



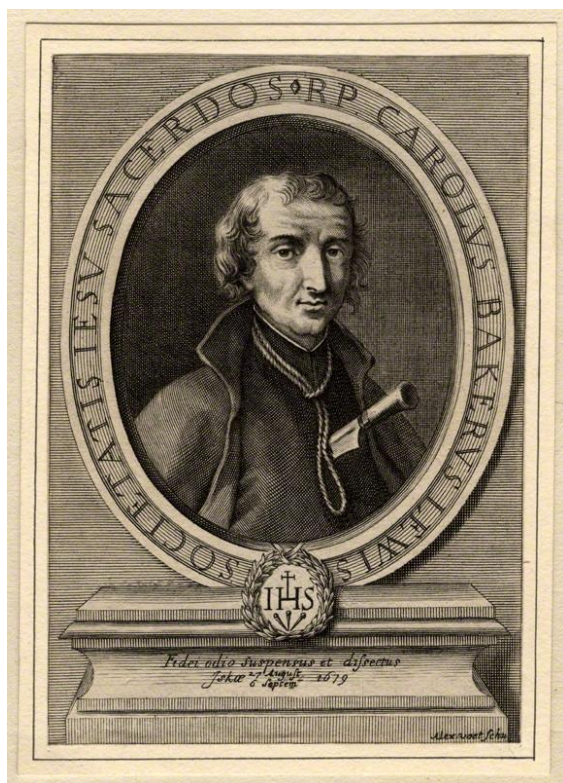
*Novena Prayers to*  
**ST DAVID LEWIS**



THE CARDIFF ORATORY



NOVENA PRAYERS *to*  
**S<sup>T</sup> DAVID LEWIS**  
PRIEST & MARTYR



*By a Brother of the  
Cardiff Oratory.*

*+ Cum permissu superiorum  
Orat. S. Ph. Neri in Form. Cardiffense 26 Aug. MMXXI.*

*Readings & Scripture passages from the Knox Translation.*

*Collects from The Roman Missal  
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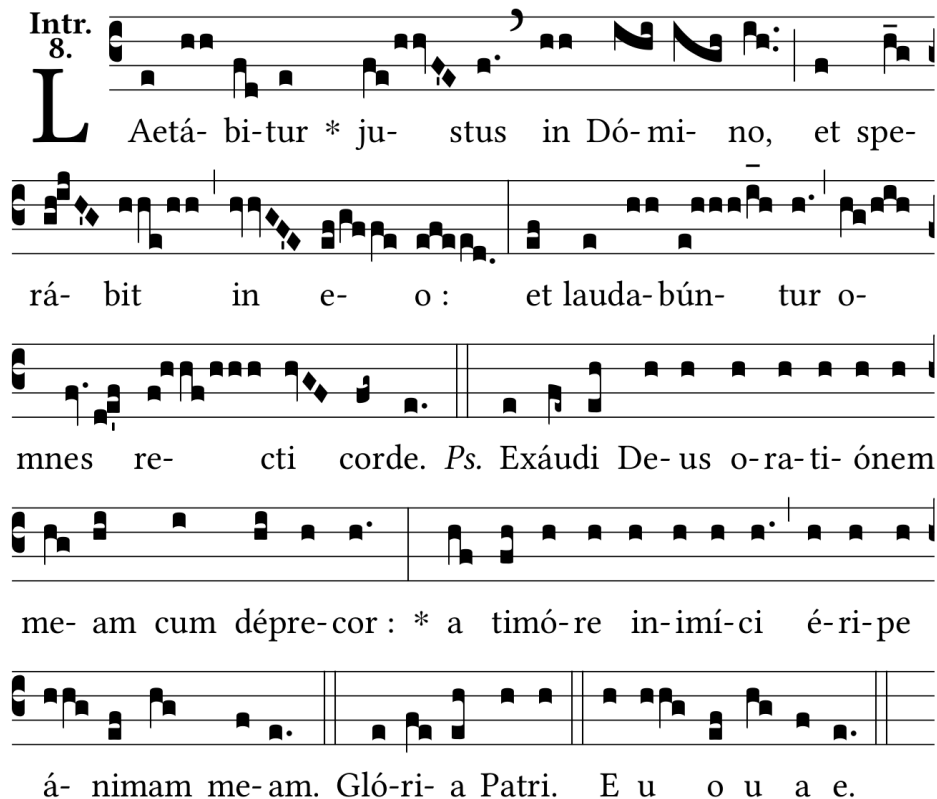
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# INTRODUCTORY PRAYERS

*The prayers begin with the* Sign of the Cross.

