

The Christian Year

THE NAMING OF JESUS [1 January]

[Use Form 4]

Reading

Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said, "This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

Acts 4.11, 12

Response

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given,
And he shall be called The Prince of Peace!

Benedictus **You shall call his name Jesus***
 for he will save his people from their sins.

Magnificat **God, you have done great things for us,***
 and holy is your Name.

Collect

Praise to you, Christ our Redeemer
for you were circumcised this day
and given Jesus as your name.
Praise to you, Jesus, well are you named
for you save us all from our sins. **Amen.**

EPIPHANY [6 January]

[Use Form 5]

Reading

For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4.5, 6

Response

The glory of God is shown forth,
God's glory is revealed to the nations.

Collect

O God, by the leading of a star
you revealed your Son Jesus Christ to the gentiles;
grant that your Church may be a light to the nations,
so that the whole world may come to see
the splendour of your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord . . .

THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST [THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY]

Reading

[Use Form 5]

John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' "

John 1.32, 33

Response

Behold my Chosen, in whom my soul delights;
The Anointed One, on whom my Spirit rests.

Benedictus

**Jesus is baptized and the whole world is made holy,*
Christ washes away our sins
and purifies us with the Holy Spirit.**

Magnificat

**Draw water from the wells of salvation,*
for Christ our Lord has made creation holy.**

Collect

Almighty God,
you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit, and revealed him as your beloved Son:
inspire us, your children,
who are born of water and the Spirit,
to surrender our lives to your service,
that we may rejoice to be called the sons and daughters of God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord . . .

CONVERSION OF PAUL [25 January]

[Use Form 2]

Reading

For I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin; for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. *Galatians 1.11-12*

Response

Faith comes by hearing
And hearing by the word of Christ.

Collect

Almighty God,
you have caused the light of the gospel
to shine throughout the world
through the preaching of your servant Paul;
grant that we who remember his wonderful conversion
may follow him in bearing witness to your truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord . . .

PRESENTATION OF CHRIST [2 February]

[Use Form 5]

Reading

Christ became like us, his brothers and sisters, in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.

Hebrews 2.17

Response

We wait for your loving-kindness, O God,
In the midst of your temple.

Benedictus

**The parents of Jesus marvelled
at what was said about him.*
And Mary kept all these things
and pondered them in her heart.**

Magnificat

**Simeon held the child in his arms,
and beheld his Salvation;*
Anna gave thanks to God
and proclaimed her Redeemer.**

Collect

Everliving God,
your Son Jesus Christ was presented as a child in the temple to be the hope of
your people;
grant us pure hearts and minds
that we may be transformed into his likeness,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever.

ASH WEDNESDAY

[Use Form 6]

Reading

Jesus said, 'When you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret.'

Matthew 6.17,18

Response

Create in us a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit within us.

Collect

Almighty and merciful God,
you hate nothing that you have made
and forgive the sins of all who are penitent;
create in us new and contrite hearts,
so that when we turn to you and confess our sins
we may receive your full and perfect forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer . . .

JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF THE BVM [19 March]

[Use Form 4]

Reading

Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.

Matthew 1.16

Response

Behold the faithful and wise servant
Whom the Master placed over the household.

Benedictus **Joseph was the husband of Mary,*
who gave birth to Jesus, called Messiah.**

Magnificat **Joseph of Nazareth went up to Bethlehem*
to be enrolled with Mary his betrothed,
who was with child.**

Collect

O God,
who from the family of your servant David
raised up Joseph
to be the guardian of your only son
and spouse of the Virgin Mary, his mother:
give us grace to follow him
in faithful obedience to your commands;
through Jesus Christ our Lord . . .

ANNUNCIATION OF OUR SAVIOUR [25 March]

[Use Form 4]

Reading

“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.”

Luke 1.35

Response

Here am I, the servant of the Lord,
Let it be with me according to your word.

