

# SAINT JOSEPH



# FIRST VESPERS

BENEDICTINE COMMUNITIES  
TURVEY BEDFORDSHIRE

**19th MARCH**

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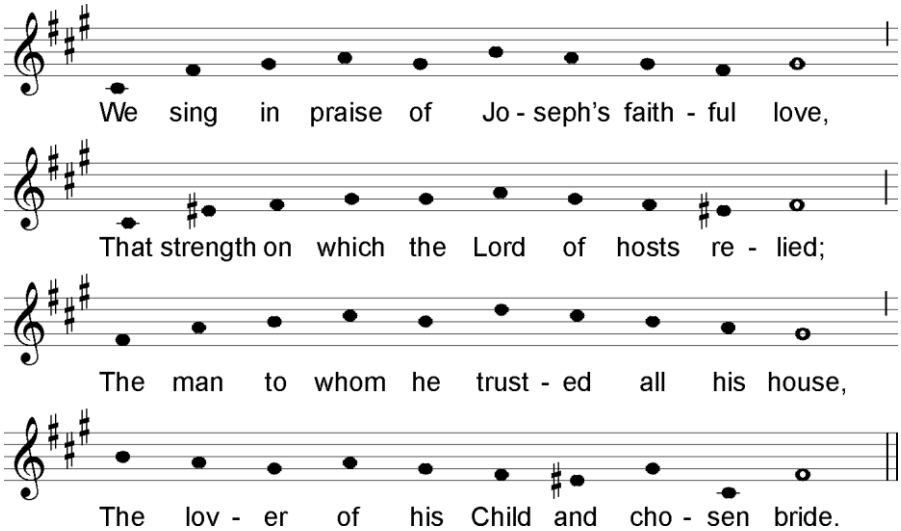
# SAINT JOSEPH

# FIRST 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.

## HYMN

Stanbrook Abbey



We sing in praise of Jo - seph's faith - ful love,  
That strength on which the Lord of hosts re - lied;  
The man to whom he trust - ed all his house,  
The lov - er of his Child and cho - sen bride.

His love was humble, flame of God's own fire,  
A light to guide the path he trod alone.  
Like Abraham, like Moses, he believed,  
And went in faith to find a land unknown.

To Father, Son and Spirit offer praise,  
Who guide us to fulfil their loving call;  
May Joseph guard us still, Christ's Church and Bride,  
Till time is done, and God is all in all.

Turvey





( 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.

Do I not hate those who hate you,  
abhor those who rise against you?  
I hate them with a perfect hate  
and they are foes to me.

O search me, God, and know my heart.  
O test me and know my thoughts.  
See that I follow not the wrong path  
and lead me in the path of life eternal.

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:** The angel Gabriel \* was sent by God to a town in Galilee  
called Nazareth, to a virgin who was betrothed to a man  
named Joseph.

**ANTIPHON 3:** I will rejoice \* in the Lord, and exult in Jesus my saviour!



NT Canticle 6 (Romans 8:14–17)

Everyone moved by the Spirit  
is a son of God.

You received, not the spirit of slaves,  
to bring back fear into your lives

but the spirit of sons  
which makes us cry out, 'Abba, Father!'

The Spirit bears witness with our spirit  
that we are truly children of God.

And if we are children, then we are heirs:  
heirs of God, who share in Christ's inheritance.

We share in his sufferings  
that we may also come to share his glory.

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

**ANTIPHON 3:** I will rejoice \* in the Lord, and exult in Jesus my saviour!





## SCRIPTURE READING

## RESPONSORY

The just man will flourish like the palm-tree,  
he will grow like a Lebanon cedar.

*(Repeat)*

Planted in the house of the Lord:

He will grow like a Lebanon cedar.

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

The just man will flourish like the palm-tree,  
he will grow like a Lebanon cedar.





## 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.

