

A wide-angle photograph of a town at dusk. A vibrant rainbow arches across the sky, its colors appearing slightly muted due to the low light. The town below is silhouetted against the twilight sky, with some lights beginning to glow. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

VESPERS

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Gathering Song: Ubi Caritas (Taizé)



Antiphon 1: Love one another as I have loved you

O God, I want so very much to please You,

to walk in Your ways

and to carry out Your purposes.

There is nothing as important to me

as being in the centre of Your will

and living within Your design for my life.

**While others may find their fulfillment
in the acquisition of wealth
or the accumulation of things,
in doing something better than everyone else,
or in the plaudits of their peers,
my foremost desire
is to be the object of Your love
and to be Your child and servant forever.**

**Not only have You fashioned me with Your hands, O Lord,
and created me for Your purposes,
You have stamped Your image upon my heart.
Therefore my deepest longings
are met only in You
and in the dedication of my life
to the accomplishment of Your objectives.**

Antiphon 2: Put aside your old self so that you may emerge anew.

How can I live a life that is pleasing to You, O Lord?

My instincts are earthbound.

The ephemeral delights of this life tantalize and tempt me.

**My insatiable longings and desperate attempts to please You
are thwarted by the innumerable enemies of my soul.**

**I fail so often to do what I really want to do,
to attain what I strive for,
to grasp what I reach for,
and I fall back in shame
and am flattened in despair.**

**You do forgive me when I fail, O Lord,
and You put me upon my feet again.**

**You have promised to strengthen me
and to sustain me
in my daily conflicts.**

**Now I pray for the wisdom
to discern Your will
and the grace to carry it out
in the difficult days before me.**

Antiphon 3: That all may be one, as you are in me and I in you.

You have shown me how much You love me, Lord;

now show me how to love You.

Your standards for me are clear.

I am to translate Your love into terms

that others can comprehend,

to demonstrate it before my neighbour beside me.

I can truly love You

only inasmuch as I proceed

to love Your children in this world.

I can serve You

only as I commit my life to service

on behalf of my brothers and sisters.

I can offer sacrifices to You

only by way of the altar of my neighbour's need.

**This is Your law, Your standard,
Your design and will for my life.**

This is the way in which I will be pleasing to You.

**I love You, O God, and I gladly accept Your will
and purpose for my life.**

**Now bless me and guide me and grant me
the grace to walk within that will and purpose and
have the joy of knowing I am pleasing You.**

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians:

In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus: His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him a name above all other names, so that all beings in the heavens and on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father. The word of the Lord. **R. Thanks be to God**

Responsory

**Love your neighbours as yourself; love them as
Christ Jesus loves you.**

**R. Love your neighbours as yourself; love them
as Christ Jesus loves you.**

In living your life,

R. Love them as Christ Jesus loves you.

**ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and
to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is
now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Canticle of Mary: Luke 1: 46-55

Ant. In life have only one desire: to be and to become the person God wants you to be, in nature, in grace and in glory.

R. My soul proclaims your greatness, O my God and my spirit has rejoiced in you, my Savior.

L. For your regard has blessed me, poor and a serving woman.

R. From this day all generations will call me blessed.

L. For you who are mighty, have made me great, Most Holy be your Name.

R. Your mercy is on those who fear you throughout all generations.

L. You have shown strength with your arm. You have scattered the proud in their heart's fantasy.

R. You have put down the mighty from their seat, and have lifted up the powerless.

L. You have filled the hungry with good things and have sent the rich away empty.

R. You, remembering your mercy, have helped your people Israel.

L. As you promised Abraham and Sarah. Mercy to their children forever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

***Ant. In life, have only one desire: to be and to become the person
God wants you to be, in nature, in grace and in glory.***

Intercessions:

Most gracious God, we place our trust in you. Now we pray:

Jesus, you inspired Jean-Pierre Médaille to work with the first six sisters to found the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Le Puy, France in 1650. It is a congregation animated by Great Love.

R. May all women and men dedicated to serving others experience the gift of Your love in their ministry.

**You call us by name to be one with you and
with one another.**

**R. Help us to live in this community of equals
celebrating Your gifts and our diversity.**

You continue to inspire us with your words of grace and power. Challenge us to keep communicating throughout the global community this message of hope.

R. May all mystic-missionaries be graced to walk humbly, to listen sensitively and to serve justly.

**You share life with us in your banquet of love
in every Eucharist.**

**R. May we be faithful to our commitments,
respectful of our differences and one in
our desire to love God.**

Prayer:

God of love, you are rich in mercy and compassion. May we be so united with you that we join your vision to our eyes; your words to our tongues; your meekness to our gentleness; and your self-emptying to our humility. Remove from us all self-seeking and root us in loving and joyous service. Grant this in the mystery of your Triune life enfolding us forever. Amen.



Song: May the good Lord bless and keep you ...

Leslie F. Brandt, *Psalms Now*, (Reprint, St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 2003).

Antiphons, canticle and prayer based on Médaille's writings. Office adapted from *The New Companion to the Breviary with Seasonal Supplement*, Carmelite Monastery, 1998.