Benedictus **The Holy Spirit will come upon you, Mary,*
and the power of the Most High
will overshadow you.**

Magnificat **Mary received the word of the Lord;*
and conceived the Word of life.**

Collect

God of grace,
grant that Mary’s obedience may inspire us
to obey your will

and receive Jesus Christ in our hearts as Lord;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit
one God for ever.

PALM SUNDAY

[Use Form 6]

Reading

The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?"

Matthew 21.9-10

Response

God's love for us is proved in this:

That while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Collect

Almighty and everliving God,
in your tender love towards us
you sent your Son to take our nature upon him,
and to suffer death upon the cross;
grant that we may follow the example
of his great humility
and share in his glorious resurrection;
through Jesus Christ our Lord . . .

MAUNDY THURSDAY

[Use Form 6]

Reading

Jesus said, "If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you."

John 13.14-15

Response

Christ loved those who were his

And showed them how deep was his love for them.

Benedictus

I have longed to eat*

this Passover with you before I suffer.

Magnificat

Christ humbled himself for us,*

and in obedience accepted death.

Collect

Everlasting God,
your Son Jesus Christ girded himself with a towel
and washed his disciples' feet;
grant us the will to be the servant of others

as he was servant of all,
who gave up his life and died for us,
yet is alive and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever.

GOOD FRIDAY

[Use Form 6]

Reading

Christ Jesus emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross.

Philippians 2.7-8

Response

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
For by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Benedictus **Over his head, they put the charge against him:
This is Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.**

Magnificat **Christ humbled himself for us,*
and in obedience accepted death,
even death on a cross.**

Collect

Gracious and eternal God,
look with mercy on this your family
for which our Lord Jesus Christ was willing
to be betrayed into the hands of his adversaries
and to suffer death upon the cross;
and grant us to rejoice
in the benefits of his passion;
through him who is alive and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever.

EASTER EVE

[Use Form 6]

Reading

Jesus said, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." He was speaking of the temple of his body.

John 2.19, 21

Response

Return to the Lord, who will have mercy,
To our God, who will richly pardon.

Benedictus **Destroy this temple and, in three days,**

I will raise it up, says the Lord;*
this Christ said of the temple that was his body.

Magnificat

Christ humbled himself for us and,
in obedience, accepted death,
even death on a cross:*
therefore God raised Christ to the heights
and gave him the name
which is above all other names.

Collect

Grant O God,
that we who are baptized into the death
of your Son Jesus Christ,
may continually die to sin
and be buried with him,
that through the grave and gate of death
we may pass to our joyful resurrection;
for his sake, who died and was buried
and rose again for us,
your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.

EASTER DAY

[Use Form 1]

Reading

Our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed. Therefore, let us celebrate the festival, with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

1 Corinthians 5.7-8

Response

This is the day which the Lord has made. Alleluia!
Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia!

Collect

Glorious Lord of Life,
we praise you,
that by the mighty resurrection of your Son,
you have delivered us from sin and death
and made your whole creation new;
grant that we who celebrate with joy
Christ's rising from the dead,
may be raised from the death of sin
to the life of righteousness;
through him who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever.

ASCENSION DAY

[Use Form 1]

Reading

“Why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Acts 1.11

Response

I am ascending to my Father and to your Father,
To my God and your God.

Benedictus

**Christ was believed in
throughout the world*
and taken up in glory.**

Magnificat

**I have made your name known
to those you have given me;*
and now I pray for them,
for I am coming to you.**

Collect

Eternal and gracious God,
we believe your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to have ascended with triumph
into your kingdom in heaven;
may we also in heart and mind
ascend to where he is,
and with him continually dwell;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and forever.

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

[Use Form 2]

Reading

Jesus said, “I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth.”

John 14.16-17a

Response

The Spirit searches all things,
Even the depths of God.

