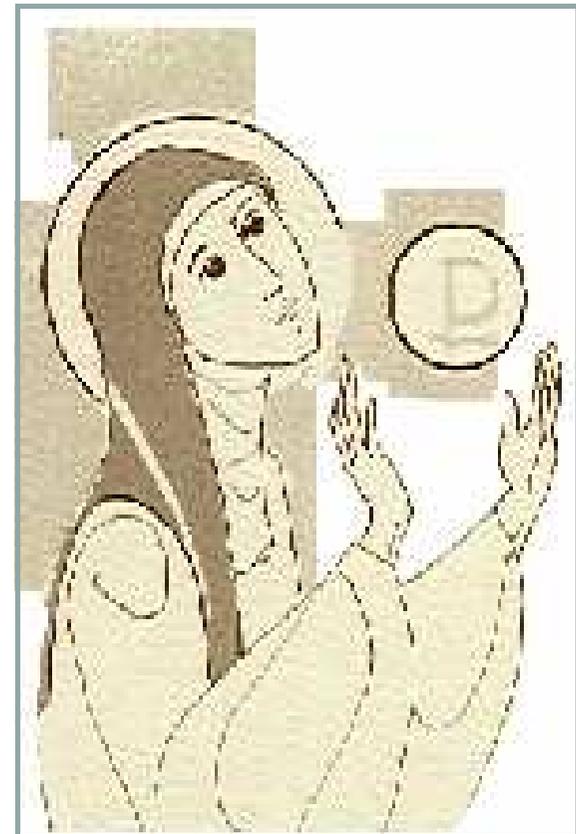


# Solemn Evening Prayer St. Clare 9th August



Leader: We adore you,

**All: 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.**

Leader: O God come to our aid.

**All: O Lord make haste to help us.**

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.

#### OPENING HYMN

**Ant. 1: Clare has filled the whole world with her splendour; her holiness  
has born devout offspring.**

PSALM 112

Praise, O servants of the Lord, \*  
praise the name of the Lord!  
May the name of the Lord be blessed \*  
both now and for evermore!  
From the rising of the sun to its setting \*  
praised be the name of the Lord!

**High above all nations is the Lord, \*  
above the heavens his glory.  
Who is like the Lord, our God, \*  
who has risen on high to his throne  
yet stoops from the heights to look down, \*  
to look down upon heaven and earth?**

From the dust he lifts up the lowly, \*  
from his misery he raises the poor  
to set him in the company of princes, \*  
yes, with the princes of his people.  
To the childless wife he gives a home \*  
and gladdens her heart with children.

**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.

Leader: Though she lived in an enclosed community, Clare's light continues to shed its rays throughout the world; - send your healing love to those who suffer wherever they may be.

**Response: Lord hear our prayer.**

Leader: Through the holy friendship Francis shared with Clare; - grant that our deep friendships may show us the radiant face of Christ ever more clearly.

**Response: Lord hear our prayer.**

#### PROCESSION OF LIGHT

*(DURING THE RECITATION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER—CANDLES MAY BE LIT AT THE ALTAR)*

**Our Father ....**

#### CONCLUDING PRAYER

Leader: O God,  
through the preaching of Francis,  
your daughter Clare, a woman of noble birth,  
embraced a life of total poverty.  
Trusting solely on the generosity of  
others and holy providence,  
she and her followers found  
happiness in austerity.  
Bless all throughout the world who  
have embraced her spirit.  
May they continue to be a sign of  
your loving care  
and may all who follow  
your gospel know the gift  
of true simplicity and poverty of  
mind and heart.  
We ask this in the name of the poor  
Christ who first showed us the way.

**All: Amen.**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Leader: May Almighty God bless us:  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen**

Leader: Let us praise the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God**



3. For those who are his friends,  
And keep his laws as holy,  
**R/ His mercy never ends  
and He exalts the lowly.**
4. But by his power the great,  
The proud, the self-conceited,  
**R/ The Kings who sit in state  
are humbled and defeated.**
5. He feeds the starving poor,  
He guards his holy nation,  
**R/ Fulfilling what he swore  
long since in revelation.**
6. Then glorify with me,  
The Lord who is my Saviour,  
**R/ One Holy Trinity,  
for ever and for ever.**

**Anti:** Place your heart in the figure of the divine substance, and transform your entire being into the image of the Godhead through contemplation.

#### INTERCESSIONS

Leader: O God, your daughter Clare courageously left all to follow the gospel and became the founder of a new order: - bless all who follow the Franciscan way of life in their efforts to live the gospel as Francis and Clare enjoined them.

**Response: Lord hear our prayer.**

Leader: Holy poverty was Clare's treasure and delight; - teach us simplicity in this consumer society and help us to trust in your loving providence.

**Response: Lord hear our prayer.**

Leader: It was through poverty that Clare was able to be a woman of prayer; - keep our hearts free from clutter so that they may be centred on you.

**Response: Lord hear our prayer.**

Leader: Clare wanted her sisters to grow in the likeness of Christ and to be witnesses of sisterly charity; - help us to proclaim the gospel by our loving relationships with one another.

**Response: Lord hear our prayer.**

**Ant. 1:** Clare has filled the whole world with her splendour; her holiness has born devout offspring.

**Ant. 2:** To gain Christ Clare rejected the fickle glory of the world, trusting in the Lord her God.

PSALM 145

My soul, gives praise to the Lord; †  
I will praise the Lord all my days, \*  
make music to my God while I live.

