

## **EASTER SEASON FESTIVALS**

## INFORMATION CONCERNING EASTER FESTIVALS

### **Saint Mark the Evangelist**

*25 April*

John Mark was a Jew and, according to Paul's letter to the Colossians, cousin to Barnabas. He accompanied Barnabas and Paul on their first missionary journey. Afterwards, he went to Cyprus with Barnabas and to Rome with first Paul and then Peter. Mark's gospel is generally regarded as the earliest and was most likely written whilst he was in Rome. It was probably based as much on Peter's preaching of the good news as on Mark's own memory. Mark's gospel has a sharpness and an immediacy about it and he does not spare the apostles in noting their weaknesses and lack of understanding that Jesus the Christ would suffer for the world's redemption. Sharing in the glory of the resurrection means sharing in the giving of self, both in body and spirit, even to death; sharing the gospel was, for all, in essence both excessively generous and ultimately sacrificial.

### **Saint Philip and Saint James, Apostles**

*1 May*

Philip and James appear in the list of the twelve apostles in the first three gospels but are frequently confused with other early saints who share their names. In John's gospel, Philip has a more prominent rôle, being the third of the apostles to be called by Jesus and then himself bringing his friend Nathanael to the Lord. Philip is the spokesman for the other apostles who are questioning the capacity for feeding the five thousand and, at the Last Supper, enters into a dialogue with Jesus which leads to the Farewell Discourse of our Lord.

James is said to be the son of Alphaeus and is often known as 'James the Less' to distinguish him. He may also be the 'James the Younger' whose mother, in Mark's gospel, is a witness at the crucifixion.

They are celebrated on the same day because the church in Rome, where their relics were laid to rest, was dedicated on 1 May in the year 560.

### **Saint Matthias**

*14 May*

After the betrayal of Jesus by Judas Iscariot, the apostles brought their number back to twelve by choosing Matthias to replace him. He was chosen by lot from amongst the disciples. The author of the Acts of the Apostles sees apostleship differently from Paul's interpretation of the rôle and seems to reflect the understanding of the gospel of Luke. The number had to be restored so that they might 'sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel'. It was conditional that they had to have been with Jesus during his earthly ministry and witnesses to the resurrection. The point of being chosen by lot, rather than by some democratic method, indicated the election or choosing by God, rather than by mortals.

## FESTIVAL READINGS

### Saint Mark

*25 April*

#### Morning Prayer

Psalm 37: 23-41  
Isaiah 62: 6-10  
*or* Sirach 51: 13-30  
Acts 12:25 - 13:13

#### Evening Prayer

Psalm 45  
Ezekiel 1: 4-14  
2 Timothy 4: 1-11

#### Night Prayer

Psalm 134  
2 Timothy 4: 1-11

### Saint Philip and Saint James

*1 May*

#### Morning Prayer

Psalm 139: 1-18, 23-24  
Proverbs 4: 10-18  
James 1: 1-12

#### Evening Prayer

Psalm 149  
Job 23: 1-12  
John 1: 43-51

#### Night Prayer

Psalm 134  
John 1: 43-51

### Saint Matthias

*14 May*

#### Morning Prayer

Psalms 16; 147: 1-12  
1 Samuel 2: 27-35  
Acts 2: 37-47

#### Evening Prayer

Psalm 80  
1 Samuel 16: 1-13a  
Matthew 7: 15-27

#### Night Prayer

Psalm 134  
Matthew 7: 15-27

## FESTIVALS OF SAINTS: MORNING PRAYER

### PREPARATION

#### A SENTENCE OF SCRIPTURE

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

*Hebrews 12: 1, 2*

#### VERSICLES AND RESPONSES

*Stand*

O Lord, open our lips

**and our mouth will proclaim your praise.**

O God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

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

Praise the Lord.