Collect

Almighty God,
you kindled this day the light of your Spirit
in the hearts of your faithful people;
may we by the same Spirit
have a right judgment in all things,

and evermore rejoice in your love and power;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour,
who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever.

TRINITY SUNDAY [*Pentecost 1*]

[*Use Form 1*]

Reading

Jesus said to the disciples, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Matthew 28.19

Response

Holy, holy, holy is the God of hosts,
Who was, and is, and who is to come.

Benedictus **Glory and honour be to God***
in the unity of the Trinity.

Magnificat **Blessed be the creator of all things;***
the holy and undivided Trinity.

Collect

God of unchangeable power,
you have revealed yourself
to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
keep us firm in this faith
that we may praise and bless your holy name;
for you are one God now and for ever.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE EUCHARIST

[*Use Form 4*]

[*Thursday after Pentecost 1*]

Reading

Jesus said, "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in
them."

John 6.56

Response

Mortals ate the food of angels,
You gave them bread from heaven.

Benedictus **I am the living bread which came down from heaven;***
whoever eats of this bread will live for ever.

Magnificat **O sacred feast, in which Christ is received**
and the memory of his passion is renewed:*

**our minds are filled with grace
and a pledge of future glory is given us.**

Collect

Everloving God,
your Son Jesus Christ
gave himself as living bread
for the life of the world;
give us such a knowledge of his presence
that we may be strengthened
and sustained by his risen life
to serve you continually;
through Jesus Christ our Lord . . .

VISIT OF BVM TO ELIZABETH [31 May]

[Use Form 4]

Reading

Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."

Luke 1.41, 42

Response

You, God, have looked with favour on your lowly servant,
From this day, all generations shall call her blessed.

Collect

Everloving God,
by your grace Elizabeth rejoiced with Mary
and hailed her as the mother of the Lord.
Fill us with your grace,
that we may acclaim her Son as our Saviour
and rejoice in our fellowship with him;
through Jesus Christ our Lord . . .

JOHN THE BAPTIST [24 June]

[Use Form 3]

Reading

"Truly I tell you," said Jesus, "among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist."

Matthew 11.11

Response

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of me,
To prepare my way before me."

Benedictus

**Elizabeth, the wife of Zechariah,
brought forth a son;***

he grew and became strong in spirit.

Magnificat

**The child born of Elizabeth
is more than a prophet,*
for there has arisen no one greater
than John the Baptist,
proclaims the Saviour.**

Collect

God our strength and our hope,
grant us the courage of John the Baptist,
constantly to speak the truth,
boldly to rebuke vice
and patiently to suffer for the truth's sake;
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord . . .

PETER AND PAUL [29 June]

[Use Form 2]

Reading

God, who worked through Peter making him an apostle to the circumcised also worked through me in sending me to the Gentiles.

Galatians 2.8

Response

Their voice has gone out to all the earth
And their words to the ends of the world.

Collect

Almighty God,
we thank you for your servants Peter and Paul,
leaders of your Church and martyrs for your name;
fill us like them with your Spirit
that we may follow in the way of Jesus Christ
who endured the cross,
despising the shame,
and is at your right hand,
now and for ever.

MARY MAGDALENE Apostle to the Apostles [22 July]

Reading

[Use Form 2]

"Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher).

John 20.13-16

Response

Mary came and told the disciples:

"I have seen the Lord!"

Benedictus **After the Sabbath, towards the dawn
of the first day of the week,*
Mary Magdalene went to the tomb.**

Magnificat **In vigil by the cross of her Lord*
stood Mary of Magdala, his disciple.**

Collect

Merciful God,
your Son restored Mary Magdalene to health
of body and mind
and called her to be a witness
of his resurrection;
heal us and make us whole
that we may serve you
in the power of his risen life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord . . .

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE BELOVED SON [6 August]

Reading

[Use Form 1]

Jesus said, "Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

John 12.28

Response

It is good that we are here
To behold the glory that is Christ.

