Compline

 December 21-23

Blessed are you, holy and living God.

*You come to your people and set us free*. *Amen.*

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of the bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. *Amen.*

O God, make speed to save us.

*O Lord, make haste to help us*.

Let us say together the psalm.

**Psalm 16**

O Lord, you are my portion and my cup;

 it is you who uphold my lot.

My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;

 indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel;

 my heart teaches me, night after night.

I have set the Lord always before me;

 because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.

My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;

 my body also shall rest in hope.

For you will not abandon me to the grave,

 nor let your holy one see the Pit.

You will show me the path of life;

 in your presence there is fullness of joy,

 and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

**Psalm 42**

As the deer longs for the water-brooks,

 so longs my soul for you, O God.

My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God;

 when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?

My tears have been my food day and night,

 while all day long they say to me,

 "Where now is your God?"

I pour out my soul when I think on these things;

 how I went with the multitude and led them into the house of God,

With the voice of praise and thanksgiving,

 among those who keep holy-day.

Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul?

 and why are you so disquieted within me?

Put your trust in God;

 for I will yet give thanks to him,

 who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

**Psalm 146**

Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

 I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

 I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth,

 for there is no help in them.

When they breath their last, they return to earth,

 and in that day their thoughts perish.

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help!

 whose hope is in the name of the Lord their God;

Who made heaven and earth, the seas and all that is in them;

 who keeps his promises forever;

Who gives justice to those who are oppressed,

 and food to those who hunger.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

 the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;

 the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

The Lord loves the righteous;

 the Lord cares for the stranger;

 he sustains the orphan and widow,

 but frustrates the way of the wicked.

The Lord shall reign for ever,

 your God, O Zion, throughout all generations,

 Hallelujah!

**Readings**

**Monday**

Many people shall come and say, "Come, let us go to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths. Out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord! *Isaiah 2:3-4*

**Tuesday**

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together, and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. *Isaiah 11:6-9*

**Wednesday**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. *Isaiah 35:1, 5-6*

**Thursday**

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the voice of the Lord has spoken." *Isaiah 40:1-5*

**Friday**

The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion -- to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. *Isaiah 61:1-3*

**An Advent Litany**

Lord, we wait with eager expectation for the coming of your kingdom, when the humble will be exalted and the hungry fed.

*Your kingdom come, your will be done*.

Lord, we prepare for your advent with searching minds and contrite hearts, trusting in your healing spirit and redemptive love.

*Your kingdom come, your will be done.*

Lord, we watch with those who wait and weep, longing to see the rule of justice and the reign of peace.

*Your kingdom come, your will be done.*

Lord, we seek you among the despised and rejected, knowing that there we shall find your light shining in the dark.

*Your kingdom come, your will be done.*

Lord, we proclaim sight to the blind and liberty to the oppressed, trusting in your tender mercy and passion for justice.

*Your kingdom come, your will be done*

Lord, we work with you to proclaim your truth, challenging the mighty and raising the meek.

*Your kingdom come, your will be done.*

Lord, we wrestle with our hopes and fears, our struggles and joys, laboring with creation to come to new birth.

*Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

Lord, hear our prayer.

*And let our cry come to you.*

Let us pray.

*The officiant says one of the following collects*.

Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*The following prayers may be added*.

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love’s sake. *Amen.*

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen*.

*Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ; and asleep we may rest in peace*.

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 forebears,

 to Abraham and Sarah and their children for ever.

*Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ; and asleep we may rest in peace.*

Jesus, Lord of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We, who have so much to do, seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We, who are anxious over many things, look forward to your coming among us.

We, who are blessed in so many ways, long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We, whose hearts are heavy, seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!" *Amen*.

Let us bless the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*