**The Lord's name be praised.**

### THE WORD OF GOD

#### A PSALM OR PSALMS

*One or more of the appointed Psalms is said or sung, ending with*

Glory to the Father, and | to the | Son, □

and | to the | Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be|ginning, is | now, □

and shall be for | ever. | A | men.

#### A CANTICLE

#### A SONG OF THE RIGHTEOUS

*Wisdom 3: 1, 2a, 3b-8*

*Refrain: God has found the righteous worthy  
and their hope is full of immortality.*

1 The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God □  
and no torment will ever touch them.

2 In the eyes of the foolish, they seem to have died; □  
but they are at peace.

3 For though, in the sight of others, they were punished, □  
their hope is full of immortality.

4 Having been disciplined a little,  
they will receive great good, □  
because God tested them and found them worthy.

5 Like gold in the furnace, God tried them □  
and, like a sacrificial burnt offering, accepted them.

6 In the time of their visitation, they will shine forth □  
and will run like sparks through the stubble.

7 They will govern nations and rule over peoples □  
and God will reign over them for ever.

Glory to the Father, and | to the | Son, □

and | to the | Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be|ginning, is | now, □

and shall be for | ever. | A | men.

*Refrain: God has found the righteous worthy  
and their hope is full of immortality.*

*One or two readings as appointed*

**BENEDICTUS** *The Song of Zechariah Luke 1: 68-79*

*Refrain: They were faithful until death  
and God has given them the crown of life. [Alleluia.]*

1 Blessèd be the Lord the | God of | Israel, □  
who has come to his | people · and | set them | free.  
2 The Lord has raised up for us a | mighty | saviour, □  
born of the | house of · his | servant | David.  
3 Through the holy prophets God | promised · of | old □  
to save us from our enemies,  
from the | hands of | those who | hate us,  
4 to show | mercy · to our | forebears, □  
and to re|member · his | holy | covenant.  
5 This was the oath God swore to our | father | Abraham: □  
to set us | free · from the | hand of · our | enemies.  
6 Free to worship him with out | fear, □  
holy and righteous before him | all the | days of · our | life.  
7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the | Most | High, □  
for you will go before the | Lord · to pre|pare his | way,  
8 To give his people knowledge | of sal|vation □  
by the for|giveness · of | all their | sins.  
9 In the tender compassion | of our | God □  
the dawn from on | high shall | break up|on us.  
10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness \_\_\_\_  
and the | shadow · of | death, □  
and to guide our feet | into · the | way of | peace.

Glory to the Father, and | to the | Son, □  
and | to the | Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be|ginning, is | now, □  
and shall be for | ever. | A|men.

*Refrain: They were faithful until death  
and God has given them the crown of life. [Alleluia.]*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**  
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**  
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYER

*Kneel*

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

## INTERCESSIONS AND THANKSGIVINGS

Eternal God,  
in all times and places you have provided your church  
with individuals who have been used to point others to you.

### INTERCESSIONS

As we join this communion of saints,  
we pray that we too may be worthy witnesses for you  
in our care of creation . . .  
in our interaction with people of other nations and ethnicities . . .  
in our respect for those in authority . . .  
in our care for those in our broader community . . .  
in our support of Christians around the world . . .  
in our daily lives of ministry . . .  
as we support persons with particular needs, especially . . .

### THANKSGIVINGS

We are grateful for the testimony of the great cloud of witnesses  
who surround your throne:

for the apostles and first believers . . .  
for those in the early church . . .  
for the martyrs of all ages . . .  
for those who have reformed the church in every age . . .  
for those who have ministered to us . . .

For these great examples of the faith we give you praise.

### CONCLUDING PRAYER

**In all of this we look forward to the day  
when we will join those who have gone before us in praising you,  
the one eternal God, forever and ever. Amen.**

## THE COLLECT

The Collect of the Day *may be said or the following*  
Almighty Father,  
you have built up your Church  
through the love and devotion of your saints:  
inspire us to follow the example of . . .  
whom we commemorate today,  
that we in our generation may rejoice with him/her  
in the vision of your glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.  
    Forgive us our sins  
    as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
    but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
    now and for ever. Amen.