*Then all sing or say:*

Intr.  
8.



**L** Aetá- bi-tur \* ju- stus in Dó-mi- no, et spe-  
rá- bit in e- o : et lauda-bún- tur o-  
mnes re- cti corde. Ps. Exáudi De- us o-ra-ti- ónem  
me- am cum dépre-cor : \* a timó-re in-imí-ci é-ri-pe  
á- nimam me-am. Gló-ri- a Patri. E u o u a e.

**The Just One shall rejoice in the Lord, and shall hope in Him: \***  
**and the upright in heart shall be praised.**

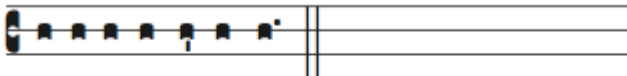
**Hear, O God, my prayer, when I make supplication to thee: \***  
**deliver my soul from the fear of the enemy.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, \***  
**And to the Holy Spirit.**

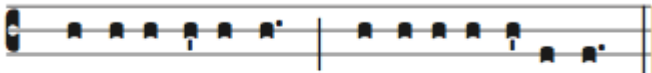
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, \*  
World without end. Amen.

The Just One shall rejoice in the Lord, and shall hope in Him: \*  
and the upright in heart shall be praised.

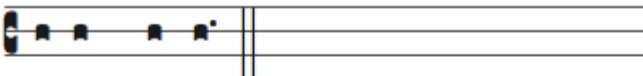
*Then is sung or said:*



**K** Ýri- e e-lé- i-son.



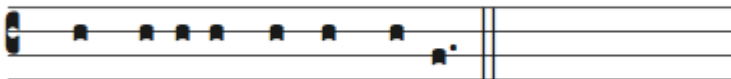
**C** Hriste e-lé- i-son. Ký-ri- e e-lé- i-son.



**P** Ater noster. *secreto.*



Ÿ Et ne nos indúcas in tenta-ti-ónem.



R̄ Sed líbera nos a ma-lo.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Our Father (*and the rest silently, until:*)

And lead us not into temptation.

But deliver us from evil.

*Then follows the Prayer, led by the foremost:*

**Let us pray.**

**O GOD, who through the Precious Blood of your only Son have redeemed the human race, grant that, as we rejoice that your Martyr Saint David Lewis was united to the sacrifice of your Son, your saving work may be accomplished in us, and we may become worthy to gather its fruit. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. *R.* Amen.**

*Next are offered the Readings for the day,  
as given below.*

# THE READINGS

**AUGUST 17**

*Romans 8 : 35, 37-39*

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction, or distress, or persecution, or hunger, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? Yet in all this we are conquerors, through him who has granted us his love. Of this I am fully persuaded; neither death nor life, no angels or principalities or powers, neither what is present nor what is to come, no force whatever, neither the height above us nor the depth beneath us, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which comes to us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

With glory and honour, O Lord, Thou hast crowned him.

— Thou hast set him over the works of Thy hands.

*From the Last Words of St. David Lewis*

Here is a numerous assembly I see: the great Saviour of the world save every soul of you all. I believe you are here met not only to see a fellow-native die but also with expectation to hear a dying fellow-native speak. If you expected it not at least I intended it; I hope the favour will not be denied me, it being a favour so freely granted to several late dying persons in London itself. I shall endeavour to speak inoffensively, I hope the same favour will not be denied me.

“Let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief; but if as Christian, let him not be ashamed.” Saint Peter’s words from 1 Peter 4: 15-16. I hope by God’s Holy Spirit now whispered to my memory; and that to my abundant consolation, for I suffer not as a murderer, thief, or such-like malefactor, but as a Christian, and therefore am not ashamed.

