

**Morning Prayer (Lauds)**  
**Saints Charles Lwanga and his Companions, Martyrs**

*Owing to religious hatred, many faithful Christians were killed in Uganda by King Mwanga during the years 1885-1887. Some of them had enjoyed the good graces of the king at his court, and some were even related to him. Among them, Charles Lwanga and his twenty-one companions, adhering steadfastly to the Catholic faith, were put to death, some by sword, others by burning, because they would not accede to the king's unreasonable demands.*

**STAND**

**Leader:** O Lord, open my lips.

**All:** And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

**All:** Come, let us worship Christ the Lord, who has promised us the Holy Spirit, alleluia.

**Left:** The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all who live in it. He himself founded it upon the seas and set it firm over the waters.

**All:** Come, let us worship Christ the Lord, who has promised us the Holy Spirit, alleluia.

**Right:** Who will climb the mountain of the Lord? Who will stand in his holy place? The one who is innocent of wrongdoing and pure of heart, who has not given himself to vanities or sworn falsely.

**Left:** He will receive the blessing of the Lord and be justified by God his savior. This is the way of those who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob.

**All:** Come, let us worship Christ the Lord, who has promised us the Holy Spirit, alleluia.

**Right:** Gates, raise your heads. Stand up, eternal doors, and let the king of glory enter. Who is the king of glory? The Lord of might and power. The Lord, strong in battle.

**All:** Come, let us worship Christ the Lord, who has promised us the Holy Spirit, alleluia.

**Right:** Gates, raise your heads. Stand up, eternal doors, and let the king of glory enter. Who is the king of glory? The Lord of hosts – he is the king of glory

**All:** Come, let us worship Christ the Lord, who has promised us the Holy Spirit, alleluia.

**Leader:** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

**All:** as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

  
**Hymn: Come, Holy Ghost**

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest,  
and in our hearts take up Thy rest;  
come with Thy grace and heav'nly aid,  
To fill the hearts which Thou hast made.

O Comforter, to Thee we cry,  
Thou heav'nly gift of God most high,  
Thou Fount of life, and Fire of love,  
and sweet anointing from above.

Praise we the Father and the Son  
and Holy Spirit with them One;  
and may the Son on us bestow  
the gifts that from the Spirit flow.



**SIT**

**Psalm 118 (119): 145-152**

**All:** The martyrs fixed their eyes on heaven, and cried out in their torments: Come, Lord, be with us in this hour, alleluia.

**Left:** I call on you with all my heart – answer me, Lord. I will obey your laws. I call on you, save me so that I can keep your decrees.

**Right:** At dawn I cry to you, I put all my hope in your word. In the night I keep watch, pondering your sayings.

**Left:** In your mercy, Lord, hear my voice; in your justice, give me life. **Right:** My persecutors come to do me harm: they are far from your law.

**Right:** But you, Lord, are near to me, and you are trustworthy in all your precepts. From the beginning I have known your decrees, how you have made them to last for ever.

**Leader:** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

**All:** As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

**All:** The martyrs fixed their eyes on heaven, and cried out in their torments: Come, Lord, be with us in this hour, alleluia.



## Wisdom 9

**All:** Blessed spirits and souls of the just, pour out your songs of praise to the Lord, alleluia.

**Left:** God of my fathers and Lord of mercy,  
who made all things by your word;  
who in your wisdom set man to rule over all that you created  
– to arrange the world in holiness and justice  
– to make right judgments according to the guidance of his heart:  
give me Wisdom, who stands by your throne,  
and let me not be unworthy to be your servant.

**Right:** For I am your slave and the son of your servant-girl,  
a man, weak, short-lived,  
slow to understand your judgments and laws.  
Even the highest of the children of men  
– if your wisdom is absent – counts for nothing.

**Left:** With you abides Wisdom, who knows your works.  
She was with you when you made the world.  
She knew what was pleasing to your eyes.  
She saw what was right according to your precepts.


**Right:** Send your Wisdom from the highest heaven;  
send her from the throne of your greatness;  
that she may abide with me and work with me,  
so that I may know what it is that pleases you.

**Left:** For Wisdom knows everything, and understands;  
she will lead me wisely in what I do,  
and protect me in her glory.

**Leader:** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

**All:** As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

**All:** Blessed spirits and souls of the just, pour out your songs of praise to the Lord,  
alleluia.



**Psalm 116 (117)**

**Praise of the merciful Lord**

**All:** You throng of martyrs, give endless praise to God on high, alleluia.

**Left:** Praise the Lord, all nations; all peoples, praise him.

**Right:** For his mercy is strong over us and his faithfulness is for ever.

**Leader:** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

**All:** As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

**All:** You throng of martyrs, give endless praise to God on high, alleluia.



**1 John 5:3-5**

*For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*

**Leader:** They will be crowned with everlasting joy, alleluia, alleluia.

**All:** They will be crowned with everlasting joy, alleluia, alleluia.

**Leader:** Gladness and rejoicing will be their inheritance.

**All:** Alleluia, alleluia.

**Leader:** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

**All:** As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

**All:** They will be crowned with everlasting joy, alleluia, alleluia.



**Canticle (Luke 1:68-79)**

**Benedictus**

**STAND**

**All:** Rejoice and be glad, all you saints, for your reward is great in heaven, alleluia.

**Left:** Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; He has come to his people and set them free.

**Right:** He has raised up for us a mighty savior, Born of the house of his servant David.

**Left:** Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, From the hands of all who hate us.

**Right:** He promised to show mercy to our fathers And to remember His holy covenant.

**Left:** This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: To set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship Him without fear, Holy and righteous in His sight All the days of our life.

**Right:** You my child shall be called the prophet of the Most High; For you will go before the Lord to prepare His way, To give his people knowledge of salvation By the forgiveness of their sins.

**Left:** In the tender compassion of our God The dawn from on high shall break upon us, To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, And to guide our feet into the way of peace.

**Leader:** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

**All:** As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

**All:** Rejoice and be glad, all you saints, for your reward is great in heaven, alleluia.



## **Intercessions**

**Leader:** Our Savior's faithfulness is mirrored in the fidelity of his witnesses who shed their blood for the word of God. Let us praise him in remembrance of them:

**All:** You redeemed us by your blood.

**Leader:** Your martyrs freely embraced death in bearing witness to the faith, give us true freedom of the Spirit, O Lord.

**All:** You redeemed us by your blood.

**Leader:** Your martyrs professed their faith by shedding their blood. Give us a faith, O Lord, that is constant and pure.


**All:** You redeemed us by your blood.

**Leader:** Your martyrs followed in your footsteps by carrying the cross, help us to endure courageously the misfortunes of life.


**All:** You redeemed us by your blood.

**Leader:** Your martyrs washed their garments in the blood of the Lamb, help us to avoid the weaknesses of the flesh and worldly allurements.

**All:** You redeemed us by your blood.



**All:** Our Father, who art in Heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those that trespass against us,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.



**Leader:** Father, you have made the blood of the martyrs the seed of Christians. May the witness of Saint Charles and his companions and their loyalty to Christ in the face of torture inspire countless men and women to live the Christian faith. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

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**Priest or Deacon:** The Lord be with you.

**All:** And also with you.

**Priest or Deacon:** May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**A M E N**