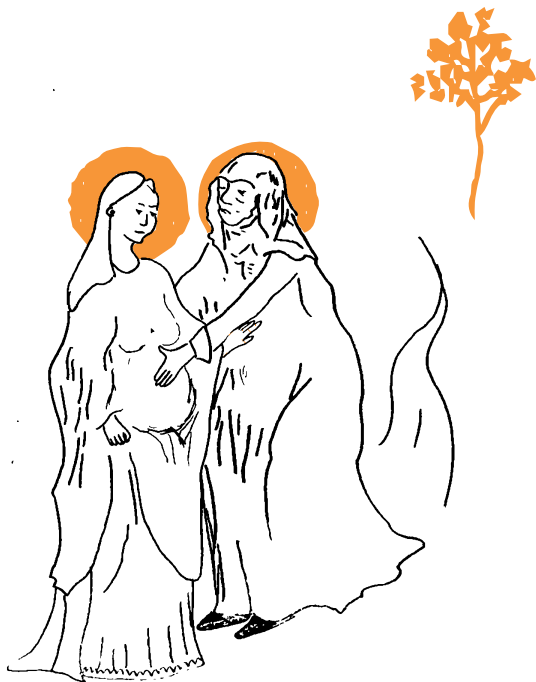


# St. Joseph Compline



*ALL*

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.

*V* That this evening may be  
holy, good and peaceful,  
let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept.*

*V* 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.

*ALL*  
Amen.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

ECCE FIDELIS SERVUS ET PRUDENS,  
QUEM CONSTITUIT DOMINUS  
SUPER FAMILIAM SUAM.

*V* Behold, a faithful and prudent steward,  
whom the Lord set over his household.

*A song of the blessed*

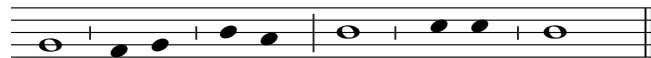


- 1 Blessed are the | poor in | spirit,  
for theirs is the | kingdom of | heaven.
- 3 Blessed | are the | meek,  
for they shall in | herit the | earth.
- 5 Blessed | are the | merciful,  
for | they shall obtain | mercy.
- 7 Blessed | are the | peacemakers,  
for they shall be called | children of | God.

**PROVERBS 8.1-21**

Does not wisdom call,  
and does not understanding raise her voice?

*On the heights, beside the way,  
at the crossroads she takes her stand;*



- 2 Blessed are | those who | mourn,  
for | they shall be | comforted.
- 4 Blessed are those who hunger and  
| thirst after | righteousness,  
for | they shall be | satisfied.
- 6 Blessed are the | pure in | heart,  
for | they shall see | God.
- 8 Blessed are those who suffer persecution for  
| righteousness' | sake,  
for theirs is the | kingdom of | heaven.

beside the gates in front of the town,  
at the entrance of the portals she cries out:

*'To you, O people, I call,  
and my cry is to all that live.  
O simple ones, learn prudence;  
acquire intelligence, you who lack it.  
Hear, for I will speak of noble things'*

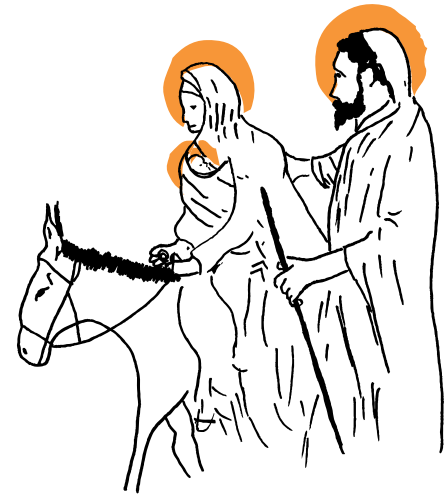
*From the Chester Mystery Cycle*

ANGEL

Joseph, let be thy feeble thought.  
Take Mary, thy wife, and dread thee nought,  
for wickedly she hath not wrought;  
but this is God's will.  
The child that she shall bear, iwis,  
of the Holy Ghost begotten is,  
to save mankind that did amiss,  
and prophecy to fulfil.

JOSEPH

A, now I wot, Lord, it is so;  
I will no more be her foe,  
but while I may on earth go  
with her will I be.  
Now Christ does in our kind alight,  
as the prophets before hight.  
Lord God, most of might,  
with weal I worship thee.



## GOSPEL

LUKE 2:41-51

Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom.

*After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it.*

Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him.

*After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers.*

When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him,

*“Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety.”*

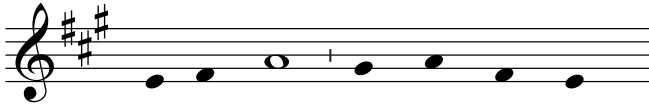
And he said to them,

*“Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?”*

But they did not understand what he said to them.

*He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them.*

*The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah)*



1 Blessèd be the Lord the | God of Israel,  
2 He has raised up for us a | mighty Saviour,  
3 Through his holy prophets God | promised of old  
4 To show mercy | to our ancestors,  
5 This was the oath God swore to our | father Abraham:  
6 Free to worship | him without fear,  
7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet  
| of the Most High,  
8 To give his people knowledge | of salvation  
9 In the tender compas|sion of our God  
10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the  
| shadow of death,

who has come to his people and | set them free.  
born of the house of his | servant David.  
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of  
| all that hate us,  
and to remember his | holy covenant.  
to set us free from the hands | of our enemies,  
holy and righteous in his sight all the days  
| of our life.  
for you will go before the Lord to pre|pare his way,  
by the forgiveness of | all their sins.  
the dawn from on high shall | break upon us,  
and to guide our feet into the | way of peace.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*ALL*

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.

*From the Chester Mystery Cycle*

JOSEPH

Lord, welcome sweet Jesu!  
Thy name thou haddest ere I thee knew.  
Now believe I, the angel's word is true,  
For thou art come man's bliss to brew  
to all that thy law will show.  
Now man's joy begins anew,  
never to pass away.

## VENI, VENI EMMANUEL

*O come, O come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny  
From depths of Hell thy people save  
And give them victory o'er the grave  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

## PHILIPPIANS 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: REJOICE! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. *Amen.*



