

Evening Prayer – St Catherine of Siena

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 ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Hymn

O Jesu, thou the virgins' crown,
Thy gracious ear to us bow down,
Born of that Virgin whom alone
The Mother and the Maid we own.

In thee, their Bridegroom and their Lord,
The virgins find their bright reward,
And wheresoe'r thy footsteps wend
With hymns and praises thee attend.

O gracious Lord, we thee implore
Thy grace into our minds to pour;
From all defilement keep us free,
And make us pure in heart for thee.

All praise to God the Father be,
All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
Whom with the Spirit we adore,
For ever and for evermore.

Psalm 121 (122)

I will keep myself chaste for you. I will meet you, the bridegroom, carrying a brightly shining lamp, alleluia.

I rejoiced when I heard them say:*
'Let us go to God's house.'
And now our feet are standing*
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city*
strongly compact.
It is there that the tribes go up,*
the tribes of the Lord.

For Israel's law it is,*
there to praise the Lord's name.
There were set the thrones of judgement*
of the house of David.

For the peace of Jerusalem pray:*
'Peace be to your homes!
May peace reign in your walls,*
in your palaces, peace!'

For love of my brethren and friends*
I say: 'Peace upon you!'
For love of the house of the Lord*
I will ask for your good.

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.

I will keep myself chaste for you. I will meet you, the bridegroom, carrying a brightly shining lamp, alleluia.

Psalm 126 (127)

Blessed are the pure in heart: they shall see God, alleluia.

If the Lord does not build the house,*
in vain do its builders labour;
if the Lord does not watch over the city,*
in vain does the watchman keep vigil.

In vain is your earlier rising,*
your going later to rest,
you who toil for the bread you eat,*
when he pours gifts on his beloved while they slumber.

Truly sons are a gift from the Lord,*
a blessing, the fruit of the womb.
Indeed, the sons of youth*
are like arrows in the hand of a warrior.

O the happiness of the man*
who has filled his quiver with these arrows!
He will have no cause for shame*
when he disputes with his foes in the gateways.

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.

Blessed are the pure in heart: they shall see God, alleluia.

Canticle

Ephesians 1:3-10

My firm hope will not be moved; it is based on Christ like a house on a rock, alleluia.

Blessed be the God and Father*
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ*
with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

He chose us in him*
before the foundation of the world,
that we should be holy*
and blameless before him.

He destined us in love*
to be his sons through Jesus Christ,
according to the purpose of his will,†
to the praise of his glorious grace*
which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

In him we have redemption through his blood,*
the forgiveness of our trespasses,
according to the riches of his grace*
which he lavished upon us.

He has made known to us†
in all wisdom and insight*
the mystery of his will,
according to his purpose*
which he set forth in Christ.

His purpose he set forth in Christ*
as a plan for the fullness of time,
to unite all things in him,*
things in heaven and things on 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.

My firm hope will not be moved; it is based on Christ like a house on a rock, alleluia.

Short Reading

1 Corinthians 7:32,34

He who is unmarried is concerned with God's claim, asking how he is to please God; a woman who is free of wedlock, or a virgin, is concerned with the Lord's claim, intent on holiness, bodily and spiritual.

Short Responsory

The virgins come before the king, singing for joy, alleluia, alleluia.
The virgins come before the king, singing for joy, alleluia, alleluia.

They enter the temple of the king.
The virgins come before the king, singing for joy, alleluia, alleluia.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
The virgins come before the king, singing for joy, alleluia, alleluia.

Magnificat

At all times and in all places, Catherine sought God. She found him and was united to him in love, alleluia.

My soul glorifies the Lord,
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.

At all times and in all places, Catherine sought God. She found him and was united to him in love, alleluia.

Prayers and intercessions

Christ the Lord praised those who follow the way of virginity for the sake of the kingdom of heaven.
Let us proclaim his love and pray: **℟** Jesus, king of virgins, hear us.

Christ, our Lord, you presented the Church to yourself, as a chaste virgin to her only husband; - make her pure, holy and faultless. **℟**

Christ, Jesus, the holy virgins went to meet you with lamps burning bright; - keep alive the flame of fidelity in the hearts of religious women. **℟**

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Lord, you have always preserved your Church in a purity and soundness of faith; - grant to all Christians a faith that is true and complete. **℟**

You bring joy to the lives of your faithful as they celebrate the feast of your holy virgin Catherine of Siena; - may they also rejoice in her constant intercession. **℟**

You have welcomed your holy virgins to the wedding feast of heaven; - invite all the dead to the feast of eternal life. **℟**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Almighty God, you made Saint Catherine of Siena a contemplative lover of the Lord's sufferings and an ardent servant of your church. Grant through her prayer that your people may be united to Christ in his mystery and rejoice for ever in the revelation of his glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.