



St James's
PICCADILLY

Holy Saturday All-Night Vigil

Saturday 19th April 2025

Vespers at 7.30pm

Compline at 10pm



VESPERS at 7.30pm

*To assist with understanding the service sheet, please note that **text in bold type is intended to be said together**. Spaces have been left for individual contributions such as readings, poems, or Taizé chants.*

This is a service to mark the setting of the sun and the fading of the light. Sunset marked the end of the day (and on Easter Eve, the end of the Sabbath) for the disciples who followed Jesus and saw him crucified. For us it marks the start of our vigil.

It is the intention that we take our time over these liturgies, allowing silence so that we can pray and reflect.

OPENING CHANT

**Bless the Lord my soul
and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord my soul
who leads me into life.**

OPENING SENTENCE

Psalm 37.7,4

Be still before God;
for God waits patiently.
Take delight in God,
who will give you your heart's desire.

PREPARATION

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

Lead your people to freedom, O God.
And lead us into your light.

**As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,
so may your mercy come down upon us to cleanse our hearts
and set us free to sing your praise now and for ever.
Amen.**

Silence.

INTRODUCTION TO THE READINGS

**Spirit of Wisdom,
take from us all the distractions that surround us,
the temptation to dominate through our words or actions,
and the craving for certainty.
Lead us into the mystery of not knowing,
that we may listen and open our hearts,
and come to a place of silence and stillness,
of wonder and truth.
Amen.**

Silence.

PSALMODY

Psalms 142

I cry aloud to the Lord; *
to the Lord I make my supplication.

**I pour out my complaint before him *
and tell him of my trouble.**

When my spirit faints within me, you know my path; *
in the way wherein I walk they have laid a snare for me.

**I look to my right hand, and find no one who knows me; *
I have no place to flee to, and no one cares for my soul.**

I cry out to you, O Lord, and say: *
you are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.

**'Listen to my cry, for I am brought very low; *
save me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me.**

'Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to your
name; *
when you have dealt bountifully with me, then shall the
righteous gather around me.'

**I cry aloud to the Lord; *
to the Lord I make my supplication.**

**Glory to God, Source of all Being,
Eternal Word and Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning,
is now and shall be for ever.
Amen.**

God of compassion,
you hear the longings of the forsaken and give hope
to the crushed in spirit:
hear those who cry to you in distress,
that they may be joined to the company of those who raise a
song of thanksgiving to your glory,
through the Son and in the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Silence.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Job 19.21-27

Have pity on me, have pity on me, O you my friends,
for the hand of God has touched me!
Why do you, like God, pursue me,
never satisfied with my flesh?

O that my words were written down!
O that they were inscribed in a book!
O that with an iron pen and with lead
they were engraved on a rock for ever!
For I know that my Redeemer lives,
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth;
and after my skin has been thus destroyed,
then in my flesh I shall see God,
whom I shall see on my side,
and my eyes shall behold, and not another.
My heart faints within me!

Silence.

CANTICLE

The Magnificat: The Canticle of the Turning

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the one who waits.
You fixed your sight on the servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain:

My heart shall sing of the day you bring

let the fires of your justice burn.

Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,

and the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all,

you work great things in me.

And your mercy will last from the depths

of the past to the end of the age to be.

Your very name puts the proud to shame,

and those who would for you yearn,

you will show your might, put the strong to flight,

for the world is about to turn. *Refrain:*

From the halls of power to the fortress tower,

not a stone will be left on stone.

Let the king beware for your justice tears

every tyrant from his throne.

The hungry poor shall weep no more,

for the food they can never earn;

these are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,

for the world is about to turn. *Refrain:*

Though the nations rage from age to age,

we remember who holds us fast:

God's mercy must deliver us

from the conqueror's crushing grasp.

This saving word that our forebears heard

is the promise that holds us bound,

'til the spear and rod be crushed by God,

who is turning the world around. *Refrain:*

Paraphrase of Luke Ch.1.46-58. Adaptation & Arrangement:
Rory Cooney. Tune: Star Of The County Down, Irish traditional
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Silence.

There is an opportunity to offer a contribution at this point.

Silence.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 15.42-16.1

When the evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James saw where the body was laid.

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him.

Silence.

O God,
you have searched the depths we cannot know,
and touched what we cannot bear to name:
may we so wait, enclosed in your darkness,
that we are ready to encounter the coming dawn,
with Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Silence.

THE MAKING OF THE BREAD

*Ingredients are placed into the bowl and prayers are said.
All are invited to stir the mixture.*

Silence.

EXPRESSIONS OF FAITH

Mother God,
you have always given bread for the coming day;
and though I am poor, today I believe.

Mother God,
you have always given strength for the coming day;
and though I am weak, today I believe.

Calming God,
you have always given peace for the coming day;
and though my heart is anxious, today I believe.

