

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.

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- Wednesday

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

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

PSALMODY

Ant. 1: Those who were sowing in tears, will sing when they reap.

Joy and hope in God

Psalm 125 (126)

*Just as you are sharing in our sufferings, so also will you share our consolations
(2 Cor 1:7)*

When the Lórd delivered Síon from bóndage,
It séemed like a dréam.
Thén was our móuth filled with láughter,
on our líps there were sóngs.

The héathens themséives said: 'What márvels
the Lórd worked for théim!'
What márvels the Lórd worked for ús!
Índéed we were glád.

Delíver us, O Lórd, from our bóndage
as stráems in dry lánd.

Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap.

They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves.

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. Those who were sowing in tears, will sing when they reap.

Ant. 2: The Lord will build a house for us; he will watch over our city.

Success depends on the Lord's blessing Psalm 126 (127)

You are God's building (1 Cor 3:9)

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.

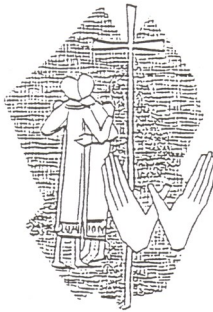
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Ant: The Lord will build a house for us; he will watch over our city.

Ant. 3: He is the first-born of all creation; he is supreme over all creatures.

**Christ is the first-born of all creation,
The first-born from the dead**

**Canticle
Col 1:12-20**



Let us give thanks to the Father, †
who has qualified us to share *
in the inheritance of the saints in light.

He has delivered us from the dominion of darkness *
and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,
in whom we have redemption, *
the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, *
the first-born of all creation,
for in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, *
visible and invisible.

All things were created *
through him and for him.
He is before all things, *
and in him all things hold together.

He is the head of the body, the Church; *
he is the beginning,
the first-born from the dead, *
that in everything he might be pre-eminent.

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, *
and through him to reconcile to himself all things,
whether on earth or in heaven, *
making peace by the blood of his cross.

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. He is the first-born of all creation; he is supreme over all creatures.

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 un-censorious 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.**

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