

O God, come to our aid. O Lord, make haste to help us. Glory be ...

### **Hymn**

*Holy darkness, blessed night,  
heaven's answer hidden from our sight.  
As we await you, O God of silence,  
we embrace your holy night.*

I have tried you in fires of affliction;  
I have taught your soul to grieve.  
In the barren soil of your loneliness,  
there I will plant my seed.

I have taught you the price of compassion;  
you have stood before the grave.  
Though my love can seem  
like a raging storm,  
this is the love that saves.

In your deepest hour of darkness  
I will give you wealth untold.  
When the silence stills your spirit,  
will my riches fill your soul.

### **The Way of Perfection**

If you are experiencing trials or are sad, behold Him on the way to the garden: what great affliction He bore in His soul; for having become suffering itself, He tells us about it and complains of it. Or behold Him bound to the column, filled with pain, with all His flesh torn in pieces for the great love He bears you; so much suffering, persecuted by some, spit on by others, denied by His friends, abandoned by them, with no one to defend Him, frozen from the cold, left so alone that you can console each other. Or behold Him burdened with the cross, for they didn't even let Him take a breath. He will look at you with those eyes so beautiful and compassionate, filled with tears; He will forget His sorrows so as to console you in yours, merely because you yourselves go to Him to be consoled, and you turn your head to look at Him.

✠ O Christ, son of the living God, have mercy on us, have mercy on us. *Repeat* ✠  
✠ You were wounded because of our sins. ✠ Glory be. ✠.

### **Luke 9:22-25**

Jesus said to his disciples, "The Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised." Then he said to them all, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it. What does it profit them if they gain the whole world, but lose or forfeit themselves?"

**Into your hands, O Father**, I now commend my spirit. Into your hands, O Father, I now commend my spirit.

(silence)

## Our Father

### Intercessions

Response: Kyrie, Eleison. Christe, Eleison.

*(a time for brief spontaneous personal intercessions. Each intercession is followed by the Kyrie, sung by all.)*

### Concluding prayer

Jesus our hope, you do not want us to know relentless worry but rather a humble repentance of heart. It is like a surge of trusting that enables us to place our faults in you. And then, by the inner light of forgiveness, little by little we discover a peace of heart.

### Salve Regina

Salve, Regina, Mater misericordiae  
vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra, salve  
ad te clamamus, exsules filii Evae  
ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes  
in hac lacrimarum valle

Eia, ergo, advocata nostra,  
illos tuos misericordes oculos  
ad nos converte;  
et Iesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui,  
nobis post hoc exsilium ostende.  
O clemens, O pia, O dulcis Virgo Maria.

Hail, Queen, Mother merciful  
life, sweetness and hope of ours, hail  
to you we cry, exiles, children of Eve  
to you we sigh, mourning and weeping  
in this tearful valley

Quick, then, advocate of ours,  
those your merciful eyes  
to us turn  
and Jesus, blessed fruit of your womb,  
unto us, after this exile show.  
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.