



**CHRISTMASTIDE VESPERS**

**THURSDAY A**

**SAINTS BASIL & GREGORY**

BENEDICTINE COMMUNITIES  
TURVEY BEDFORDSHIRE

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**CHRISTMASTIDE VESPERS**

**THURSDAY A**

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**

The hope that shone through all the a - ges  
This ve - ry hour has been ful - filled!  
God has come close, for our sal - va - tion:  
See, O see what love has willed!

David foretold in song prophetic  
One day would come his Lord, his son:  
Here in the manger lies the meaning,  
Here the kingdom has begun.

Strange kings come riding, treasure-laden,  
Called from the East, a world unknown:  
Let your dull heart be touched to wonder,  
Zion, city of God, his own.

Shepherds are running to behold him—  
Tidings of joy, the last are first!—  
Poor as themselves, a baby greets them,  
So God wills to quench our thirst.

He sets his star in all our darkness,  
Peace is his word in all our woe,  
He is the end of all our longing:  
Lord, to whom else shall we go?

Words: Huub Oosterhuis  
Music: old French carol, Setting by Bernard Huijbers Translation: Turvey



**ANTIPHON 2:** Let my prayer \* rise before you like incense.

Psalm 140



I have called to you, Lord; hasten to help me!  
Hear my voice when I cry to you.  
Let my prayer arise before you like incense,  
the raising of my hands like an evening oblation.

Set, O Lord, a guard over my mouth;  
keep watch, O Lord, at the door of my lips!  
Do not turn my heart to things that are wrong,  
to evil deeds with men who are sinners.

Never allow me to share in their feasting.  
If a good man strikes or reproves me it is kindness;  
but let the oil of the wicked not anoint my head.  
Let my prayer be ever against their malice.

Their princes were thrown down by the side of the rock:  
then they understood that my words were kind.  
As a millstone is shattered to pieces on the ground,  
so their bones were strewn at the mouth of the grave.

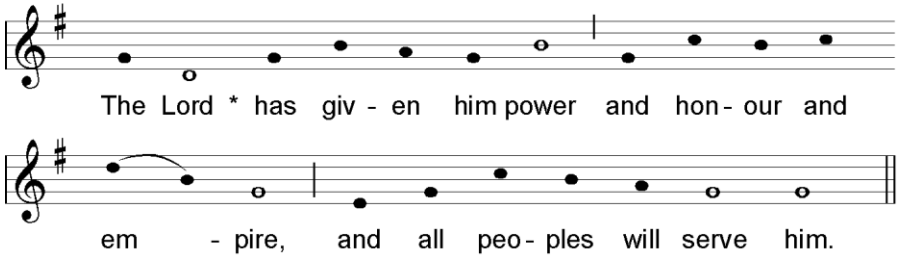
To you, Lord God, my eyes are turned:  
in you I take refuge; spare my soul!  
From the trap they have laid for me keep me safe:  
keep me from the snares of those who do evil.

Let the wicked fall into the traps they have set  
whilst I pursue my way unharmed.

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

**ANTIPHON 2:** Let my prayer \* rise before you like incense.

### ANTIPHON 3



The Lord \* has giv - en him power and hon - our and  
em - pire, and all peo - ples will serve him.

### NT Canticle 20

(Rev 11:17–18;12:10b–12a)



We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty,  
who are and who were,  
that you have taken your great power  
and begun to reign.

The nations raged,  
but your wrath came,  
and the time for the dead to be judged,  
for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints,  
and those who fear your name,  
both small and great.

Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God  
and the authority of his Christ have come.  
For the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down,  
who accuses them day and night before our God.

And they have conquered him  
by the blood of the Lamb  
and by the word of their testimony,  
for they loved not their lives even unto death.  
Rejoice, then, O heaven,  
and you that dwell therein.

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

### REPEAT ANTIPHON



## SCRIPTURE READING

## RESPONSORY

This is God's commandment: that we should believe in his Son and love one another. *(repeat)*

The love of God has been revealed among us:

That we should believe in his Son and love one another.

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

This is God's commandment: that we should believe in his Son and love one another.

## MAGNIFICAT ANTIPHON

Holy doctors, \* Saint Basil and Saint Gregory, lights of the Church, lovers of God's law, pray for us to the Son of God.





## 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.