I distinguish two sorts of life on earth; life-moral and life-natural, life-moral is that by which we live with good repute in the esteem of other



men of integrity, life-natural is that by which we breath: in the first sort or kind, I thank God I have suffered lately, and exceedingly, when maliciously, falsely and most injuriously I was branded for a public cheat; in pamphlet; in ballad, on stage, and that in the head city of the Kingdom, yea, and over the whole nation, to the huge and great detriment of my good name, which I always was as tender of, as the other I am now quitting.

But Thou, O Lord, have mercy.

— Thanks be to God.

*Then follow the* Closing Prayers.

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## **AUGUST 18**

*Romans 8 : 18-21*

I do not count these present sufferings as the measure of that glory which is to be revealed in us. If creation is full of expectancy, that is because it is waiting for the sons of God to be made known. Created nature has been condemned to frustration; not for some deliberate fault of its own, but for the sake of him who so condemned it, with a hope to look forward to; namely, that nature in its turn will be set free from the tyranny of corruption, to share in the glorious freedom of God's sons.

With glory and honour, O Lord, Thou hast crowned him.

— Thou hast set him over the works of Thy hands.

*From the Last Words of St. David Lewis*

The pamphletical story — believe my dying words — had no truth in it, neither to substance nor circumstance of the thing, a story so false that I could have easily defied the face that had attempted to justify it to my face, so sordid a business, a story so ridiculous, that I wonder how any sober

Christian, at least who knew me, could as much as incline to believe so open an improbability; who that Protestant young man there mentioned was, I know not, who that Popish young woman, who the father dead a year and a half before, in what country, what parish, were all transacted, I know not, none of all these there particularised, and when in the face of the country at last Lent-Assizes, I vindicated my innocency herein, to the satisfaction of the Judge himself, why appeared not there then someone to make good the charge, and disable my defence?

But none of this offered a plain demonstration to all candid minds, the whole was a mere fiction of some malicious person against me. God forgive them or him; I heartily do. How forward my endeavours have always been to my power to relieve the poor; and not directly to defraud them, impartial neighbours that know me can tell you. Besides this, during my nine months imprisonment, several foul and false aspersions were cast out against me, and that by those unto whom, for full thirty years, I had been charitably serviceable. God forgive them; I heartily do.

But Thou, O Lord, have mercy.

— Thanks be to God.

*Then follow the* Closing Prayers.

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## AUGUST 19

*Romans 8 : 22-25*

The whole of nature, as we know, groans in a common travail all the while. And not only do we see that, but we ourselves do the same; we ourselves, although we have already begun to reap our spiritual harvest, groan in our hearts, waiting for that adoption which is the ransoming of our bodies from their slavery. It must be so, since our salvation is founded upon the hope of something. Hope would not be hope at all if its object were in view; how

could a man still hope for something which he sees? And if we are hoping for something still unseen, then we need endurance to wait for it.

With glory and honour, O Lord, Thou hast crowned him.

— Thou hast set him over the works of Thy hands.

*From the Last Words of St. David Lewis*

Notwithstanding all these calumniations, I hope I still retain the character of an honest man amongst gentlemen of worth, with whom I conversed, and with all neighbours of honesty, with and amongst whom I lived.

And now I am parting with the other life by which I breathe. Behold, that within these few moments of time is to unbreathe me; but why thus sledged to this country-Tyburn? Why this so untimely death of mine? Have patience; and I'll tell you, not for any plotting, I assure you. And what I shall now say: as to that — God is my witness — I shall speak without any equivocation, mental reservation, or palliation of truth whatsoever.

But Thou, O Lord, have mercy.

— Thanks be to God.

*Then follow the* Closing Prayers.

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## **AUGUST 20**

*Romans 8 : 26-28*

The Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness; when we do not know what prayer to offer, to pray as we ought, the Spirit himself intercedes for us, with groans beyond all utterance: and God, who can read our hearts, knows well what the Spirit's intent is; for indeed it is according to the mind of God that he makes intercession for the saints. We are well assured that everything

helps to secure the good of those who love God, those whom he has called in fulfilment of his design.

With glory and honour, O Lord, Thou hast crowned him.

— Thou hast set him over the works of Thy hands.

