COMPLINE

Advent

Priory of the Holy Spirit
Blackfriars, Oxford
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INTRODUCTION & ACT OF REPENTANCE

O God, come to our aid. R. O Lord, make haste to help us. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,

and to the Ho-ly Spi-rit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Alle-lu-ia.

Alternatively:

O God, come to our aid. R. O Lord, make haste to help us. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,

and to the Ho-ly Spi-rit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Alle-lu-ia.

Pause for examination of conscience.

Hebdom.: I confess * to almighty God,

to blessed Mary, ever-virgin,
to blessed Dominic our father,
to all the Saints, and to you, my brothers and sisters,

that I have sinned exceedingly

in thought, word, deed and omission,

through my fault:

I ask you to pray for me.

Prior: May almighty God have mercy on us,

and forgive us all our sins,

deliver us from every evil,

save and strengthen us in every good work,

and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.
Now, with the fast departing light, Maker of all, we ask of thee, of thy great mercy, through the night, our guardian and de-fence to be. 2. Grant that our hearts may rest in thee: and never cease to let thy light shine on us, draw us; so that we may praise thy glory day and night.

3. The dark of night, the dark of sin be pierced and broken by thy rays: thy love our whole affection win; thy truth be shown in all our ways. 4. O loving Father, hear our cry, and thou, the Father’s only Son, with whom the Spirit reigns on high, eternal, equal, Three in One. A-men.
Psalm 4

When I call, answer me, O God of justice; * from anguish you released me, have mercy and hear me!

O men, how long will your hearts be closed, * will you love what is futile and seek what is false?

It is the Lord who grants favours to those whom he loves; * the Lord hears me whenever I call him.

Fear him; do not sin: * ponder on your bed and be still

Make justice your sacrifice, * and trust in the Lord.

‘What can bring us happiness?’ many say, * Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.

You have put into my heart a greater joy, * than they have from abundance of corn and new wine.

I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once * for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son * and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, * world without end. Amen.

Repeat antiphon

Psalm 133(134)

O come, bless the Lord, * all you who serve the Lord.

who stand in the house of the Lord, * in the courts of the house of our God.

Lift up your hands to the holy place * and bless the Lord through the night.

May the Lord bless you from Sion, * he who made both heaven and earth.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son * and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, * world without end. Amen.

Repeat antiphon
He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High * and abides in the shade of the Almighty
   says to the Lord: ‘My refuge, *
   my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!’
It is he who will free you from the snare *
   of the fowler who seeks to destroy you;
   he will conceal you with his pinions *
   and under his wings you will find refuge.
You will not fear the terror of the night *
   nor the arrow that flies by day,
   nor the plague that prowls in the darkness *
   nor the scourge that lays waste at noon.
A thousand may fall at your side, *
   ten thousand fall at your right,
   you, it will never approach: *
   his faithfulness is buckler and shield.
Your eyes have only to look *
   to see how the wicked are repaid,
   you who have said: ‘Lord, my refuge!’ *
   and have made the Most High your dwelling.
Upon you no evil shall fall, *
   no plague approach where you dwell.
   For you has he commanded his angels, *
   to keep you in all your ways.
They shall bear you upon their hands *
   lest you strike your foot against a stone.
   On the lion and the viper you will tread *
   and trample the young lion and the dragon.
Since he clings to me in love, I will free him; *
   protect him for he knows my name.
   When he calls I shall answer: ‘I am with you,’ *
   I will save him in distress and give him glory.
With length of days I will content him; *
   I shall let him see my saving power.
   Glory be to the Father and to the Son *
   and to the Holy Spirit,
   as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, *
   world without end. Amen.

Repeat antiphon
Psalm 85(86)

Lord God, you are slow to anger, abounding in love.

Turn your ear, O Lord, and give answer * for I am poor and needy.

Preserve my life, for I am faithful; *
save the servant who trusts in you.

You are my God, have mercy on me, Lord, *
for I cry to you all the day long.

Give joy to your servant, O Lord, *
for to you I lift up my soul.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving, *
full of love to all who call.

Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer *
and attend to the sound of my voice.

In the day of distress I will call *
and surely you will reply.

Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord; *
nor work to compare with yours.

All the nations shall come to adore you *
and glorify your name, O Lord:

for you are great and do marvellous deeds, *
you who alone are God.

Show me, Lord, your way *
so that I may walk in your truth. *

Guide my heart to fear your name.

I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart *
and glorify your name for ever;

for your love to me has been great: *
you have saved me from the depths of the grave.

The proud have risen against me; *
ruthless men seek my life; *
to you they pay no heed.

But you, God of mercy and compassion, *
slow to anger, O Lord,

abounding in love and truth, *
turn and take pity on me.

O give your strength to your servant *
and save your handmaid’s child.

Show me the sign of your favour *
that my foes may see to their shame *
that you console me and give me your help.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son *
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,*
world without end. Amen.

Repeat antiphon
Psalm 142(143):1-11

Lord, listen to my prayer: * turn your ear to my appeal * You are faithful, you are just; give answer. Do not call your servant to judgement * for no one is just in your sight.
The enemy pursues my soul; *
he has crushed my life to the ground;
he has made me dwell in darkness *
like the dead, long forgotten.
Therefore my spirit fails; *
my heart is numb within me.
I remember the days that are past; *
I ponder all your works.
I muse on what your hand has wrought *
and to you I stretch out my hands. *
Like a parched land my soul thirsts for you.
Lord, make haste and answer; *
for my spirit fails within me.
Do not hide your face *
lest I become like those in the grave.
In the morning let me know your love *
for I put my trust in you.
Make me know the way I should walk *
to you I lift up my soul.
Rescue me, Lord, from my enemies; *
I have fled to you for refuge.
Teach me to do your will *
for you, O Lord, are my God.
Let your good spirit guide me *
in ways that are level and smooth.
For your name’s sake, Lord, save my life *
in your justice save my soul from distress.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son *
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, *
world without end. Amen.

Repeat antiphon
God, be my protector and my refuge.

Psalm 30(31):1-6

In you, O Lord, I take refuge. * Let me never be put to shame.
   In your justice, set me free. *
   hear me and speedily rescue me.
Be a rock of refuge for me, *
   a mighty stronghold to save me,
   for you are my rock, my stronghold. *
   For your name’s sake, lead me and guide me.
Release me from the snares they have hidden *
   for you are my refuge, Lord.
   Into your hands I commend my spirit. *
   It is you who will redeem me, Lord.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son *
   and to the Holy Spirit,
   as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, *
   world without end. Amen.

Repeat antiphon

Lord, hear my voice! * O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading.
   If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, *
   Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness: *
   for this we revere you.
   My soul is waiting for the Lord. *
   I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord *
   more than watchman for daybreak.
   Let the watchman count on daybreak *
   and Israel on the Lord.
Because with the Lord there is mercy *
   and fulness of redemption,
   Israel indeed he will redeem *
   from all its iniquity.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son *
   and to the Holy Spirit,
   as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, *
   world without end. Amen.

Repeat antiphon
Thursday

My body shall rest in safety.

Psalm 15(16)

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you. † I say to the Lord: ‘You are my God. * My happiness lies in you alone.’

He has put into my heart a marvellous love *
for the faithful ones who dwell in his land.

Those who choose other gods increase their sorrows. †
Never will I offer their offerings of blood. *
Never will I take their name upon my lips.

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; *
it is you yourself who are my prize.
The lot marked out for me is my delight: *
welcome indeed the heritage that falls to me!

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, *
who even at night directs my heart.

I keep the Lord ever in my sight: *
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; *
even my body shall rest in safety.

For you will not leave my soul among the dead, *
nor let your beloved know decay.

You will show me the path of life, †
the fulness of joy in your presence, *
at your right hand happiness 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 ever shall be, *
world without end. Amen.

Repeat antiphon
Friday

ord, my God, I call for help by day; I cry at night before you.

Psalm 87(88)

Let my prayer come into your presence. * O turn your ear to my cry.