Benedictus **Christ, who is the very image of the Father,*
was revealed in glory upon the high mountain.**

Magnificat **This is my Son, my Belovèd;*
listen to my Chosen One.**

Collect

God of life and glory,
your Son was revealed in splendour
before he suffered death upon the cross;
grant that we, beholding his majesty,
may be strengthened to follow him
and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory;
for he is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever.

MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS [15 August]

[Use Form 4]

Reading

Jesus went with his parents and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

Luke 2.51-52

Response

Blessed are you, Mary, the Lord is with you.

**Through you we received our Redeemer,
the Lord Jesus Christ!**

Collect

God of love,
you chose the blessed virgin Mary
to be the mother of your only Son;
grant that we who have been redeemed by his blood,
may share with her the glory of your eternal kingdom;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord . . .

HOLY CROSS DAY [14 September]

[Use Form 6]

Reading

Christ abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross.

Ephesians 2.15,16

Response

Far be it from me to glory

Save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Benedictus **Dying, you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:*
save us by your holy cross,
O Christ, our Redeemer.**

Magnificat **If you would come after me,
you must deny yourself,*
and take up your cross and follow me.**

Collect

Almighty God,
in the passion of your blessed Son
you made an instrument of shameful death
to be for us the means of life;
grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ
that we may gladly suffer for his sake,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God now and for ever.

MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS [29 September]

[Use Form 5]

Reading

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

John 1.51

Response

The Lord commanded the angels
To keep you in all your ways.

Benedictus **There was silence in heaven
while the dragon waged war*
and Michael and his angels fought
against the dragon and won the victory.**

Magnificat **Then I saw an angel
soaring in the heavens*
with an eternal gospel to proclaim to all
who live on the earth.**

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
whom we adore with all the angelic host,
may we always rejoice in your heavenly protection
and serve you faithfully in this present life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord . . .

ALL SAINTS' DAY [1 November]

[Use Form 7]

Reading

There was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Revelation 7.9, 10

Response

The righteous will shine like the sun
In the kingdom of the Father.

Benedictus **The saints cried out with a loud voice:*
Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.**

Magnificat **With one heart and voice, all the saints proclaim:*
We praise you, blessId Trinity, one God.**

Collect

Almighty God,
your saints are one with you
in the mystical body of Christ;
give us grace to follow them
in all virtue and holiness
until we come to those inexpressible joys
which you have prepared for those
who truly love you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord . . .

COMMEMORATION OF FAITHFUL DEPARTED [2 November]

Reading

[Use Form 7]

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life."

John 5.24

Response

I am the resurrection and the life;
**Whoever believes in me, though they die,
yet shall they live.**

Benedictus

**As the Father raises the dead
and gives them life*
So the Son gives life to anyone he chooses.**

Magnificat

**All that the Father gives me
will come to me;*
and the one who comes to me
I will not cast out.**

Collect

Merciful God,
your Son is the resurrection and the life
of all the faithful;
raise us from the death of sin
to the life of righteousness,
that at the last,
with all your faithful servants,
we may come to your eternal joy;
through our Saviour Jesus Christ . . .

THE KINGSHIP OF CHRIST [Sunday before Advent]

Reading

[Use Form 1]

God raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion.

Response

God raised Christ from the dead
And Christ was enthroned as God's right hand in heaven.

Collect

God of power and love,
who raised your Son Jesus from death to life,
resplendent in glory to rule over all creation:
free the world to rejoice in his peace,
to glory in his justice, and to live in his love.
Unite the human race in Jesus Christ your Son,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

ADVENT SUNDAY

[Use Form 3]

Reading

Now is the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now
than when we became believers.

Romans 13.11

Response

Lord Jesus, you are the one who is to come.
The one whom we await with longing hearts.

Collect

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast off the works of darkness
and put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
so that when he shall come again in his glorious
majesty
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever.

