*Liturgy of the Hours*

# Liturgy of the Hours

## Night Prayer

December 20, 2026

{ Fourth Sunday in Advent }



*Make sign of cross*

God, come to my assistance.

— Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

## Penitential Rite

*Brief moment of silence*

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

*All strike their breast*

through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

*Presiding minister*

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

— Amen.

## Hymn

O Christ, resplendent as the day,
you clear away the dark of night;
by faith we know you, Light from Light,
proclaiming light to all the blest.

O holy Lord, we humbly pray:
Watch over us throughout this night

and grant us calm and silent hours,
that we may find our rest in you.

And when our eyes are closed in sleep,
still let our hearts keep watch for you;
protect and guard by your right hand
the faithful, filled with love for you.

O strong defender, see our plight,
subdue our foes who lie in wait;
direct and guide your servants, Lord,
whom you have purchased with your blood.

To you, O Christ, most loving King,
and to the Father, glory be,
one with the Spirit Paraclete,
from age to age for evermore. Amen.

*Metrical hymn, melody: Herr Jesu Christ, 8 8 8 8; Pensum Sacrum Metro-Rhythmicum, Görlitz, 1648*

*Plainsong, mode IV, melody 80; Liber Hymnarius, Solesmes, 1983*, Text: Christe, qui, splendor et dies, 5-6th c.*

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## Psalmody

*Antiphon*

Night holds no terrors for me sleeping under God's wings.

*Psalm 91*

*Safe in God's sheltering care*

*I have given you the power to tread upon serpents and scorpions (Luke 10:19).*

He who dwélls in the shélter of the Most Hígh *
and abídes in the sháde of the Almíghty
sáys to the Lórd: "My réfuge, *

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 life I will content him; *
I shall let him see my saving power.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, *
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, *

and will be for ever. Amen.

*Antiphon*

Night holds no terrors for me sleeping under God's wings.

## Reading

*Revelation 22:4-5*

They shall see the Lord face to face and bear his name on their foreheads. The night shall be no more. They will need no light from lamps or the sun, for the Lord God shall give them light, and they shall reign forever.

*Responsory*

Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit.

— Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit.

You have redeemed us, Lord God of truth.

— I commend my spirit.

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

— Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit.

## Gospel Canticle

*Antiphon*

Protect us, Lord, as we stay awake; watch over us as we sleep, that awake, we may keep watch with Christ, and asleep, rest in his peace.

*Luke 2:29-32*

*Christ is the light of the nations and the glory of Israel*

*Make sign of cross*

Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; *
your word has been fulfilled:

my own eyes have seen the salvation *
which you have prepared in the sight of every people:

a light to reveal you to the nations *
and the glory of your people Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, *
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, *
and will be for ever. Amen.

*Antiphon*

Protect us, Lord, as we stay awake; watch over us as we sleep, that awake, we may keep watch with Christ, and asleep, rest in his peace.

## Concluding Prayer

Let us pray.

Lord,
we have celebrated today
the mystery of the rising of Christ to new life.
May we now rest in your peace,
safe from all that could harm us,
and rise again refreshed and joyful,
to praise you throughout another day.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

— Amen.

*Blessing*

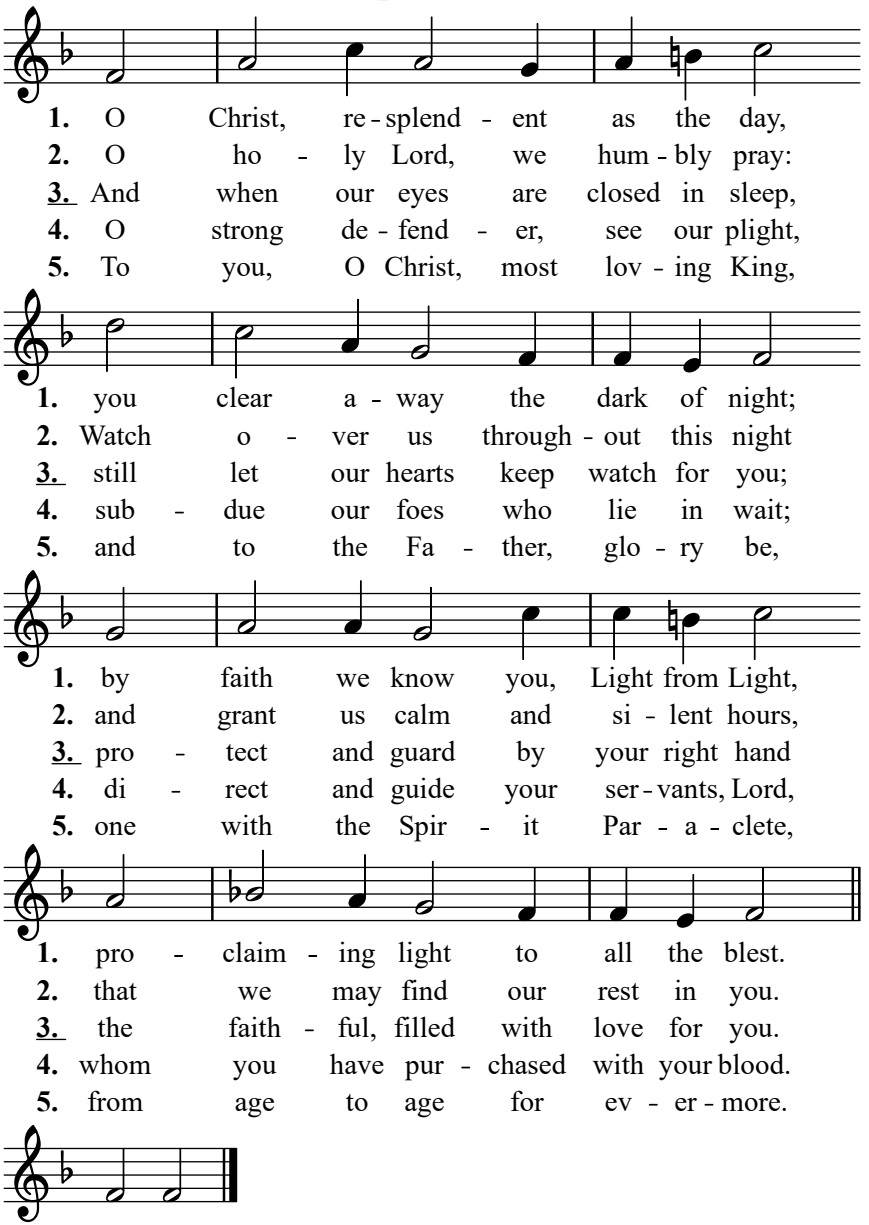
May the all-powerful Lord grant us a restful night and a peaceful death.

— Amen.

## Antiphon of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Loving mother of the Redeemer,
gate of heaven, star of the sea,
assist your people who have fallen yet strive to rise again.
To the wonderment of nature you bore your Creator,
yet remained a virgin after as before.
You who received Gabriel's joyful greeting,
have pity on us poor sinners.

# O Christ, Resplendent as the Day




*Metrical hymn, melody: Herr Jesu Christ, 8 8 8 8; Pensum Sacrum Metro-Rhythmicum, Görlitz, 1648 Text: Christe, qui, splendor et dies, 5-6th c. Hymn copyrights and acknowledgments are listed on page three.*

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