For my soul is filled with evils; * my life is on the brink of the grave.
I am reckoned as one in the tomb; * I have reached the end of my strength,
Like one alone among the dead, * like the slain lying in their graves,
like those you remember no more, * cut off, as they are, from your hand.
You have laid me in the depths of the tomb, * in places that are dark, in the depths.
Your anger weighs down upon me; * I am drowned beneath your waves.
You have taken away my friends * and made me hateful in their sight.
Imprisoned, I cannot escape; *
my eyes are sunken with grief.
I call to you, Lord, all the day long; * to you I stretch out my hands.
Will you work your wonders for the dead? * Will the shades stand and praise you?
Will your love be told in the grave * or your faithfulness among the dead?
Will your wonders be known in the dark * or your justice in the land of oblivion?
As for me, Lord, I call to you for help; * in the morning my prayer comes before you.
Lord, why do you reject me? *
Why do you hide your face?
Wretched, close to death from my youth, *
I have borne your trials; I am numb.
Your fury has swept down upon me; * your terrors have utterly destroyed me.
They surround me all the day like a flood, * they assail me all together.
Friend and neighbour you have taken away: *
my one companion is darkness.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son *
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, *
world without end. Amen.

Repeat antiphon
Scripture Reading

17th December

Reading
Wisdom 8:1-2
Wisdom reaches mightily from one end of the earth to the other, and she orders all things well. I loved her and sought her from my youth, and I desired to take her for my bride, and I became enamored of her beauty.

18th December

Reading
Isaiah 31:22
For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our ruler, the Lord is our king; he will save us.

19th December

Reading
Isaiah 11:10
In that day the root of Jesse shall stand as an ensign to the peoples; him shall the nations seek, and his dwellings shall be glorious.

20th December

Reading
Psalm 22(23):4
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for thou art with me: thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

21st December

Reading
Numbers 24:17
I see him – but not in the present, I behold him – but not close at hand: a star from Jacob takes the leadership, a sceptre arises from Israel. It crushes the brows of Moab the skulls of all the sons of Sheth.

22nd December

Reading
Jeremiah 10:7
There is none like thee, O Lord; thou art great, and thy name is great in might. Who would not fear thee, O King of the nations? For this is thy due; for among all the wise ones of the nations and in all their kingdoms there is none like thee.

23rd December

Reading
Isaiah 7:14-15
Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.
O antiphons

17 December

O Sa-pi-énti-a, quae ex ore Altíssimi prodi-ísti, attingens a fine usque ad finem fórti-ter, su-avi-tére dispónens ómni-a: veni ad do-céndum nos vi-am prudénti-æ.

18 December


19 December

O Ra-dix lesse, qui stas in signum popu-lórum, super quem continébunt reges os su-um, quem gentes depre-cabúntur: veni ad li-be-rándum nos, iam no-li tardáre.

20 December

O Clá-vis David, et sceptrum domus Is-ra-él, qui ápe-ris, et nemo claudit, claudis, et nemo ápe-rít: veni, et e-duc vinctum de domo cárce-ris, O Wisdom, who came forth from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from end to end, powerfully and sweetly ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of prudence.

O Adonai, and leader of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush, and who gave him the law on Sinai: Come to redeem us with outstretched arm.

O Root of Jesse, set up as a sign for the peoples, before whom kings will stop their mouths, to whom the nations will pray: Come to set us free, delay no more.

O Key of David, and the sceptre of the house of Israel, who open and no one shuts, who shut and no one opens: Come and bring out the captive from the prison-house, him who sits in
21 DECEMBER


22 DECEMBER

O Rex génti-um, et de-siderátus e-árum, lapsique anguí-láris, qui fa-cis útraque unum: veni, et salva hóminem, quem de limo formásti.

23 DECEMBER

O Emmanu-el, Rex et légi-fer noster, exspectá-ti-o génti-um, et Salvá-tor e-á-rum: veni ad salvándum nos, Dómine, De-us noster.
RESPONSORY

The Responsory follows after a pause for reflection.

Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit. R. Into your hands. V. You have redeemed us, Lord God of truth. R. I commend. V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

R. Into your hands.
Nunc Dimittis

Save us, Lord, while we are awake; protect us while we sleep; that we may keep watch with Christ, and rest with him in peace.

