

March 17, 2021  
Evening Prayer for Wednesday of the 4th Week of Lent  
*Optional Commemoration of St. Patrick, Bishop and Missionary*

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 forever. Amen.**

PSALMODY

Ant. 1 Lord, how wonderful is your wisdom, so far beyond my understanding.

Psalm 139:1-18, 23-24

O Lord, you search me and you know me,  
you know my resting and my rising,  
you discern my purpose from afar.  
You mark when I walk or lie down,  
all my ways lie open to you.

**Before ever a word is on my tongue  
you know it, O Lord, through and through.  
Behind and before you besiege me,  
your hand ever laid upon me.  
Too wonderful for me this knowledge,  
too high, beyond my reach.**

O where can I go from your spirit,  
or where can I flee from your face?  
If I climb the heavens, you are there.  
If I lie in the grave, you are there.

**If I take the wings of the dawn  
and dwell at the sea's furthest end,  
even there your hand would lead me,  
your right hand would hold me fast.**

If I say: "Let the darkness hide me  
and the light around me be night,"  
even darkness is not dark for you  
and the night is as clear as the day.

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

Ant. Lord, how wonderful is your wisdom, so far beyond my understanding.

Ant. 2 I am the Lord: I search the mind and probe the heart; I give to each one as his deeds deserve.

For it was you who created my being,  
knit me together in my mother's womb.  
I thank you for the wonder of my being,  
for the wonders of all your creation.

**Already you knew my soul  
my body held no secret from you  
when I was being fashioned in secret  
and molded in the depths of the earth.**

Your eyes saw all my actions,  
they were all of them written in your book;  
every one of my days was decreed  
before one of them came into being.

**To me, how mysterious your thoughts,  
the sum of them not to be numbered!  
If I count them, they are more than the sand;  
to finish, I must be eternal, like you.**

O search me, God, and know my heart.  
O test me and know my thoughts.  
See that I follow not the wrong path  
and lead me in the path of life eternal.

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

Ant. I am the Lord: I search the mind and probe the heart; I give to each one as his deeds deserve.

Ant. 3 Through him all things were made; he holds all creation together in himself.

Colossians 1:12-20

Let us give thanks to the Father  
for having made you worthy  
to share the lot of the saints  
in light.

**He rescued us  
from the power of darkness  
and brought us  
into the kingdom of his beloved Son.  
Through him we have redemption,  
the forgiveness of our sins.**

He is the image of the invisible God,  
the first-born of all creatures.  
In him everything in heaven and on earth was created,  
things visible and invisible.

**All were created through him;  
all were created for him.  
He is before all else that is.  
In him everything continues in being.**

It is he who is head of the body, the church!  
he who is the beginning,  
the first-born of the dead,  
so that primacy may be his in everything.

**It pleased God to make absolute fullness reside in him  
and, by means of him, to reconcile everything in his person,  
both on earth and in the heavens,  
making peace through the blood of his cross.**

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

Ant. Through him all things were made; he holds all creation together in himself.

BRIEF READING Philippians 2:12b-15a

Work with anxious concern to achieve your salvation. It is God who, in his good will toward you, begets in you any measure of desire or achievement. In everything you do, act without grumbling or arguing; prove yourselves innocent and straightforward, children of God beyond reproach.

RESPONSORY

To you, O Lord, I make my prayer for mercy.

**To you, O Lord, I make my prayer for mercy.**

Heal my soul, for I have sinned against you.

**I make my prayer for mercy.**

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

**To you, O Lord, I make my prayer for mercy.**

CANTICLE OF MARY

Ant. By myself, says the Lord, I can do nothing. I judge as I am told to judge, and my sentence is just.

Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

my spirit rejoices in God my Savior

for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

**From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.**

He has mercy on those who fear him  
in every generation.

**He has shown the strength of his arm,  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,  
and has lifted up the lowly.

**He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty.**

He has come to the help of his servant Israel  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
the promise he made to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his children forever.

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

as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be forever. Amen.

Ant. By myself, says the Lord, I can do nothing. I judge as I am told to judge, and  
my sentence is just.

INTERCESSIONS

All glory and honor to God, for in the blood of Christ he has ratified a new and  
everlasting covenant with his people, and renews it in the sacrament of the  
altar. Let us lift up our voices in prayer:

**Bless your people, Lord.**

Lord, guide the minds and hearts of peoples and all in public office,  
may they always seek the common good.

**Bless your people, Lord.**

Renew the spirit of dedication in those who have left all to follow Christ,  
may they give clear witness to the holiness of the Church.

**Bless your people, Lord.**

You have made all men and women in your image,  
may they always uphold human dignity.

**Bless your people, Lord.**

Lead back to your friendship and truth all who have gone astray,  
teach us how to help them.

**Bless your people, Lord.**

Grant that the dead may enter into your glory,  
to praise you forever.

**Bless your people, Lord.**

Our Father...

## Concluding Prayer

O God, who reward the merits of the just  
and offer pardon to sinners who do penance,  
have mercy, we pray, on those who call upon you,  
that the admission of our guilt  
may serve to obtain your pardon for our sins.

[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.]

*Many will come from the east and the west  
to take their places with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.*

We give you thanks, almighty God,  
for sending Saint Patrick to preach your glory to the people of Ireland.  
Grant that we who are proud to call ourselves Christians  
may never cease to proclaim to the world the good news of salvation.  
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.**