*From the Last Words of St. David Lewis*

By all that is sacred in heaven and earth; I here solemnly protest, that I am as innocent from any plot whatever against His Majesty's person or government, as the infant that left the mother's womb but yesterday, neither did I ever hear or know anything directly or indirectly of any such plot, till public fame had spread it over the country between Michaelmas and All-Saints Day, last. This is true; as God shall judge and save my soul, neither was there any guilt of any such black crime found in me by Mr. Oates, Mr. Bedlow, Mr. Dugdale and Mr. Praunce, when by them I was strictly examined on that point, last May in Newgate, London. Nay; had I had the least knowledge or hint of such Plot, I had been as zealously nimble in the discovery of it, as any the most loyal subject His Majesty hath in his three kingdoms. Wherefore, when I am dead and gone, if some malevolent gives out I lose my life for plotting, by charity strive to disengage him of his mistake; do that right to my dead ashes.

I was never taught that doctrine of King-Killing; from my soul, I detest and abhor it as execrable and directly opposite to the principles of the religion I profess. What that is, you shall know by and by, it being the positive definition of the Council of Constance.

But Thou, O Lord, have mercy.

— Thanks be to God.

*Then follow the* Closing Prayers.

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## AUGUST 21

*2 Corinthians 1 : 3-5*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the merciful Father, the God who gives all encouragement. He it is who comforts us in all our trials; and it is this encouragement we ourselves receive from God which enables us to comfort others, whenever they have trials of their own. The sufferings of Christ, it is true, overflow into our lives; but there is overflowing comfort, too, which Christ brings to us.

With glory and honour, O Lord, Thou hast crowned him.

— Thou hast set him over the works of Thy hands.

*From the Last Words of St. David Lewis*

It is damnable for any subject or private person; or any subjects in council joined, to murder his or their lawful king or prince, or use any public or clandestine conspiracy against him, though the said king or prince were a Turk, apostate, persecutor, yea, or a tyrant in government. Never tell me of Clement the murderer of Henry the Third of France; never tell me of Ravilliac, murderer of Henry the Fourth of France, they did so, but wickedly they did so, and for it they were punished to severity, as malefactors, and for good.

I hope you will not charge the whole Roman Catholic body with the villainies of some few desperadoes. By that rule, all Christianity must be answerable for the treason of Judas; for my part I always loved my king, I always honoured his person, and I daily prayed for his prosperity, and now with all unfeigned cordiality, I say it: God bless my gracious King and lawful prince, Charles the Second, King of England and Prince of Wales. God bless him temporally and eternally, God preserve him from all his enemies, God direct him in all his councils, that may tend to the greater glory of the same great God, and whatever late plot hath been or is, the Father of lights bring it to light; the contrivers of it, and the actors in it, that such may be brought to their condign, punishment, and innocence, preserved.

But Thou, O Lord, have mercy.

— Thanks be to God.

*Then follow the* Closing Prayers.

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## **AUGUST 22**

*Revelation 2 : 10; 1 Peter 5 : 10-11*

Do not be afraid of the suffering thou art to undergo. Before long, the devil will throw some of you into prison, to have your faith tested there, and for ten days you shall be in sore distress. Keep faith with me to the point of death, and I will crown thee with life. And God, the giver of all grace, who has called us to enjoy, after a little suffering, his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, will himself give you mastery, and steadiness, and strength. To him be glory and power through endless ages, Amen.

With glory and honour, O Lord, Thou hast crowned him.

— Thou hast set him over the works of Thy hands.

*From the Last Words of St. David Lewis*

But why again this untimely death? My religion is the Roman Catholic religion; in it I have lived above this forty years, in it I now die, and so fixedly die, that if all the good things in this world were offered me to renounce it, all should not move me one hair's breadth from my Roman Catholic faith. A Roman Catholic I am, a Roman Catholic priest I am, a Roman Catholic priest of that religious order called the Society of Jesus I am, and I bless God who first called me, and I bless the hour in which I was first called both unto faith and function.

