1st Vespers of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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.*

HYMN

Mary, crowned with living light,
Temple of the Lord,
Place of peace and holiness,
Shelter of the Word.

Mystery of sinless life
In our fallen race,
Free from shadow, you reflect
Plentitude of grace.

Virgin Mother of our God,
Lift us when we fall,
Who were named upon the Cross
Mother of us all.

Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
Heaven sings your praise;
Mary magnifies your name
Through eternal days.

PSALMODY

**Ant. 1** I will make you enemies, you and the woman, *your offspring* and hers.

Praise, O servants of the Lord,*
praise the name of the Lord!
May the name of the Lord be blessed *
both now and for evermore!
From the rising of the sun to its setting *
praised be the name of the Lord!

High above all nations is the Lord,*
above the heavens his glory.
Who is like the Lord, our God,*
who has risen on high to his throne
yet stoops from the heights to look down,*
to look down upon heaven and earth?

From the dust he lifts up the lowly,*
from his misery he raises the poor
to set him in the company of princes,*
yes, with the princes of his people.
To the childless wife he gives a home*
and gladdens her heart with children.

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  I will make you enemies, you *and* the woman, *your offspring* and hers.

**Ant. 2** The Lord has clothed me with garments of salvation,* he has covered me with a robe of justice.

O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!* 
Zion, praise your God! 

He has strengthened the bars of your gates,*
he has blessed the children within you.
He established peace on your borders,*
he feeds you with finest wheat. at the breath of his mouth the waters flow.

He sends out his word to the earth * He makes his word known to Jacob, *
and swiftly runs his command. to Israel his laws and decrees.
He showers down snow white as wool, * He has not dealt thus with other nations; *
he scatters hoar-frost like ashes. he has not taught them his decrees.

He hurls down hailstones like crumbs. * Glory to the Father, and to the Son, *
The waters are frozen at his touch; and to the Holy Spirit:
he sends forth his word and it melts them: * as it was in the beginning, is now, *

Antiphon The Lord has clothed me with garments of salvation; * he has covered me with a robe of justice.

Ant. 3 Hail Mary, full of grace; * the Lord is with you.

Praised be the God and Father * so immeasurably generous *
of our Lord Jesus Christ, is God’s favor to us.
who bestowed on us in Christ * God has given us the wisdom *
every spiritual blessing in the heavens. to understand fully the mystery,

God chose us in him + the plan he was pleased *
before the world began to be holy * to decree in Christ.
and blameless in his sight.

He predestined us + A plan to be carried out *
to be his adopted sons through Jesus Christ, * in Christ, in the fullness of time,
such was his will and his pleasure, to bring all things into one in him, *
that all might praise the glorious favor * in the heavens and on earth.
he has bestowed on us in his beloved.

In him and through his blood, we have been Glory to the Father, and to the Son, *
redeemed, * and to the Holy Spirit:
and our sins forgiven, as it was in the beginning, is now, *

Antiphon Hail Mary, full of grace; * the Lord is with you. and will be for ever. Amen

READING

Those whom God foreknew he predestined to share the image of his Son. Those he predestined he likewise called; those he called he also justified.

I shall glorify you, Lord, * for you have rescued me.
– I shall glorify you, Lord, * for you have rescued me.

You have not let my enemies rejoice over me. *
– for you have rescued me.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, * and to the Holy Spirit,
– I shall glorify you, Lord, * for you have rescued me.

CANTICLE OF MARY
Luke 1:46-55
The soul rejoices in the Lord

Antiphon  All generations will call me blessed: * the Almighty has done great things

My soul proclaims the Sign of the cross
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 for ever.

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  All generations will call me blessed: * the Almighty has done great things for me.

Let us praise God our almighty Father, who wished that Mary, his Son’s mother, be celebrated by each generation. * Now in need we ask: *
– Mary, full of grace, intercede for us.

O God, worker of miracles, you made the immaculate Virgin Mary share, body and soul, in your Son’s glory in heaven, * direct the hearts of your children to that same glory.
– Mary, full of grace, intercede for us.

You made Mary our mother. * Through her intercession grant strength to the weak, comfort to the sorrowing, pardon to sinners, salvation and peace to all.
– Mary, full of grace, intercede for us.

You made Mary full of grace, * grant all men the joyful abundance of your grace.
– Mary, full of grace, intercede for us.
Make your Church of one mind and one heart in love,*
and help all those who believe to be one in prayer with Mary, the mother of Jesus.
– Mary, full of grace, intercede for us.

You crowned Mary queen of heaven,*
may all the dead rejoice in your kingdom with the saints for ever.
– Mary, full of grace, intercede for us.

At the Saviour’s command, and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

Our Father, who art in...

COLLECT

Father,
you prepared the Virgin Mary
to be the worthy mother of your Son.
You let her share beforehand
in the salvation Christ would bring by his death,
and kept her sinless from the first moment of her conception.
Help us by her prayers
to live in your presence without sin.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
– Amen.

DISMISSAL

May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life.
– Amen.