

He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy,  
The mercy promised to our fathers, to Abraham and his sons for ever.

Give praise to the Father Almighty, to His Son Jesus Christ our Lord,  
To the Spirit who dwells in our hearts, both now and forever, Amen.

**Magnificat ant.** O holy doctor, Saint Francis de Sales, light of the Church, lover of the law of God, pray for us to the Son of God.

### INTERCESSIONS

We express before God our longing for unity and our desire to work together with our fellow Christians to hasten the day of unity. In faith we pray:

**Response: You, Lord, are our light and our help.**

1. For all who work and pray and suffer to bring Christians closer together: in faith we pray: **R.**
2. For a renewal in our own parish of a desire for Christian unity: in faith we pray: **R.**
3. For a new commitment to take seriously to heart all that Christians have shared for centuries: in faith we pray: **R.**
4. For a new commitment to take seriously to heart the new agreements Christians are now able to reach: in faith we pray: **R.**
5. For Christians in our area, that God may keep us faithful to the gospel of our Lord: in faith we pray: **R.**
6. For all who work to bring light and understanding where there have been darkness or discord: in faith we pray: **R.**
7. *Pause for those who wish to add an intercession*
8. Grant to the dead eternal life: in faith we pray: **R.**

We are united in our baptismal consecration as we pray the prayer that Jesus gave us: **OUR FATHER**

### CONCLUDING PRAYER

We beseech your mercy, Lord,  
As we offer you this evening praise:  
Keep our hearts always engaged in meditating on your law,  
And grant us the light and reward of eternal life.  
We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **R. Amen.**

### BLESSING

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

## WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

### EVENING PRAYER - Monday

#### 24 January: SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES

#### Bishop and Doctor of the Church

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

### HYMN: CHRIST BE NEAR AT EITHER HAND

- |                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Christ be near at either hand,<br>Christ behind, before me stand,<br>Christ with me where e'er I go,<br>Christ around, above, below.     | 3. Christ my life and only way,<br>Christ my lantern night and day,<br>Christ be my unchanging friend,<br>Guide and shepherd to the end.       |
| 2. Christ be in my head and mind,<br>Christ within my soul enshrined,<br>Christ control my wayward heart;<br>Christ abide and ne'er depart. | 4. Christ be all my strength and might,<br>Christ my captain for the fight;<br>Christ fulfil my soul's desire;<br>Christ, ennoble and inspire. |
| 5. Christ the King and Lord of all,<br>Find me ready at his call;<br>Christ receive my service whole,<br>Hand and body, heart and soul.     |                                                                                                                                                |

### PSALMODY

**Ant. 1:** Our eyes are turned to the Lord; we look for his mercy.

### The Lord is the hope of his people

*The two blind men cried out, 'Lord, have pity on us, Son of David' (Mt 20:30)*

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.

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.

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

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.

**Ant:** Our eyes are turned to the Lord; we look for his mercy.

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

**Our help is in the name of the Lord** **Psalm 123 (124)**  
*The Lord said to Paul, 'Do not fear; for I am with you' (Acts 18:9-10)*

'If the Lórd had not béen on our síde',\*  
this is Ísrael's sóng.

'If the Lórd had not béen on our síde\*  
when mén rose agáinst us,  
thén would they have swállowed us álíve\*  
when their ánger was kindled.

Thén would the wáters have engúlfed us,\*  
the tórrént gone óver us;  
óver our héad would have swépt\*  
the ráging wáters.'

Bléssed be the Lórd who did not gíve us\*  
a préy to their téeth!  
Our lífe, like a bírd, has escáped\*  
from the snáre of the fówler.

Indéed the snáre has been bróken\*  
and wé have escáped.  
Our hélp is in the náme of the Lórd,\*  
who made héaven and éarth.

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.

**Ant:** Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

**Ant. 3:** God has chosen us to be his adopted children through his Son.

**God, the Saviour**

**Canticle: Eph 1:3-10**

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.

**Ant.** God has chosen us to be his adopted children through his Son.

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Jas 3:17-18**

The wisdom which comes from above is marked chiefly indeed by its purity, but also by its peacefulness; it is courteous and ready to be convinced, always taking the better part; it carries mercy with it, and a harvest of all that is good; it is uncensorious and without affectation. Peace is the seed-ground of holiness, and those who make peace will win its harvest.

**SHORT RESPONSORY**

**R.** This man became a teacher in the Church of God. **Repeat R.**

**V.** The Lord filled him with the spirit of wisdom and understanding. **R.**  
Glory be. **R.**

**Magnificat ant.** O holy doctor, Saint Francis de Sales, light of the Church, lover of the law of God, pray for us to the Son of God.

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.