CHRISTMAS DAY

[Use Form 4]

Reading

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves
is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for
God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only
Son into the world so that we might live through him.

1 John 4.7-9

Response

Glory to God in the Highest!

And on earth, peace!

Collect

Almighty God,
you gave your only-begotten Son
to take our nature upon him,
and be born of the Virgin Mary;
grant that we, who have been born again
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever.

STEPHEN, THE FIRST CHRISTIAN MARTYR [26 December, or 3 August]

[Use Form 4]

Reading

While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."
Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin
against them." When he had said this, he died.

Acts 7.59-60

Response

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God.

**God abides in those who confess that Jesus
is the Son of God.**

Collect

Merciful God,
give us grace in all our sufferings for the truth
to follow the example
of your martyr Stephen,
that we also may look to him who was crucified
and pray for those who persecute us;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer . . .

JOHN THE EVANGELIST [27 December, or 6 May]

Reading

[Use Form 4]

Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; he was the
one who had reclined next to Jesus at the supper. Peter said, "Lord, what about
him?" Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that
to you? Follow me!"

John 21.20-22

Response

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
Full of grace and truth.

Collect

God our Father,
we praise you for John, your evangelist,
whose gospel reveals the mystery of the Word made flesh;
grant that, enlightened by his teaching,
we may walk in the way of your truth,
and finally come to the light of eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord . . .

THE HOLY INNOCENTS [28 December, or 16 February]

Reading

[Use Form 4]

Jesus called a child, whom he put among the disciples, and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me."

Matthew 18.2-3, 5

Response

To all who received him, who believed in his name,
He gave power to become the children of God.

Collect

Holy Father,
your Son was saved from the slaughter of infants
at the hand of Herod;
grant that we may never be indifferent
to the sufferings of your children,
but may bring them help and compassion in your unfailing love,
now and for ever.

NEW YEAR'S EVE [31 December]

[Use Form 4]

Reading

"In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end."

Hebrews 1.10-12

Response

In the beginning was the Word,
And the Word was God.

Collect

Eternal God,
to whom a thousand years are no more than a moment;
renew us in your Holy Spirit,

so that we may serve you with courage
while we have life and breath;
through the grace of Jesus your Son . . .

The Common of Holy Days

FOR THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

[Use Form 4]

Reading

Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

Luke 1.38

Response

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.

Because God has blessed you for ever.

Collect

Jesus, your birth is wonderful
and your mother is the most beloved woman of all time.
Help all of us who believe in you
to honour each other equally,
whatever our gender,
whatever our ability,
whatever our social state may be.

FOR APOSTLES & EVANGELISTS

[Use Form 2]

Reading

Proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favourable or unfavourable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. Always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

2 Timothy 4.2, 5

Response

You did not choose me, but I chose you,
**I appointed you to go out and bear fruit,
the fruit that shall last.**

Collect

Almighty God,
your Church is built on the foundation
of the apostles and prophets
with Christ our Lord as the cornerstone;
grant that, united with them in faith and love,
we may be part of that living temple
which is being built to your glory,
through Jesus Christ our Lord . . .

FOR A MARTYR

[Use Form 6]

Reading

When the Lamb opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slaughtered for the word of God and for the testimony they had given.

Revelation 6.9

Response

Blessed are those who are persecuted for the cause of right,
The kingdom of heaven is theirs!

Collect

Everloving God,
by your grace and power
your holy martyr *N* triumphed over suffering
and was faithful even to death;
strengthen us with your grace
that we may faithfully witness
to Jesus Christ our Saviour . . .

FOR A TEACHER OR CONFESSOR OF THE FAITH

[Use Form 5]

Reading

Wisdom guided them in straight paths; she showed them God's kingdom and gave them knowledge of holy things.

Wisdom 10.10

Response

Those who keep the commandments and teach them
Shall be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.