*or*

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say  
**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.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
    for ever and ever. Amen.

**THE ENDING**

The Lord almighty bless us,  
and help us to follow in the footsteps of the saints in glory.  
**Amen. C**

**DISMISSAL**

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**BLESSING**

## FESTIVAL OF SAINTS: EVENING PRAYER

### PREPARATION

*All say*

Heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault;  
by what we have done  
and by what we have failed to do.  
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name. Amen.

*The priest pronounces the absolution.*

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy on you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*If no priest is present the absolution is omitted and the following prayer may be said:*

Merciful Lord,  
grant to your faithful people pardon and peace,  
that we may be cleansed from all our sins,  
and serve you with a quiet mind;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Stand*

O Lord, open our lips  
and our mouth will proclaim your praise.

O God, make speed to save us.  
O Lord, make haste to help us.

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

Praise the Lord.  
The Lord's name be praised.

### THE WORD OF GOD

*One or more of the appointed Psalms is said or sung, ending with*

Glory to the Father, and | to the | Son, □  
and | to the | Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be|ginning, is | now, □  
and shall be for | ever. | A|men.

### PENITENCE

### VERSICLES AND RESPONSES

### A PSALM OR PSALMS



## A SONG OF THE BLESSED

*Matthew 5: 3-10*

**Refrain:** *Rejoice and be glad  
for you are the light of the world,  
and great is your reward in heaven.*

- 1 Blessed are the poor in spirit, □  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 2 Blessed are those who mourn, □  
for they shall be comforted.
- 3 Blessed are the meek, □  
for they shall inherit the earth.
- 4 Blessed are those who hunger  
and thirst after righteousness, □  
for they shall be satisfied.
- 5 Blessed are the merciful, □  
for they shall obtain mercy.
- 6 Blessed are the pure in heart, □  
for they shall see God.
- 7 Blessed are the peacemakers, □  
for they shall be called children of God.
- 8 Blessed are those who suffer persecution  
for righteousness' sake, □  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Glory to the Father, and | to the | Son, □  
and | to the | Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be|ginning, is | now, □  
and shall be for | ever. | A|men

**Refrain:** *Rejoice and be glad  
for you are the light of the world,  
and great is your reward in heaven.*

*One or two readings as appointed*

A READING OR READINGS

## MAGNIFICAT

*The Song of the Virgin Mary Luke 1: 46-55*

**Refrain:** *In the heavenly kingdom,  
the blessed have their dwelling place and their rest for ever and ever. [Alleluia.]*

- 1 My soul proclaims the | greatness · of the | Lord, ..  
my spirit re joices · in | God my | Saviour,
- 2 who has looked with favour on his | lowly | servant; ..  
from this day all gene|rations · will | call me | blessèd;
- 3† the Almighty has done | great things | for me ..  
and | holy | is his | name.
- 4 God has mercy on | those who | fear him, ..  
from gene|ration · to | gene|ration.
- 5 The Lord has shown | strength · with his | arm ..  
and scattered the | proud in | their con|ceit,
- 6 casting down the mighty | from their | thrones ..  
and | lifting | up the | lowly.
- 7 God has filled the hungry with | good | things ..  
and sent the | rich a|way | empty.
- 8 He has come to the aid of his | servant | Israel ..  
to re|member · the | promise of | mercy,

THE GOSPEL CANTICLE

9 The promise | made to · our | forebears, ..  
to Abraham | and his | children · for | ever.

Glory to the Father, and | to the | Son, □  
and | to the | Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be|ginning, is | now, □  
and shall be for | ever. | A | men

*Refrain: In the heavenly kingdom,  
the blessed have their dwelling place and their rest for ever and ever. [Alleluia.]*

## **PRAYER**

*Kneel*

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray to our gracious God,  
rejoicing in our fellowship with . . . and all the saints.