Please now to observe: I was condemned for reading Mass, hearing confessions, administering the sacraments, anointing the sick, christening, marrying, and preaching. As for reading the Mass, it was the old, and still is

the accustomed and laudable liturgy of the Holy Church, and all the other acts, which are acts of religion, tending to the worship of God, and for this dying, I die for religion. Moreover, know that last May I was in London under examination concerning the Plot, a prime examinant told me that to save my life and increase my fortunes, I must make some discovery of the Plot or conform; discover Plot I could not, for I knew of none, conform I would not, because it was against my conscience. Then by consequence I must die, and so now dying, I die for conscience and religion, and dying upon such good scores, as far as human frailty permits, I die with alacrity, interior and exterior from the abundance of the heart, let not only mouths, but faces also speak.

But Thou, O Lord, have mercy.

— Thanks be to God.

*Then follow the* Closing Prayers.

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## **AUGUST 23**

*James 1 : 12; Revelation 3 : 21*

Blessed is he who endures under trials. When he has proved his worth, he will win that crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. Who wins the victory? I will let him share my throne with me; I too have won the victory, and now I sit sharing my Father's throne.

With glory and honour, O Lord, Thou hast crowned him.

— Thou hast set him over the works of Thy hands.

*From the Last Words of St. David Lewis*

Here; methinks, I feel flesh and blood ready to burst into loud cries. 'Tooth for tooth, eye for eye, blood for blood, life for life.' 'No,' crieth Holy

Gospel, ‘Forgive and you shall be forgiven, pray for those that persecute you, love your enemies.’ And I profess myself a child of the Gospel, and the Gospel I obey.

Whomever present or absent I have ever offended, I humbly desire them to forgive me. As for my enemies, had I as many hearts as I have fingers, with all those hearts would I forgive my enemies. At leastwise, with all that single heart I have, I freely forgive them all, my neighbours that betrayed me, the persons that took me, the justices that committed me, the witnesses that proved against me, the jury that found me, the judge that condemned me, and others whoever, that out of malice or zeal, covertly or openly have been contributive to my condemnation. But singularly and especially, I forgive my capital persecutor who hath been so long thirsting after my blood, from my soul I forgive him, and wish his soul so well, that were it in my power, I would seat him a seraphim in heaven, and I pray for him in the language of glorious St. Stephen the protomartyr, ‘Lord, lay not this sin unto them,’ or better yet, in the style of our great master, Christ himself, ‘Father forgive them, they know not what they do.’

But Thou, O Lord, have mercy.

— Thanks be to God.

*Then follow the* Closing Prayers.

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## **AUGUST 24**

*Wisdom 3 : 1-2a, 3b; Revelation 19 : 7, 9a*

The souls of the just are in God’s hands, and no torment, in death itself, has power to reach them. Dead? Fools think so; think their end loss. But all is well with them. Let us rejoice and triumph and give God the praise; the time has come for the wedding-feast of the Lamb. His bride has clothed herself in



readiness for it. Blessed are those who are bidden to the Lamb's wedding-feast.

With glory and honour, O Lord, Thou hast crowned him.

— Thou hast set him over the works of Thy hands.

*From the Last Words of St. David Lewis*

And with reason I love them, my enemies, also; for though they have done themselves a vast soul-prejudice, yet they have done me an incomparable favour which I shall eternally acknowledge. But chiefly I love them for his sake: who said, 'Love your enemies,' and in testimony of my love I wish them, and it is the best of wishes from the center of my soul, I wish them a good eternity. O eternity; eternity! How momentanean are the glorious riches, and pleasures of this world! And how desirable art thou, endless eternity! And for my said enemies attaining thereunto, I humbly beseech God to give them the grace of true repentance, before they and this world part.

Next to my enemies, give me leave to lift up my eyes, hands and heart to heaven, and drop some few words of advice unto, and for my friends, as well those present as absent. Friends: fear God, honour your king, be firm in your faith, avoid mortal sin; by frequenting the sacraments of holy church, patiently bear your persecutions and afflictions; forgive your enemies. Your sufferings are great; I say, be firm in your faith to the end, yea, even to death, then shall ye heap unto yourselves celestial treasures in the heavenly Jerusalem, where 'no thief robbeth, no moth eateth, and no rust consumeth', and have that blessed saying of the blessed St. Peter, prince of the apostles, always in your memory, which I heartily recommend unto you: 'Let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief; but if as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but glorify God in his name.'

But Thou, O Lord, have mercy.

— Thanks be to God.

*Then follow the* Closing Prayers.