Calming God,
you have always kept me safe in trials;
and now, tried as I am, today I believe.

Nurturing God,
you have always marked the road for the coming day;
and though it may be hidden, today I believe.

Nurturing God,
you have always lightened this darkness of mine;
and though the night is here, today I believe.

God of stillness,
you have always spoken when time was ripe;
and though you be silent now, today I believe.

Silence.

INTERCESSIONS AND THANKSGIVINGS

Please contribute prayers if you wish.

Silence.

TAIZÉ CHANT

Stay with me, remain here with me.
Watch and pray. Watch and pray.

THE COLLECT

We remember, O God, the grief of the disciples
when Jesus died.

Lead us beyond our fear of death to the joyful knowledge of
eternal life in him who lives forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As we wait for the new dawn, let us pray to God in the words that Jesus taught us:

**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.**

Silence.

**God, bless us now on this holy night.
and keep us from all harm.
Be with us as we wait and bring us to life
in the Kingdom of Heaven.
Amen.**

COMPLINE at 10pm

The ancient office of Compline derives its name from a Latin word meaning 'completion' (completorium). It is above all a service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day. It is most effective when the ending is indeed an ending, without additions, conversation or noise.

If there is any task to be done, it should be completed before the service. After the service those present are asked to depart in silence; to their vigil, to their bed, or to their homes.

*To assist with understanding the service sheet, please note that **text in bold type is intended to be said together.***

PREPARATION

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

Our help is in the name of the Lord
who made heaven and earth.

Silence - for reflection on the events of the past day.

PRAYER OF PENITENCE

**Ever-loving God, I reflect on the day that is past
and acknowledge that I have done wrong.**

**Lord, you accept me as I am,
you enfold me in your love and offer me guidance.
You are with me always.**

**Teach me your ways, O Lord;
make them known to me.**

**Teach me to live according to your truth.
For you are my God, who saves me.
I always trust in you.
Amen.**

All sing

**Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.**

**○ God, make speed to save us.
○ Lord, make haste to help us.**

Silence.

PSALMODY

Psalm 30

**I will exalt you, ○ God, because you have lifted me up *
and have not let my foes triumph over me.**

**○ my God, I cried out to you, *
and you restored me to health.**

**You brought me up, ○ God, from the dead; *
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.**

**Sing to God, you servants of God, *
and give thanks for the remembrance of God's holiness.**

**For divine wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye, *
divine favour for a lifetime.**

**Weeping may spend the night *
but joy comes in the morning.**

While I felt secure, I said, 'I shall never be disturbed. *
You, O God, with your favour, made me as strong as the
mountains.'

**Then you hid your face, *
and I was filled with fear.**

I cried to you, O God; *
I pleaded with you, saying,

**'What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the Pit; *
will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?**

Hear, O God, and have mercy upon me; *
O God, be my helper.'

**You have turned my wailing into dancing; *
you have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.**

Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; *
O God my God, I will give you thanks for ever.

**Glory to God, Source of all Being,
Eternal Word and Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now and shall be for ever.
Amen.**

Silence.

There is an opportunity to offer a contribution at this point.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Zechariah 12.10

I will pour out a spirit of compassion and supplication on the
house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that,

when they look on the one whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.

Jeremiah 14.9

You, O Lord, are in the midst of us and we are called by your name; leave us not, O Lord our God.

1 Peter 5.8, 9

Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil is prowling round like a roaring lion, seeking for someone to devour. Resist the adversary, strong in the faith.

Silence.

There is an opportunity to offer a contribution at this point.

Silence.

NUNC DIMITIS (Song of Simeon)

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

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

**For mine eyes have seen thy salvation;
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
to be a light to lighten the Gentiles:
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.**

**Save us, O Lord, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,**

that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep may rest in peace.

Amen.

INTERCESSIONS AND THANKSGIVINGS

Please contribute prayers if you wish.

All sing

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

THE COLLECT

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray,
and drive far from it the snares of the enemy;
may your holy angels dwell with us
and guard us in peace,
and may your blessing be always upon us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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.**

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

Silence.

All sing

**Stay with me, remain here with me.
Watch and pray. Watch and pray.**

THE CONCLUSION

In peace we will lie down and sleep;
for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.
Abide with us, Lord Jesus,
for the night is at hand and the day is now past.
As the night watch looks for the morning,
so do we look for you, O Christ.
Come with the dawning of the day
and make yourself known in the breaking of the bread.

The Lord bless us and watch over us;
the Lord make his face shine upon us
and be gracious to us;
the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace.
Amen.

*The Vigil begins straight after Compline. If you are leaving,
please leave quietly at this point. The church doors will be
locked at 10.30pm and opened at 5.45am.*

*Through the night, vigil will be kept in the side chapel,
with traditional readings and prayers.*