## **INTERCESSIONS**

For your grace revealed in . . . ,  
and for all that inspires us from his/her life:

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

For his/her insight into the mystery of Christ  
and for every way in which his/her faith continues to speak today:

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

That following his/her example,  
we may hear afresh your call to holiness of life:

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

That we may receive grace to grow into the likeness of Christ:

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

That we may persevere in prayer  
and seek new light and truth from your word:

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

That we may draw other people to the fire of your love:

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

That we may be faithful to Christ even to death:

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

## **INTERCESSIONS AND THANKSGIVINGS**

## THANKSGIVINGS

O Lord our God, we thank you  
for the many people throughout the ages  
who have followed your way of life joyfully:  
for the many saints and martyrs, men and women,  
who have offered up their very lives  
so that your life abundant may become manifest  
and your kingdom may advance.

**For your love and faithfulness  
we will at all times praise your name.**

O Lord, we thank you for those  
who chose the way of your Son, our brother Jesus Christ.  
In the midst of trial, they held out hope;  
in the midst of hatred, they kindled love;  
in the midst of persecutions, they witnessed to your power;  
in the midst of despair, they clung to your promise.

**For your love and faithfulness  
we will at all times praise your name.**

O Lord, we thank you for the truth they learned and passed on to us:  
that it is by giving that we shall receive;  
it is by becoming weak that we shall be strong;  
it is by loving others that we shall be loved;  
it is by offering ourselves that the kingdom will unfold;  
it is by dying that we shall inherit life everlasting.  
Lord, give us courage to follow your way of life.

**For your love and faithfulness  
we will at all times praise your name. Amen.**

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

**Ever-faithful God,  
you have joined together as one body in Christ  
those who have been your people in all times and places.  
May you keep us in communion with all your saints,  
following their example of faith and life,  
until that day when all your saints will dwell together  
in the joy of your eternal kingdom.  
Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

## THE COLLECT

The Collect of the Day *may be said or the following*

Almighty Father,  
you have built up your Church  
through the love and devotion of your saints:  
inspire us to follow the example of ...  
whom we commemorate today,  
that we in our generation may rejoice with him/her  
in the vision of your glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,**  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.

**Give us today our daily bread.**  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.

**Lead us not into temptation**  
but deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours**  
now and for ever. Amen.

*or*

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say

**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.

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory**  
for ever and ever. Amen.

**THE ENDING**

The Lord almighty bless us,  
and help us to follow in the footsteps of the saints in glory.  
**Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

BLESSING

## FESTIVALS OF SAINTS: COMPLINE

### PREPARATION

*Stand*

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end. **Amen.**

OPENING PRAYER

Brethren, be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist, steadfast in the faith.

A SENTENCE OF SCRIPTURE

*1 Peter 5: 8, 9*

But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.  
**Thanks be to God.**

VERSICLES AND RESPONSES

O God, make speed to save us.  
**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.**

Praise ye the Lord.  
**The Lord's Name be praised.**

### THE WORD OF GOD

PSALM

*A Psalm or Psalms as appointed or the following psalm:*

*Psalm 134*      *Ecce nunc.*

- 1 Behold now, praise the Lord □  
all ye servants of the Lord;
- 2 Ye that by night stand in the house of the Lord □  
even in the courts of the house of our God.
- 3 Lift up your hands in the sanctuary □  
and praise the Lord.
- 4 The Lord that made heaven and earth □  
give thee blessing out of Sion. 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.

A READING

*The following short lesson, or the appointed reading:*

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

*Philippians 4: 8, 9*

RESPONSORY

*Stand*

Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.  
**For thou hast redeemed me, O Lord, thou God of truth.**

HYMN

Before the ending of the day,  
creator of the world, we pray  
that thou with wonted love wouldst keep  
thy watch around us while we sleep.

