

Lucenarium Vespers for Advent

Evening Prayer and Celebration of Light

A candle or candles or lamps are lit as the winter evening gathers



Music © 1987 The Iona Community

Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world: **the light no darkness can overcome;**
Stay with us now, for it is evening, **and the day is almost over.**
Let your light scatter the darkness, **and shine within your people here.**

O gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ,
in you the Father's glory shone.
Immortal, holy, blest is he,
and blest are you, his holy Son.

Now sunset comes, but light shines forth,
the lamps are lit to pierce the night.
Praise Father, Son, and Spirit; God
who dwells in the eternal light.

Worthy are you of endless praise,
O Son of God, Life-giving Lord;
wherefore you are through all the earth
and in the highest heaven adored.

We give you thanks, O Lord, through your Son Jesus Christ
through whom you have enlightened us, and shown us the light which can never be extinguished.
Now we have come to the end of the day and night is falling.
Through the day you have shone on us the light which you created for our need,
and now, through your grace, we do not lack the light of evening.
And so we praise you and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
through whom, with the Holy Spirit, are glory and power and honour,
now and for ever and to endless ages. **Amen.**

Psalm 140 (141): Prayer in time of danger

Proclaim it, say to the peoples: Behold, God will come and save us.

I have called to you, Lord; hasten to help me!
Hear my voice when I cry to you.
Let my prayer arise before you like incense,
the raising of my hands like an evening oblation.

Set, O Lord, a guard over my mouth;
keep watch, O Lord, at the door of my lips!
Do not turn my heart to things that are wrong,
to evil deeds with men who are sinners.

Never allow me to share in their feasting.
If a good man strikes or reproves me it is kindness;
but let the oil of the wicked not anoint my head.
Let my prayer be ever against their malice.

Their princes were thrown down by the side of the rock;
then they understood that my words were kind.
As a millstone is shattered to pieces on the ground,
so their bones were strewn at the mouth of the grave.

To you, Lord God, my eyes are turned:
in you I take refuge; spare my soul!
From the trap they have laid for me keep me safe:
keep me from the snares of those who do evil.

Glory be...

Proclaim it, say to the peoples: Behold, God will come and save us.

Lord, you never reject the prayer of those who cry to you.
Listen to the pleading of your Church and defend your people. Make them strong in faith against
the evil one who would devour them. After they have overcome the brief ordeals of this life,
may they enter into your glory with Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

Psalm 141 (142): You are my refuge

**Behold, the Lord will come, and all his holy ones with him.
On that day a great light will appear. Alleluia.**

With all my voice I cry to the Lord,
with all my voice I entreat the Lord.
I pour out my trouble before him;
I tell him all my distress
while my spirit faints within me.
But you, O Lord, know my path.

On the way where I shall walk
they have hidden a snare to entrap me.
Look on my right and see:
there is no one who takes my part.
I have no means of escape,
not one who cares for my soul.

I cry to you, O Lord.
I have said: 'You are my refuge
all I have in the land of the living.'
Listen, then, to my cry
for I am in the depths of distress.

Rescue me from those who pursue me
for they are stronger than I.
Bring my soul out of this prison
and then I shall praise your name.
Around me the just will assemble
because of your goodness to me.

Glory be...

**Behold, the Lord will come, and all his holy ones with him.
On that day a great light will appear. Alleluia.**

Lord, we humbly ask for your goodness. May you help us to hope in you,
and give us a share with your chosen ones in the land of the living. **Amen.**

Canticle, Philippians 2: Christ, God's servant

The Lord will come with great might and all flesh will see him.

Though he was in the form of God,
Jesus did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped.

He emptied himself,
taking the form of a servant,
being born in the likeness of men.

And being found in human form,
he humbled himself and became obedient unto death,
even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name which is above every name,

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Glory be...

The Lord will come with great might and all flesh will see him.

Short Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless,
spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
God has called you and he will not fail you.

Pause for reflection

Canticle, Magnificat: My soul rejoices in the Lord

See, the name of the Lord comes from afar. His splendour fills the whole world.

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 children 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.

See, the name of the Lord comes from afar. His splendour fills the whole world.

The Son of God is coming with great power: all mankind shall see his face and be reborn.

– Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay!

You will bring us wisdom, fresh understanding and new vision.

– Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay!

You will bring us good news, and power which will transform our lives.

– Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay!

You will bring us truth, showing us the way to our Father.

– Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay!

Born of a woman, you will open in our flesh the way to eternal life and joy.

– Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay!

Our Father...

Grant, almighty Father,
that when Christ comes again we may go out to meet him
bearing the harvest of good works achieved by your grace.
We pray that he will receive us into the company of the saints
and call us into the kingdom of heaven.
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.

Amen.

**The Lord is my light, my light and salvation.
In God I trust, in God I trust**

Acknowledgements

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