

VESPERS (WEEK III)

Presider (P): God, + come to my assistance.

All Respond (A): Lord, make haste to help me.

P: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

A: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. (Alleluia.)

HYMN & PSALMODY

Ant. 1 P: Our eyes are fixed intently on the Lord, waiting for his merciful help (Psalm 123).

Mary Side of Church (M): To you have I lifted up my eyes, * you who dwell in the heavens: my eyes, like the eyes of slaves * on the hand of their lords.

Joseph Side of Church (J): Like the eyes of a servant * on the hand of her mistress, so our eyes are on the Lord our God * till he show us his mercy.

M: Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy. * We are filled with contempt. Indeed all too full is our soul † with the scorn of the rich, * with the proud man's disdain.

J: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, * and to the Holy Spirit:

M: as it was in the beginning, is now, * and will be forever. Amen.

A: Our eyes are fixed intently on the Lord, waiting for his merciful help.

Ant. 2 P: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made Heaven and earth.

M: "If the Lord had not been on our side," * this is Israel's song. "If the Lord had not been on our side * when men rose against us, then would they have swallowed us alive * when their anger was kindled.

J: Then would the waters have engulfed us, * the torrent gone over us; over our head would have swept * the raging waters."

M: Blessed be the Lord who did not give us * a prey to their teeth! Our life, like a bird, has escaped * from the

snare of the fowler.

J: Indeed the snare has been broken * and we have escaped. Our help is in the name of the Lord, * who made heaven and earth.

M: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, * and to the Holy Spirit:

J: as it was in the beginning, is now, * and will be forever. Amen.

A: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made Heaven and earth.

Ant. 3 P: God chose us in his Son to be his adopted children (Ephesians 1:3-10).

M: Praised be the God and Father * of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has bestowed on us in Christ * every spiritual blessing in the heavens.

J: God chose us in him * before the world began to be holy * and blameless in his sight.

M: He predestined us * to be his adopted sons through Jesus Christ, such was his will and pleasure, † that all might praise the glorious favor * he has bestowed on us in his beloved.

J: In him and through his blood, we have been redeemed, * and our sins forgiven, so immeasurably generous * is God's favor to us.

M: God has given us the wisdom * to understand fully the mystery, the plan he was pleased * to decree in Christ.

J: A plan to be carried out * in Christ, in the fullness of time, to bring all things into one in him, * in the heavens and on earth.

M: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, * and to the Holy Spirit:

J: as it was in the beginning, is now, * and will be forever. Amen.

A: God chose us in his Son to be his adopted children.

READING: James 4:11-12

Do not, my brothers, speak ill of one another. The one who speaks ill of his brother or judges his brother is speaking against the law. It is the law he judges. If, however, you judge the law you are no observer of the law, you are its judge. There is but one Lawgiver and judge, one who can save and destroy. Who then are you to judge your neighbor?

RESPONSORY

P: Lord, you alone can heal me, for I have grieved you by my sins.

A: Lord, you alone can heal me, for I have grieved you by my sins.

P: Once more I say: O Lord, have mercy on me,

A: for I have grieved you by my sins.

P: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

A: Lord, you alone can heal me, for I have grieved you by my sins.

GOSPEL CANTICLE: LUKE 1:46-55

Ant.: **P:** My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

A: My + soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, † my spirit rejoices in God my Savior * for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: † the Almighty has done great things for me, * and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him * in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, * he has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, * and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, * and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel * for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, * to Abraham and his children forever. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, * and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, * and will be forever. Amen.

A: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, for he

has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

INTERCESSIONS

P: Christ desires to lead all men to salvation. Let us implore him with all our heart:

A: Draw all things to yourself, Lord.

P: Through your precious blood, Lord, you redeemed us from the slavery of sin,

A: grant us the freedom of the sons of God.

P: Bestow your grace upon our bishop Blase, and upon all bishops,

A: may they administer your sacraments with fervent joy.

P: Grant that all who seek the truth may find it,

A: and in finding it may they desire it all the more.

P: Be present to comfort widows, orphans and all the abandoned, Lord,

A: may they feel close to you and cling to you.

P: Receive our departed brethren into the heavenly kingdom,

A: where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you will be all in all.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CONCLUDING PRAYER

God our Father, at the close of day we come to you, the light that never fades. Shine in the darkness of our night and forgive our sins and failings. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. And may the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.