O let no evil dreams be near,  
or phantoms of the night appear;  
our ghostly enemy restrain,  
lest aught of sin our bodies stain.

To thee, O saving Three in One,  
let homage due by all be done;  
and grant us, by the cross restored,  
to share the Victor's great reward. Amen

*or POEM*

### FOR ALL THE SAINTS

For all the saints, who from their labours rest,  
who thee by faith before the world confessed,  
thy name, O Jesu, be for ever blessed.

*Alleluia!*

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;  
thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;  
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true Light.

*Alleluia!*

O blest communion, fellowship divine!  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.

*Alleluia!*

But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day:  
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;  
the King of glory passes on his way.

*Alleluia!*

*W Walsham How (1823-97)*

VERSICLE AND RESPONSE

*The following responsory may be said:*

Keep me as the apple of an eye.

**Hide me under the shadow of thy wings.**

**Preserve us, O Lord, while waking, and guard us while sleeping,  
that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.**

THE GOSPEL CANTICLE

**NUNC DIMITTIS**      *The Song of Simeon Luke 2: 29-32*

1 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, ,,  
according to thy word.

2 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, ,,  
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

3 To be a light to lighten the Gentiles ,,  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

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.

**Preserve us, O Lord, while waking, and guard us while sleeping,  
that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.**

## PRAYER

*Kneel*

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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. Amen.**

Blessed art thou, Lord God of our fathers,  
**to be praised and glorified above all for ever;**

Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
**Let us praise him and magnify him for ever.**

Blessed art thou, O Lord, in the firmament of heaven  
**to be praised and glorified above all for ever.**

The Almighty and most merciful Lord guard us and give us his blessing.  
**Amen.**

## CONFESSION

*A prayerful examination of the past day may be undertaken after which the following or other suitable words of penitence may be used*

**We confess to God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
That we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, Through our own  
grievous fault. Wherefore we pray God to have mercy upon us.  
Almighty God, have mercy upon us, Forgive us all our sins, Deliver us  
from all evil, Confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, And bring us  
to life everlasting; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The priest, when present, pronounces the absolution.*

May the Almighty and merciful Lord grant unto you pardon and remission of all your sins, time for amendment of life,  
and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## VERSICLES AND RESPONSES

Wilt thou not turn again and quicken us  
**that thy people may rejoice in thee?**  
O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us  
**and grant us thy salvation.**  
Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin.  
**O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.**  
O Lord, hear our prayer  
**and let our cry come unto thee.**  
Let us pray.

## THE COLLECTS

### *One or both of the following:*

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
bring us to the dwelling which thy Son is preparing  
for all who love thee:  
give us the will each day to live in life eternal;  
let our citizenship be in heaven with the blessed,  
with the whole company of the redeemed  
and with countless angels,  
praising, worshipping and adoring thy Son,  
our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who sittest upon the throne for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Lord God,  
thou hast surrounded us with so great a cloud of witnesses.  
Grant that we, encouraged by their example, may persevere  
in the course that is set before us and, at the last,  
share in thy eternal joy with all the saints in light,  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord,  
who liveth and reigneth with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE ENDING

We will lay us down in peace and take our rest.  
**For it is thou, Lord, only, that makest us dwell in safety.**

The Lord be with you  
**and with thy spirit.**

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

May the light of Christ, the King of all,  
shine ever brighter in our hearts,  
that with all the saints in light  
we may shine forth as lights in the world. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

BLESSING



## FESTIVALS OF SAINTS: LATE EVENING OFFICE

### PREPARATION

Blessed be our God for all time, now and for evermore. **Amen.**

### OPENING PRAYER

Glory to you, our God, glory be to you,  
Holy Spirit, Comforter,  
treasure of all goodness and giver of life,  
come and dwell in us,  
cleanse us from all sin,  
and in your love bring us to salvation.

