

# SAINT BERNARD TOLOMEI



## VESPERS

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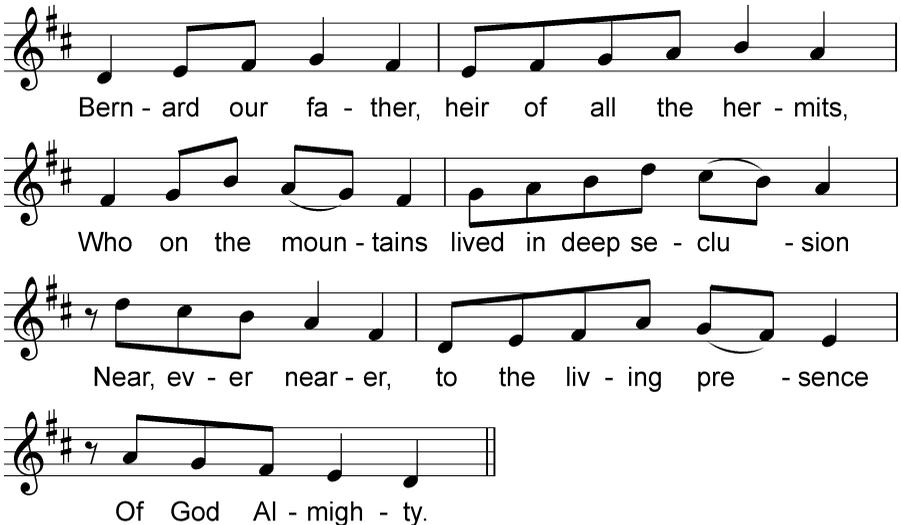
## SAINT BERNARD TOLOMEI

## 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

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Bernard our father, heir of all the hermits,  
Who on the mountains lived in deep seclusion  
Near, ever nearer, to the living presence  
Of God Almighty.

Moses, Elijah, Benedict, the Baptist,  
Fasting and watching knew the depths and chasms,  
Brightness and darkness, of the Godhead hidden  
In contemplation.

Deep in the cloud you joined those great forerunners,  
But to you, Bernard, even more was granted:  
Faithful, unsleeping, in the olive garden  
You watched with Jesus.

Then like your Leader you took up your chalice,  
Moved by compassion, left your loved seclusion,  
Went to the city, there to serve your people  
Dying plague-stricken.

At your passover Mary gave you welcome,  
Clothed you with joy in Jesus' resurrection:  
Pray that we too in life and death may worship  
God the All-Loving!

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**ANTIPHON 1:** Bernard \* was a man of holy life, in all things an example.

Psalm 72



How good God is to Israel,  
to those who are pure of heart.  
Yet my feet came close to stumbling,  
my steps had almost slipped  
for I was filled with envy of the proud  
when I saw how the wicked prosper.

For them there are no pains;  
their bodies are sound and sleek.  
They have no share in men's sorrows;  
they are not stricken like others.

So they wear their pride like a necklace,  
they clothe themselves with violence.  
Their hearts overflow with malice,  
their minds seethe with plots.

They scoff; they speak with malice;  
from on high they plan oppression.  
They have set their mouths in the heavens  
and their tongues dictate to the earth.

So the people turn to follow them  
and drink in all their words.  
They say: 'How can God know?  
Does the Most High take any notice?'  
Look at them, such are the wicked,  
but untroubled, they grow in wealth.

How useless to keep my heart pure  
and wash my hands in innocence,  
when I was stricken all day long,  
suffered punishment day after day.

Then I said: 'If I should speak like that,  
I should betray the race of your sons.'

I strove to fathom this problem,  
too hard for my mind to understand,  
until I pierced the mysteries of God  
and understood what becomes of the wicked.

How slippery the paths on which you set them;  
You make them slide to destruction.  
How suddenly they come to their ruin,  
wiped out, destroyed by terrors.  
Like a dream one wakes from, O Lord,  
when you wake you dismiss them as phantoms.

And so when my heart grew embittered  
and when I was cut to the quick,  
I was stupid and did not understand,  
no better than a beast in your sight.

Yet I was always in your presence;  
you were holding me by my right hand.  
You will guide me by your counsel  
and so you will lead me to glory.

What else have I in heaven but you?  
Apart from you I want nothing on earth.  
My body and my heart faint for joy;  
God is my possession for ever.

All those who abandon you shall perish;  
you will destroy all those who are faithless.  
To be near God is my happiness.  
I have made the Lord God my refuge.  
I will tell of all your works  
at the gates of the city of Zion.

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

**ANTIPHON 1:** Bernard \* was a man of holy life, in all things an example.

**ANTIPHON 2:** Bernard \* and his friends, men dear to God, withdrew into  
solitude to serve him.

Psalm 138



( O Lord, you search me and you know me,  
you know my resting and my rising,  
you discern my purpose from afar.  
You mark when I walk or lie down,  
all my ways lie open to you.

( Before ever a word is on my tongue  
( you know it, O Lord, through and through.  
( Behind and before you besiege me,  
( your hand ever laid upon me.  
Too wonderful for me, this knowledge,  
too high, beyond my reach.

O where can I go from your spirit,  
or where can I flee from your face?  
If I climb the heavens, you are there.  
If I lie in the grave, you are there.

If I take the wings of the dawn  
and dwell at the sea's furthest end,  
even there your hand would lead me,  
your right hand would hold me fast.

If I say: 'Let the darkness hide me  
and the light around me be night,'  
even darkness is not dark for you  
and the night is as clear as the day.

For it was you who created my being,  
knit me together in my mother's womb.  
I thank you for the wonder of my being,  
for the wonders of all your creation.

Already you knew my soul,  
my body held no secret from you  
when I was being fashioned in secret  
and moulded in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes saw all my actions,  
they were all of them written in your book;  
every one of my days was decreed  
before one of them came into being.

To me, how mysterious your thoughts,  
the sum of them not to be numbered!  
If I count them, they are more than the sand;  
to finish, I must be eternal, like you.

O God, that you would slay the wicked!  
Men of blood, keep far away from me!  
With deceit they rebel against you  
and set your designs at naught.





## SCRIPTURE READING

## RESPONSORY

My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life. *(repeat)*

When can I enter and see the face of God?

The God of my life.

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

My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life.

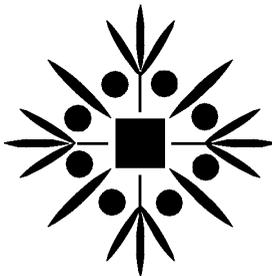
## MAGNIFICAT ANTIPHONS

### FIRST VESPERS

The Lord \* has named you 'Olive tree', because you have borne much fruit.

### SECOND VESPERS

Your children \* are like shoots of the olive, around the Master's table.



# MAGNIFICAT

## Canticle of Mary

(Luke 1:46–55)



My soul magnifies the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my saviour;  
so tenderly has he looked upon his servant,  
humble as she is.

For from this day forth  
all generations will count me blessed,  
so wonderfully has he dealt with me,  
the Lord, the mighty one.

His name is holy,  
his mercy sure from generation to generation  
toward those who fear him;  
the deeds of his arm disclose his might.

The arrogant of heart and mind he has put to rout,  
torn powers from their thrones but lifted up the humble.  
The hungry he has satisfied with good things,  
the rich sent empty away.

He has ranged himself on the side of Israel his servant,  
firm in his promise to our fathers.  
He has not forgotten to show mercy,  
to Abraham and his children 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.

Downside

**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.

