THURSDAY AGAPE

EVENING PRAYER (VESPERS)

THURSDAY, WEEK 3

*ORDINARY TIME*

**Introduction** (All stand)

*Priest:* O God, come to our aid.

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

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

*People:*  as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia.

**Hymn**

This is my body broken for you,
bringing you wholeness, making you free.
Take it and eat it, and when you do,
do it in love for me.

This is my blood poured out for you,
bringing forgiveness, making you free.
Take it and drink it, and when you do,
do it in love for me.

**Psalms and Canticle** (All sit)

**Psalm 131 (132)
God's promise to the house of David**

“The Lord God will give him the throne

of David his father” (Lk 1:32).

*Priest: Your faithful shall ring out their joy as they enter your dwelling-place, Lord.*

*Men*: O Lord, remember David

  and all the many hardships he endured,

the oath he swore to the Lord,

  his vow to the Strong One of Jacob.

*Women:* ‘I will not enter the house where I live

  nor go to the bed where I rest.

I will give no sleep to my eyes,

  to my eyelids I will give no slumber

till I find a place for the Lord,

  a dwelling for the Strong One of Jacob.’

*Men*: At Ephrata we heard of the ark;

  we found it in the plains of Yearim.

‘Let us go to the place of his dwelling;

  let us go to kneel at his footstool.’

*Women:* Go up, Lord, to the place of your rest,

  you and the ark of your strength.

Your priests shall be clothed with holiness;

  your faithful shall ring out their joy.

For the sake of David your servant

  do not reject your anointed.

*Men*: Glory be to the Father and to the Son

  and to the Holy Spirit,

*Women:* as it was in the beginning,

  is now, and ever shall be,

  world without end.

Amen.

*All: Your faithful shall ring out their joy as they enter your dwelling-place, Lord.*

**Psalm 131 (132)**

*Priest: The Lord has chosen Sion as his dwelling-place.*

*Men*: The Lord swore an oath to David;

  he will not go back on his word:

‘A son, the fruit of your body,

  will I set upon your throne.

*Women:* ‘If they keep my covenant in truth

  and my laws that I have taught them,

their sons also shall rule

  on your throne from age to age.’

*Men*: For the Lord has chosen Sion;

  he has desired it for his dwelling:

‘This is my resting-place for ever;

  here have I chosen to live.

*Women:* ‘I will greatly bless her produce,

  I will fill her poor with bread.

I will clothe her priests with salvation

  and her faithful shall ring out their joy.

*Men*: ‘There David’s stock will flower;

  I will prepare a lamp for my anointed.

I will cover his enemies with shame

  but on him my crown shall shine.’

*Women:* Glory be to the Father and to the Son

  and to the Holy Spirit,

*Men*: as it was in the beginning,

  is now, and ever shall be,

  world without end.

Amen.

*All: The Lord has chosen Sion as his dwelling-place.*

**Canticle Apocalypse 11**

#### The Judgement

*Priest: The Lord has given him power and honour and empire, and all peoples will serve him.*

*Women:* We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty,

  who are and who were,

that you have taken your great power

  and begun to reign.

*Men*: The nations raged,

  but your wrath came,

and the time for the dead to be judged,

  for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints,

and those who fear your name,

  both small and great.

*Women:* Now the salvation and the power

  and the kingdom of our God

  and the authority of his Christ have come,

for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down,

  who accuses them day and night before our God.

*Men*: And they have conquered him

  by the blood of the Lamb

and by the word of their testimony,

  for they loved not their lives even unto death.

Rejoice, then, O heaven,

  and you that dwell therein.

*Women:* Glory be to the Father and to the Son

  and to the Holy Spirit,

*Men*: as it was in the beginning,

  is now, and ever shall be,

  world without end.

Amen.

*All: The Lord has given him power and honour and empire, and all peoples will serve him.*

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**Short Reading 1 Peter 3:8-9**

You should all agree among yourselves and be sympathetic; love the brothers, have compassion and be self-effacing. Never pay back one wrong with another, or an angry word with another one; instead, pay back with a blessing. That is what you are called to do, so that you inherit a blessing yourself.

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**Short Responsory**

*Priest:* The Lord fed us with finest wheat.

*All:* The Lord fed us with finest wheat.

*Priest:* He filled us with honey from the rock.

*All:* *The Lord fed us with finest wheat.*

*Priest:* Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

*All:* *The Lord fed us with finest wheat.*

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**Canticle** (*All stand)*  **Magnificat**

#### My soul rejoices in the Lord

*Priest: The Lord brought down the mighty from their seats, and raised up the lowly.*

*Women:* 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.

*Men:* The Almighty works marvels for me.

  Holy his name!

His mercy is from age to age,

  on those who fear him.

*Women:* He puts forth his arm in strength

  and scatters the proud-hearted.

He casts the mighty from their thrones

  and raises the lowly.

*Men:* He fills the starving with good things,

  sends the rich away empty.

*Women:* He protects Israel, his servant,

  remembering his mercy,

the mercy promised to our fathers,

  to Abraham and his sons for ever.

*Men:* Glory be to the Father and to the Son

  and to the Holy Spirit,

*Women:* as it was in the beginning,

  is now, and ever shall be,

  world without end.

Amen.

*All: The Lord brought down the mighty from their seats, and raised up the lowly.*

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**Prayers and intercessions**

*Priest:* Christ is the high priest of his people: it is in him that we come together to make our prayer to the Father of us all.

*All:* *Father, put new hearts within us.*

*Priest:* We thank you for calling us into the Church:

  bless us with constant faith, and make it a source of life for others.

*All:* *Father, put new hearts within us.*

*Priest:* Lord, bless Francis, our Pope:

  we pray that his faith may not fail, and that he may strengthen his brothers.

*All:* *Father, put new hearts within us.*

*Priest:* Turn sinners back to you:

  grant us a humble and contrite heart.

*All:* *Father, put new hearts within us.*

*Priest:* Your Son knew what it was to be excluded from his homeland.

  Be mindful of those who must live far from their family and country.

*All:* *Father, put new hearts within us.*

*Priest:* Give eternal rest to the dead:

  bring the whole Church together in heaven.

*All:* *Father, put new hearts within us.*

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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.

*Priest:* We offer you, Lord, our thanksgiving

  at the close of this day.

In your mercy, forgive the faults we have committed

  through human frailty.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

  who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

  **(**one**)** God, for ever and ever.

*All:* **Amen.**

*Priest:* The Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

*All:* **Amen.**

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**Scripture Readings for Silent Meditation**

1. “The Lord is my light and my help: whom should I fear?”

*What or whom do you fear? How is the Lord your light? Your help?*

1. “For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God!”

*What are your thirsts? Try to summon and feel the thirst of your soul.*

1. “The Word became flesh … My flesh is real food.”

*Consider the flesh of Jesus in your own flesh … his Word in your words.*

1. “Rabbi, where do you stay? …. Stay in me, as I in you.”

*Rest in Jesus. Linger with him. What does being at home with him look like?*