



VESPERS

(Feast of St Pius of Pietrelcina)

**For Vocations to Priesthood,
Religious Life and Married Life**

Introduction

Leader: O God, come to our aid. +

All: O Lord, make haste to help us.

Leader: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

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

Hymn

Who are these like stars appearing,
these, before God's throne who stand?
Each a golden crown is wearing;
who are all this glorious band?
Alleluia! Hark, they sing,
praising loud their heavenly King.

Who are these of dazzling brightness,
clothed in God's own righteousness?
These, whose robes of purest whiteness,
shall their lustre still possess,
still untouched by time's rude hand?
Whence came all this glorious band?

These are they who have contended
for their Saviour's honour long,
wrestling on till life was ended,
following not the sinful throng;
these who well the fight sustained,
triumph through the Lamb have gained.

These are they whose hearts were riven,
sore with woe and anguish tried,
who in prayer full oft have striven
with the God they glorified;
now, their painful conflict o'er,
God has bid them weep no more.

These, the Almighty contemplating,
did as priests before him stand,
soul and body always waiting
day and night at his command:
now in God's most holy place
blest they stand before his face.

Psalmody
Psalm 40 (41)

Prayer in time of sickness

Leader: Lord, heal my soul, for I have sinned against you.

Side 1: Happy the man who considers the poor and the weak.
**The Lord will save him in the day of evil,
will guard him, give him life, make him happy in the land
and will not give him up to the will of his foes.
The Lord will help him on his bed of pain,
he will bring him back from sickness to health.**

Side 2: **As for me, I said: 'Lord, have mercy on me,
heal my soul for I have sinned against you.'
My foes are speaking evil against me.
'How long before he dies and his name is forgotten?'
They come to visit me and speak empty words,
their hearts full of malice, they spread it abroad.**

Side 1: **My enemies whisper together against me.
They all weigh up the evil which is on me.
'Some deadly thing has fastened upon him,
he will not rise again from where he lies.'
Thus even my friend, in whom I trusted,
who ate my bread, has turned against me.**

Side 2: **But you, O Lord, have mercy on me.
Let me rise once more and I will repay them.
By this I shall know that you are my friend,
if my foes do not shout in triumph over me.
If you uphold me I shall be unharmed
and set in your presence for evermore.**

Side 1: **Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel
from age to age. Amen. Amen.**

Side 2: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,**

Side 1: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

All: Lord, heal my soul, for I have sinned against you.

Psalm 45 (46) God, our refuge and our strength
"They will call his name 'Immanuel', which means 'God with us'" (Mt 1:23)

Leader: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our
stronghold.

Side 1: God is for us a refuge and strength,
a helper close at hand, in time of distress,
so we shall not fear though the earth should rock,
though the mountains fall into the depths of the sea;
even though its waters rage and foam,
even though the mountains be shaken by its waves.

Side 2: The Lord of hosts is with us:
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Side 1: The waters of a river give joy to God's city,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.
God is within, it cannot be shaken;
God will help it at the dawning of the day.
Nations are in tumult, kingdoms are shaken:
he lifts his voice, the earth shrinks away.

Side 2: The Lord of hosts is with us:
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Side 1: Come, consider the works of the Lord,
the redoubtable deeds he has done on the earth.
He puts an end to wars over all the earth;
the bow he breaks, the spear he snaps.
He burns the shields with fire.
'Be still and know that I am God,
supreme among the nations, supreme on the earth!'

Side 2: **The Lord of hosts is with us:
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

Side 1: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,**

Side 2: **as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

All: **The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our
stronghold.**

Canticle

(Apocalypse 15)

A hymn of adoration

Leader: All the peoples will come and adore you, Lord.

Side 1: **Great and wonderful are your deeds,
O Lord God the Almighty!
Just and true are your ways,
O King of the ages!**

Side 2: **Who shall not fear and glorify your name, O Lord?
For you alone are holy.
All nations shall come and worship you,
for your judgements have been revealed.**

Side 1: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,**

Side 2: **as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

All: **All the peoples will come and adore you, Lord.**

Short Reading

1 Peter 5:1-4

Reader: Now I have something to tell your elders: I am an elder myself, and a witness to the sufferings of Christ, and with you I have a share in the glory that is to be revealed. Be the shepherds of the flock of God that is entrusted to you: watch over it, not simply as a duty but gladly, because God wants it; not for sordid money, but because you are eager to do it. Never be a dictator over any group that is put in your charge, but be an example that the whole flock can follow. When the chief shepherd appears, you will be given the crown of unfading glory.

Short Responsory

Leader: This is a man who loves his brothers and intercedes for the people.

All: **This is a man who loves his brothers and intercedes for the people.**

Leader: He laid down his life for his brothers.

All: **This is a man who loves his brothers and intercedes for the people.**

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

All: **This is a man who loves his brothers and intercedes for the people.**

Canticle - Magnificat

Luke 1:46-55

My soul rejoices in the Lord

Leader: This is the faithful and wise steward whom the Master placed over his household to give them their measure of food at the proper time.

Leader: My soul glorifies the Lord,

All: **my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her lowliness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.**

The Almighty works marvels for me.

Holy his name!

**His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him.**

**He puts forth his arm in strength
and scatters the proud-hearted.
He casts the mighty from their thrones
and raises the lowly.**

**He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.**

**He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy,
the mercy promised to our fathers,
to Abraham and his sons 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.**

**This is the faithful and wise steward whom the Master
placed over his household to give them their measure of
food at the proper time.**

Prayers and intercessions

Leader: Let us pray to Christ, the high priest, who was appointed to represent men in their relations with God.

All: **Lord, save your people.**

Reader: Lord Jesus, in times past you have lighted the way for your people through wise and holy leaders; may Christians always enjoy this sign of your loving kindness.

All: **Lord, save your people.**

Reader: You forgave the sins of your people when holy pastors prayed; continually cleanse your Church through their powerful intercession.

All: **Lord, save your people.**

Reader: In the presence of their brothers, you anointed your holy ones and poured on them your Spirit; fill with your Holy Spirit all the leaders of your people.

All: **Lord, save your people.**

Reader: Nothing could ever separate the holy pastors from your love; do not lose even one of those whom you redeemed by your passion.

All: **Lord, save your people.**

Reader: Lord, you call men and women to follow you in bonds of poverty, chastity, and obedience; increase upon the earth the numbers of those men and women devoted to your service in religious life.

All: **Lord, save your people.**

Reader: By uniting men and women as one flesh in holy matrimony, you sanctify your people and make them sharers in your work of creation; grant to all married men and women the strength to persevere in love and fidelity.

All: **Lord, save your people.**

Reader: Lord, throughout history you have called men and women to serve you according to your will; open the ears of young people today and give them the courage to respond to your call.

All: **Lord, save your people.**

Reader: Through the pastors of your Church you give your sheep eternal life, and no one can steal them from you; save the faithful departed, for whom you laid down your life.

All: **Lord, save your people.**

Leader: *[Intones the Lord's Prayer]*

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven...**

Leader: Almighty and eternal God,
who, by a singular grace, allowed the priest Saint Pio to
participate in the cross of your Son,
and by means of his ministry renewed the wonders of your
mercy,
grant, through his intercession,
that, constantly united to the passion of Christ,
we may happily arrive at the glory of the resurrection.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

Blessing

Leader: The Lord bless, and us keep us from all evil, and bring us to
everlasting life. +

All: **Amen.**



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