At last, all-powerful Master, you give leave to your servant to go in peace according to your promise;

for my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared for all nations, the light to enlighten the Gentiles and give glory to Israel your people. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Repeat antiphon
COLLECT AND BLESSING

SUNDAY, AFTER FIRST VESPERS

Let us pray. † Come to visit us, Lord, this night, * so that by your strength we may rise at daybreak † to rejoice in the resurrection of Christ, your Son, * who lives and reigns for ever and ever. † R. Amen.

SUNDAY, AFTER SECOND VESPERS

Let us pray. † God our Father, as we have celebrated today the mystery of the Lord’s resurrection, grant our humble prayer; † free us from all harm that we may sleep in peace and rise in joy to sing your praise. * Through Christ Our Lord. † R. Amen.

MONDAY

Let us pray. † Lord, give our bodies restful sleep; † and let the work we have done today be sown for an eternal harvest. * Through Christ Our Lord. † R. Amen.

TUESDAY

Let us pray. † In your mercy, Lord, dispel the darkness of this night. * Let your household so sleep in peace † that at the dawn of a new day they may, with joy, waken in your name. * Through Christ Our Lord. † R. Amen.

WEDNESDAY

Let us pray. † Lord Jesus Christ, meek and humble of heart, you offer to those who follow you a yoke that is good to bear, a burden that is light. * Accept, we beg you, our prayer and work of this day, † and grant us the rest we need that we may be ever more willing to serve you, * who lives and reigns for ever and ever. † R. Amen.

THURSDAY

Let us pray. † Lord our God, restore us again by the repose of sleep after the fatigue of our daily work, * so that, continually renewed by your help, † we may serve you in body and soul. * Through Christ Our Lord. † R. Amen.

FRIDAY

Let us pray. † Give us grace, almighty God, so to unite ourselves in faith with your only Son, * who underwent death and lay buried in the tomb, † that we may rise again in newness of life with him, * who lives and reigns for ever and ever. † R. Amen.

BLESSING

May the almighty and merciful Lord grant us a quiet night and a perfect end. R. Amen.
ANTHEMS TO OUR LADY
ALMA REDEMPTORIS MATER

O nourishing Mother of the Redeemer, who remain the open gate of heaven, and star of the sea, help the fallen people who strive to arise. You who gave birth, while nature was amazed, to your holy Begetter, Virgin before and after, accepting from the mouth of Gabriel that 'Hail', have pity on sinners.

We fly to thy patronage, O holy Mother of God; despise not our prayers in our time of need, but deliver us always from all dangers, O blessed Virgin.

Inviolate, untouched and chaste are you, Mary; you were made the shining gate of heaven. O kind and dearest mother of Christ, receive our loving songs of praise. That our minds and bodies may be pure, devoted hearts and lips implore you. Through your sweet-sounding prayers...
Ora. Tu-a per precá-ta dulcí-sona Nobis concédas véni-am per sǽcu-la.

O be-nígna, Quæ so-la invi-o-lá-ta perman-sí-sti.

RECORDARE, VIRGO

Remember, O Virgin Mother,
when you stand in the sight of God,
to speak good on our behalf
to turn his wrath away from us.

grant us pardon through all the ages, gentle Mary, who alone remained inviolate.
**ANTHEMS TO ST DOMINIC**

**O Lumen Ecclesiae**

O light of the Church, teacher of truth, rose of patience, ivory of chastity, you have freely poured forth the waters of wisdom: preacher of grace, unite us with the blessed.

**MAGNE PATER**

Great Father, holy Dominic, take us to yourself at the hour of our death and always look kindly upon us here.

**PIE PATER**

O loving father Dominic, remember your works and stand before the supreme Judge on behalf of your band of poor ones.

**IN MEDIO ECCLESiae**

In the midst of the assembly the Lord opened his mouth and filled him with the spirit of wisdom and understanding: he clothed him with a robe of glory. V. He heaped up joy and exultation upon him.
et Fí-li-o, et Spi-rí-tu-i Sancto. Sicut erat in principi-o, et nunc, et semper,


Fidélium ánimæ per misericórdiam Dei requiéscant in pace.

R. Amen.

(\textit{May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.})