**Put no trust in princes, \*  
in mortal men in whom there is no help.  
Take their breath, they return to clay \*  
and their plans that day come to nothing.**

He is happy who is helped by Jacob's God, \*  
whose hope is in the Lord his God,  
who alone made heaven and earth, \*  
the seas and all they contain.

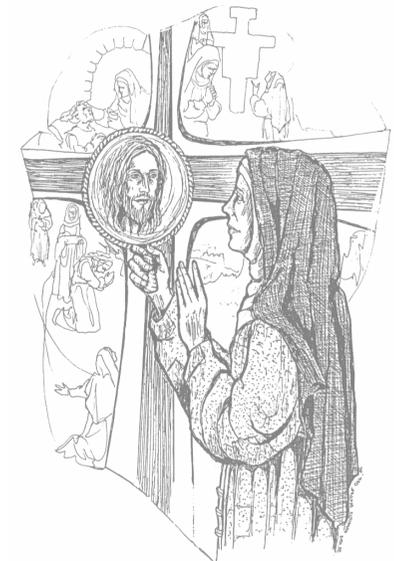
**It is he who keeps faith for ever, \*  
who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry, \*  
the Lord who sets prisoners free,**

the Lord who gives sight to the blind, \*  
who raises up those who are bowed down,  
the Lord, who protects the stranger \*  
and upholds the widow and orphan.

**It is the Lord who loves the just \*  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever, \*  
Sion's God, from age to age.**

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. 2:** To gain Christ Clare rejected the fickle glory of the world, trusting in the Lord her God.



**Ant. 3:** In her joy the virgin Clare had a wonderful insight into the manifold wisdom of Christ.

CANTICLE: EPH. 1:1-10

Blessed be the God and Father \*  
of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has blessed us in Christ \*  
with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

**He chose us in him \*  
before the foundation of the world,  
that we should be holy \*  
and blameless before him.**

He destined us in love†  
to be his sons through Jesus Christ, \*  
according to the purpose of his will,  
to the praise of his glorious grace \*  
which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved,

**In him we have redemption through his  
- blood, \*  
the forgiveness of our trespasses,  
according to the riches of his grace\*  
which he lavished upon us.**

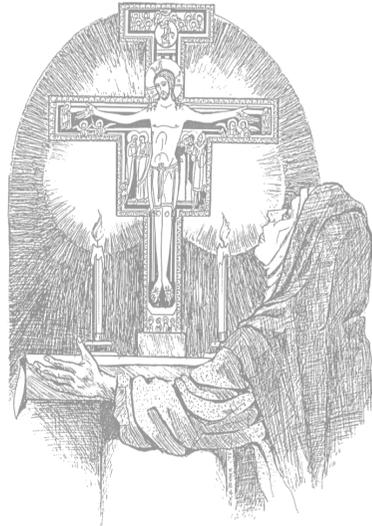
He has made known to us†  
in all wisdom and insight \*  
the mystery of his will,  
according to his purpose \*  
which he set forth in Christ.

**His purpose he set forth in Christ \*  
as a plan for the fullness of time,  
to unite all things in him, \*  
things in heaven and things on earth.**

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.

*Pause for quiet prayer & reflection on Psalm*

**Ant. 3:** In her joy the virgin Clare had a wonderful insight into the manifold wisdom of Christ.



## READING

*From the Testament of St. Clare*

Among all the other gifts which we have received and continue to receive daily from our benefactor, the Father of mercies and for which we must express the deepest thanks to our glorious God, our vocation is a great gift. Since it is the more perfect and greater, we should be so much more thankful to Him for it. For this reason the Apostle writes: "Acknowledge your calling". The Son of God became for us the Way which our Blessed Father Francis, His true lover and imitator, has shown and taught us by word and example.

Therefore, beloved Sisters, we must consider the immense gifts which God has bestowed on us, especially those which He has seen fit to work in us through His beloved servant, our blessed Father Francis, not only after our conversion but also while we were still (living among) the vanities of the world.

With what solicitude and fervour of mind and body, therefore, must we keep the commandments of our God and Father, so that, with the help of the Lord, we may return to Him an increase of His talents. For the Lord Himself not only has set us as an example and mirror for others, but also for our sisters whom the Lord has called to our way of life, so that they in turn will be a mirror and example to those living in the world. Since, therefore, the Lord has called us to such great things, that those who are to be models and mirrors for others may behold themselves in us, we are truly bound to bless and praise the Lord and to be strengthened constantly in Him to do good. Therefore, if we have lived according to the form (of life) given us, we shall, by very little effort leave others a noble example and gain the prize of eternal happiness.

## Responsory

Leader: She was led before the king and he placed a crown upon her head.  
All: **A crown of holiness, glory and honour.**

## Magnificat

**Ant:** Place your heart in the figure of the divine substance, and transform your entire being into the image of the Godhead through contemplation.

1. My soul now glorify  
the Lord who is my Saviour  
R/ **Rejoice, for who am I  
that God has shown me favour**
2. The world shall call me blest  
and ponder on my story  
R/ **In me is manifest  
God's greatness and his glory**