A Morning Prayer

St Patrick's Day 2012



Christ be near at either hand. Christ behind, before me stand. Christ with me where'er I go. Christ around, above, below.

Christ be in my heart and mind. Christ within my soul enshrined, Christ control my wayward heart. Christ abide and ne'er depart.

Christ my life and only way. Christ my lantern night and day. Christ be my unchanging friend. Guide and shepherd to the end.

Praise the Father, source of all love! Praise the Son, who reigns above! Praise Holy Spirit, comfort in need! Praise on our lips, in our hearts and our deeds!

A short Reading from The Confession of St Patrick

I saw in a vision of the night a man who seemed to be coming from Ireland, carrying many letters. His name was Victorinus. He gave one of them to me and I read the opening lines, which were, 'The voice of the Irish.' While I was reading I thought I heard the voices of the people who live by the wood of Voclut, which is by the western sea. They cried as with one voice, 'We ask you, son, to come and walk once more among us.' I was heart-broken at this, and could read no further, and so I woke up. Years later, thanks be to God, the Lord granted them what they had asked.

So it came about that Ireland, a land filled with people who never had the knowledge of God, but worshipped idols and other foul objects, now had a people of the Lord who are called the children of God.

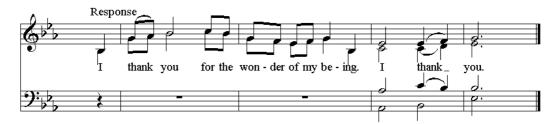
O God, come to our aid: O Lord, make haste to help us. Glory to the Father, glory to the Son, Glory to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

Let us pray

Father of us all, by whose providence the blessed Patrick was chosen to be the apostle of the Irish so that they might become children of the Most High God, grant that with his prayers, we may all be bearers of the Good News and living witnesses in all the churches to your love for the whole human family and your care for all of creation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalm 138



O Lord, you search me and you know me, you know my resting and my rising, you discern my purpose from afar. You mark when I walk or lie down, all my ways lie open to you.

I thank you for the wonder of my being, I thank you.

For it was you who created me, knit me together in my mother's womb. I thank you for the wonder, the wonder of my being. All my ways lie open to you.

I thank you for the wonder of my being, I thank you.

Already you knew my soul, my body held no secrets from you when I was being fashioned secretly and moulded in the depths of the earth. All my ways lie open to you.

I thank you for the wonder of my being, I thank you.

A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah 1:4-9

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you;

I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth."

But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth';

for to all to whom I send you, you shall go,

and whatever I command you, you shall speak.

Be not afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord."

Then the Lord put forth his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me,

"Behold, I have put my words in your mouth.

The Benedictus: verse 1

Blest be the Lord the God of Israel, who came to us; and brought us back from sin. God raised for us a Saviour who is mighty, his Saviour-Son from David's house and line. God promised this through holy men and women who spoke for him down through the mists of time.

Intercessions

Christ the good shepherd laid down his life for his sheep. Let us praise him with grateful hearts as we pray:

Christ our Lord, in the holy pastors you reveal your love for us. May we never be deprived of the care you show through them: Glory be to God who has shown us the light.

Through your sacred ministers you are present in our midst as the shepherd of our souls.

Never cease to guide us through their teaching and encouragement.

Glory be to God who has shown us the light.

In the saints who lead your people you manifest your power of healing souls and bodies;

remain always with us to renew our lives in holiness.

Glory be to God who has shown us the light.

By the example of the saints you instruct your faithful in the ways of wisdom and love;

through our pastors help us to grow to the full stature of perfection.

Glory be to God who has shown us the light.

I arise today
In the might of heaven
Brightness of sun,
whiteness of snow
Splendour of fire,
speed of lightning

Swiftness of wind, depth of sea Stability of earth, firmness of rock. God's legions to save me To protect me From snares of the demons From evil enticements From failings of nature From one man or many That seek to destroy me Nearby or afar.

May the God of hope fill us with every joy in believing. **Amen**

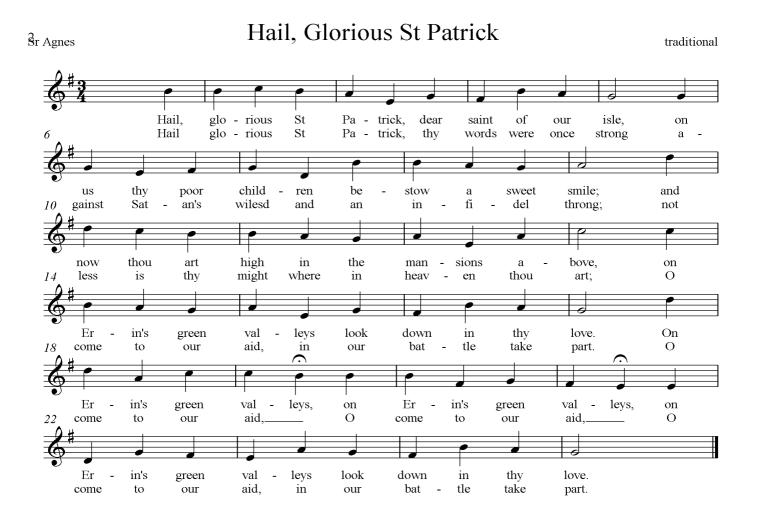
May the peace of Christ abound in our hearts. **Amen**

May the Holy Spirit enrich us with the great gifts Now and for ever.

Amen.



In some parts of the world no celebration of St Patrick's Day would be complete without the traditional hymn:



In the war against sin, in the fight for the faith, dear saint, may thy children resist unto death; may their strength be in meekness, in penance, in prayer, their banner the Cross which they glory to bear.

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