.

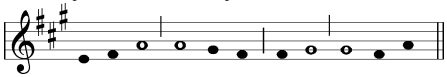
Turn back, my soul, to your rest
for the Lord has been good;
(he has kept my soul from death,
my eyes from tears
and my feet from stumbling.

I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now
and shall be for ever, amen.

ANTIPHON 1: Tremendous * work of love! Death died when Life was slain upon the Tree.

ANTIPHON 2: Do not * let your hearts be troubled or afraid: trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house.

Psalm 120 

I lift up my eyes to the mountains:
from where shall come my help?
My help shall come from the Lord
who made heaven and earth.

May he never allow you to stumble!
Let him sleep not, your guard.
No, he sleeps not nor slumbers,
Israel's guard.

The Lord is your guard and your shade;
at your right side he stands.
By day the sun shall not smite you
nor the moon in the night.

The Lord will guard you from evil,
he will guard your soul.
The Lord will guard your going and coming
both now and for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now
and shall be for ever, amen.

ANTIPHON 2: Do not * let your hearts be troubled or afraid: trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house.

ANTIPHON 3: It was necessary * that the Christ should suffer and rise from the dead.

NT Canticle 11 (Philippians 2:6–11)

Though he was in the form of God,
Jesus did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped.

He emptied himself, taking the form of a servant,
being born in the likeness of men.

(And being found in human form, he humbled himself
and became obedient unto death,
even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name which is above every name,

that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Glory be to the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit**,**
both now and for ever, amen.

ANTIPHON 3: It was necessary * that the Christ should suffer and rise from the dead.

ANTIPHON 4: Remember me, Lord, * when you come into your kingdom.

Psalm 129

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading.

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you.

My soul is waiting for the Lord.
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
Let the watchman count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord.

Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now
and shall be for ever, amen.

ANTIPHON 4: Remember me, Lord, * when you come into your kingdom.

SCRIPTURE READING

RESPONSORY

In you, O Lord, I take refuge. Let me never be put to shame.
(repeat)

I will rejoice and be glad in your merciful love:

Let me never be put to shame.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

In you, O Lord, I take refuge. Let me never be put to shame.

MAGNIFICAT ANTIPHON

All that * the Father gives me will come to me, and I will never turn away the one who comes to me.

MAGNIFICAT Canticle of Mary

(Luke 1:46–55)

My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her lowliness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him.

He puts forth his arm in strength
and scatters the proud-hearted.
He casts the mighty from their thrones
and raises the lowly.

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy,
the mercy promised to our fathers,
to Abraham and his sons for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now
and shall be for ever, amen.

REPEAT ANTIPHON

INTERCESSIONS

OUR FATHER *(said by the Superior)*

CONCLUDING PRAYER

LET US BLESS THE LORD
THANKS BE TO GOD

May the divine assistance remain always with us.
And with our absent brothers and sisters. Amen.