Collect

Almighty God,
you have enlightened your Church
by the teaching of your servant *N*;
enrich it evermore with your heavenly grace,
and raise up faithful witnesses,
who by their life and teaching
may proclaim to all people
the truth of your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord . . .

FOR A BISHOP OR PASTOR

[Use Form 5]

Reading

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.

Hebrews 13.7

Response

I will give you shepherds after my own heart,
**Who will feed you with knowledge
and understanding.**

Collect

Good and gracious God,
the light of the faithful and shepherd of souls,
you set your servant *N*
to be a bishop / priest in your Church
to feed your sheep with your word
and to guide them by *her/his* example;
give us grace to keep the faith *s/he* taught
and to follow in *her/his* footsteps,
through Jesus Christ . . .

FOR A MONASTIC OR OTHER RELIGIOUS

[Use Form 3]

Reading

A young man said to Jesus, "I have kept all the commandments from my youth; what do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me."

Matthew 19.20-21

Response

Blessed are the pure in heart,
For they shall see God.

Collect

Gracious and eternal God,
by your grace *N*,
kindled with the fire of your love,
became a burning and a shining light in your Church;
in flame us with the same spirit of discipline and love
that we may always walk before you as children of light;
through Jesus Christ our Lord . . .

FOR A MISSIONARY

[Use Form 2]

Reading

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

Isaiah 52.7

Response

Give thanks to the Lord; call upon God's name!
Tell the nations all that God has done.

Collect

Almighty God,
we thank you for *N*,
whom you called to preach the gospel
to the people of . . .
Raise up in this and every land
heralds and evangelists of your kingdom,
that your Church may make known
the immeasurable riches of our Saviour Christ . . .

FOR GROUP COMMEMORATIONS

[Use Form 1]

Reading

In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8.37-end

Response

The Lord looks on those who revere God,
On those who trust God's merciful love.

Collect

Almighty God,
you call witnesses from every nation
and reveal your glory in their lives;
make us thankful for their example,
and strengthen us by their fellowship
that like them we may be faithful
in the service of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord . . .

FOR ANY SAINT

[Use Form 6]

Reading

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Philippians 4.8

Response

The righteous will be remembered for ever,
The memory of the righteous is a blessing.

Collect

Almighty God,
you have built up your Church
through the love and devotion of your saints;

we give you thanks for your servant *N*
whom we commemorate today.
Inspire us to follow *her/his* example
that like *her/him* we may in our day rejoice
in the vision of your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord . . .

FOR THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH

[Use Form 4]

Reading

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help.

Ecclesiastes 4.9, 10

Response

Christ is our peace, who has made us one,
Christ has broken down the barriers which divided us.

Collect

Everloving God,
you have called us
in the body of your Son Jesus Christ
to continue his work of reconciliation
and reveal you to all the world;
forgive us the sins which tear us apart;
give us courage to overcome our fears
and to seek that unity
which is your gift and your will;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour . . .

FOR THE PEACE OF THE WORLD

[Use Form 5]

Reading

Jesus said, "I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!"

John 16.33

Response

Live with one another in peace
And the God of peace will be with you.

Collect

Everloving God,
the source of all true harmony;
guide with your wisdom
those who govern the nations of the world,
that all your children may come and go in peace

and the earth be filled with the knowledge of your love;
through Jesus Christ, the prince of peace . . .

THE DEPARTED

[Use Form 6]

Reading

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Romans 14.7-9

Response

I am the resurrection and the life, said the Lord.

**Whoever believes in me, though they die,
yet shall they live.**

Collect

God of all consolation,
we commend *N* to you,
as *s/he* journeys beyond our sight;
in your unending love and mercy
you turn the darkness of death
into the dawn of new life.
Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
by dying for us, conquered death,
and by rising again, restored life.
May we not be afraid of death
but desire to be with Christ,
and after our life on earth,
to be with those we love,
where every tear is wiped away
and all things are made new.
We ask this through Jesus Christ . . .

For the Kontakion see November 2