

The Third Order Office

Introduction

Leader How blessed are those who know their need of God.

All The Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

Leader O God make speed to save us

All O Lord make haste to help us

Leader Lead your people to freedom O God

All And banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

Opening Collect

Leader As our evening prayer comes 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 forever. Amen.

Confession

Leader Jesus says, repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is close at hand. Let us turn away from our sin and turn to Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

All Most merciful God,
Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ
we confess that we have sinned
in thought word and deed
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with You, Our God

Amen

Leader (or priest if available)

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by His Holy Spirit
and raise us to new life in Christ Our Lord.

Reader 2 Far be it from me to glory except in the cross of
Our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the world is
crucified to me and I to the world.

Antiphon

- Reader 1 Most High, all powerful, good Lord, to you be praise, glory, honor and all blessing.
- Reader 2 Only to you, Most High, do they belong and no one is worthy to call upon your name.
- Reader 3 May you be praised, My Lord, with all your creatures, especially brother sun, through whom you lighten the day for us. He is beautiful and radiant with great splendor. He signifies you, O Most High.
- Reader 4 Be praised, my Lord, for sister moon and the stars, clear and precious and lovely they are formed in heaven.
- Reader 1 Be praised, my Lord, for brother wind and for air and clouds, clear skies and all weathers, by which you give sustenance to your creatures.
- Reader 2 Be praised, my Lord, for sister water, who is very useful and humble and precious and pure.
- Reader 3 Be praised, my Lord, for brother fire, by whom the night is illumined for us, he is beautiful and cheerful, full of power and strength.
- Reader 4 Be praised my Lord for sister, our mother earth, who sustains and governs us and produces diverse fruits and colored flowers and grass.
- Reader 1 Be praised, my Lord, by all who forgive for love of you and who bear weakness and tribulation.
- Reader 2 Blessed are those who bear them in peace; for by you most high they will be crowned
- Reader 3 Be praised, my Lord, for our sister, the death of the body, from which no one living is able to flee.
- Reader 4 Woe to those who are dying in mortal sin. Blessed are those who are found doing your most holy will, for the second death will do them no harm
- All Praise and bless my Lord and give him thanks and serve him with great humility.

The Gospel

Matthew 18:1-5

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a little child to him and placed the child among them. And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me."

Community Obedience

- All We adore you most holy Lord, Jesus Christ, here and in all your Churches throughout the world and we bless you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.
- Reader 1 From the Testament of St Francis

"And after the Lord gave me some brothers, no one showed me what to do; but the Most High revealed to me that I was to live according to the manner of the Holy Gospel. And I had it written down in brief, simple words, and the Lord Pope confirmed it for me.

And those who came to receive this life gave everything they had to the poor;
and they were happy with the one tunic patched inside and out,
and with a cord and breeches.

And we had no desire for anything else."

OSF Brothers share a reading from their rule and tell us about their vocation and their profession of vows

Reader 2 A reading from the Principles of the Third Order of the Society of St Francis:
Day Eighteen — Study, The Second Way of Service

As well as the devotional study of Scripture, we all recognize our Christian responsibility to pursue other branches of study, both sacred and secular. In particular some of us accept the duty of contributing, through research and writing, to a better understanding of the church's mission in the world: the application of Christian principles to the use and distribution of wealth; questions concerning justice and peace; and of all other questions concerning the life of faith.

A moment of reflection

Leader O God, we give you thanks for the Order of St Francis and for the Society of St Francis.
Grant, we pray, that being knit together in community and prayer, we your servants may glorify your holy name after the example of St Francis, and win others to your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A period of quiet reflection should follow.

Responses

Leader The Lord is my light and my salvation, the Lord is the strength of my life
All The Lord is my light and my salvation, the Lord is the strength of my life.
Leader The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.
All The Lord is the strength of my life.
Leader Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
All The Lord is my light and my salvation, the Lord is the strength of my life.

Canticle: The Praises Of God

Reader 1 You are holy, Lord, the only God
Reader 2 And your deeds are wonderful
Reader 3 You are strong. You are great
Reader 4 You are the most high, You are almighty.
Reader 1 You holy Father are king of heaven and earth
Reader 2 You are three in One, Lord God, all good
Reader 3 You are good, all good, supremely good
Reader 4 Lord God, living and true.
Reader 1 You are love, you are wisdom
Reader 2 You are humility. You are endurance.
Reader 3 You are rest. You are peace.
Reader 4 You are joy and gladness.
Reader 1 You are justice and moderation
Reader 2 You are all our riches and you suffice for us.
Reader 3 You are beauty. You are gentleness
Reader 4 You are our protector. You are our guardian and defender.
Reader 1 You are courage. You are our haven and our hope
Reader 2 You are our faith. You are our great consolation.
Reader 3 You are our eternal life, great and wonderful Lord
Reader 4 God almighty, merciful Savior. Amen.

SILENCE

Leader Lord, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Leader Lord, have mercy.

All Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread
forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are
yours, now and forever.
Amen.

Leader Almighty God when the world was growing cold, to the inflaming of our hearts by the fire of
your love you raised up blessed Francis bearing in his body the marks of the Passion of your
Son; mercifully grant to us your people, true penitence and grace to bear the cross for love of
Him who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God now and forever.

All Amen.

Leader God our Father,
you always delight to reveal yourself
to the childlike and lowly of heart;
grant that following the example
of our blessed father Francis
we may count the wisdom of this world as foolishness
and know only Jesus Christ,
and him crucified,
who is alive and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

All Amen.

All May the power of your love, O Lord,
fiery and sweet as honey,
wean our hearts from all that is under heaven,
that we may die for the love of your love,
you who were so good as to die
for love of our love. Amen.

Leader May God kindle in us the fire of his love, bless us, preserve us from all evil and bring us to
everlasting life.

Leader Let us bless the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Leader The Blessing for Brother Leo
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you his peace.
My brothers and sisters, the Lord bless you.

All Amen.

May our Blessed Lady pray for us;
May St Francis pray for us;
May St Clare pray for us;
May all the Saints of the Third Order pray for us;
May the holy angels watch over us and befriend us;
May our Lord Jesus give us his blessing and his peace.

All Amen.

Leader The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
 be with us all evermore.

All Amen.