**Holy God, holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**

### RESPONSORY

### THE WORD OF GOD

### PSALM

*Psalm 134*

1 Come, bless the Lord, all you | servants •of the | Lord, □  
you that by night | stand •in the | house of the | Lord.

2,3 Lift up your hands towards the sanctuary  
and | bless the | Lord. □

The Lord who made heaven and earth  
give you | blessing | out of | Zion.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son ,,  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, □  
and shall be for ever. Amen.

*or a psalm or psalms as appointed*

### A READING

*The following short lesson, or the appointed reading:*

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.  
*Philippians 4: 8, 9*

### MEDITATION

*A period of meditation on the reading follows.*

### THE GOSPEL CANTICLE

**NUNC DIMITTIS**      *The Song of Simeon Luke 2: 29-32*

1 Now, Lord, you let your servant | go in | peace: □  
your | word has | been ful|filled.

2 My own eyes have | seen the •sal|vation □  
which you have prepared in the | sight of | every | people.

3 A light to re|veal 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 shall be for ever. Amen.

*and/or a hymn*

## PRAYER

Let us pray to the Lord with all our heart and with all our soul.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Let us pray for all Christian people, that they may live in love and truth.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Let us pray for all ministers of the Church, and for our brothers and sisters in Christ.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Let us pray for peace throughout the world, and for all governments.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Let us pray for our neighbours and for all our friends.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Let us pray for those who hate us as we pray for those who love us.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Let us pray for refugees and prisoners, and for all who are exposed to the dangers of travel.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Let us pray for all sick people, for the sorrowful and the dying.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Let us pray for the abundance of the fruits of the earth, and that the poor and hungry may receive a just share.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Let us remember our brothers and sisters who have entered into eternal rest. **Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.**

## INTERCESSIONS

## SILENT OR OPEN PRAYER

Let us continue praying in silence

*Silence is kept.*

*or*

Let us continue praying in a time of open prayer.

*A period of open prayer follows.*

*The leader brings either of these to an end saying*

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

## THE COLLECT

***One of the following:***

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
bring us to the dwelling which your Son is preparing  
for all who love you:  
give us the will each day to live in life eternal;  
let our citizenship be in heaven with the blessed,  
with the whole company of the redeemed  
and with countless angels,  
praising, worshipping and adoring your Son,  
our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who sits upon the throne for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Lord God,  
you have surrounded us with so great a cloud of witnesses.  
Grant that we, encouraged by their example, may persevere  
in the course that is set before us and, at the last,  
share in your eternal joy with all the saints in light,  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,**

hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. **Amen.**

*or*

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say

**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.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## COMMON COLLECT

Lord Almighty,  
come and scatter the darkness of our hearts  
by the light of your presence;  
that we may know you the Light of the world  
and the one true God,  
blessed this night and for evermore. **Amen.**

## THE ENDING

## DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## BLESSING

May the light of Christ, the King of all,  
shine ever brighter in our hearts,  
that with all the saints in light  
we may shine forth as lights in the world. **Amen.**

## EASTER FESTIVAL COLLECTS

Saint Mark

*25 April*

Almighty God,  
who enlightened your holy Church  
through the inspired witness of your evangelist Saint Mark:  
Grant that we, being firmly grounded  
in the truth of the gospel,  
may be faithful to its teaching both in word and deed;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. 7

Saint Philip and Saint James

*1 May*

Almighty Father,  
whom truly to know is eternal life:  
Teach us to know your Son Jesus Christ  
as the way, the truth, and the life;  
that we may follow the steps of your holy apostles  
Philip and James,  
and walk steadfastly in the way that leads to your glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. 1

Saint Matthias

*14 May*

Almighty God,  
who in the place of the traitor Judas  
chose your faithful servant Matthias  
to be of the number of the Twelve:  
Preserve your Church from false apostles  
and, by the ministry of faithful pastors and teachers,  
keep us steadfast in your truth;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. 1