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## AUGUST 25

*1 Peter 4: 13-14; Revelation 7: 14b-17*

Rejoice, when you share in some measure the sufferings of Christ; so joy will be yours, and triumph, when his glory is revealed. Your lot will be a blessed one, if you are reproached for the name of Christ; it means that the virtue of God's honour and glory and power, it means that his own Spirit, is resting upon you. These have washed their robes white in the blood of the Lamb. And now they stand before God's throne, serving him day and night in his temple; the presence of him who sits on the throne shall overshadow them. They will not be hungry or thirsty any more; no sun, no noonday heat, shall fall across their path. The Lamb, who dwells where the throne is, will be their shepherd, leading them out to the springs whose water is life; and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

With glory and honour, O Lord, Thou hast crowned him.

— Thou hast set him over the works of Thy hands.

*From the Last Words of St. David Lewis*

Now it is high time I make my addresses to heaven and supplicate the divine goodness on my own behalf, by some few short and cordial ejaculations of prayer.

Sovereign Lord God, Eternal Father of Heaven, Creator of all, Conserver of all, sole Author of Grace and Glory, with prostrate heart I adore Thee, and Thee only I adore as God; the Giving of Divine Honour to any Creature of highest degree, I abhor and detest as damnable Idolatry."

Incarnate Son of God, True God, Thou hast purchased a Church here upon Earth with Thy Sacred Blood and planted it with Thy Sacred Labours, a Church, One, Holy, Catholick, and Apostolick, a Church to continue to the consummation of the world. Whatever that Church of

thine hath by revelation from thee, whatever that Church of thine hath taught me, and commanded me to believe, I believe it to an iota.”

God, Holy Ghost, who maketh Thy Sun to shine upon good and bad, thy rain to fall on just and unjust, I praise thy Holy Name and thank thee for the innumerable benefits thou hast been pleased to bestow and confer upon me, thy unworthy servant, the three-score and three years I now have lived on earth.

The Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Charity of God, and the Communication of the Holy Ghost, be with you all, Amen.

The Peace of God that passeth all understanding, keep your Hearts and Minds in the knowledge and Love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ Our Lord; and the Blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, be among you, and remain with you all, and always, Amen.

But Thou, O Lord, have mercy.

— Thanks be to God.

*Then follow the* Closing Prayers.

# CLOSING PRAYERS

*All recite the final prayer of St. David Lewis:*

Holy Trinity, three Persons and One God,  
from the bottom of my Heart,  
I am sorry that ever I offended Thee, my good God,  
even to an idle word;  
yet through the Mercy of thee, my God,  
and Merits of my Redeemer,  
I strongly hope for an Eternal Salvation.  
Sweet Jesus, receive my soul!

*Here, each may silently mention the Petition  
for each the Novena Prayers are being offered.*

**Our help is in the Name of the Lord.**

— Who made heaven and earth.

**This holy man fought to the death for the law of his God.**

— And did not fear the words of the godless.

**This is a true martyr,**

— who shed his blood for the Name of Christ.

**He did not fear the threats of judges,**

— But attained the heavenly kingdom.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

— And let our cry come unto you.

*Then follows the Prayer, led by the foremost:*

Let us pray.

**ALMIGHTY** ever-living God, by whose gift blessed Saint David Lewis fought for righteousness' sake even until death: grant, we pray, through his intercession, that we may bear every adversity for the sake of your love and hasten with all our strength towards you who alone are life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. *R. Amen.*

Let us bless the Lord.

— Thanks be to God.

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. *R. Amen.*

*All may sing the* Hymn:

1 Holy Martyr, David Lewis,  
Born of Wales and glorious Saint.  
Father of the Poor they named thee,  
When thou liv'st and toiled in Gwent.  
Priestly work wast undertaken,  
Danger-fraught from dawn till dusk:  
Gladly still thou serv'st thy people,  
Till thou died'st for them at Usk.

2 From thy capture at Llantarnam,  
Through thy time in Monmouth Gaol,  
Threats and tortures could not  
shake thee,  
For thy faith would never fail.  
Bravely then thou facedst the gallows,  
Crudely fashioned for thy death,  
Further torment someone spared thee,  
Till thou drew thy latest breath.

3 Great and glorious David Lewis,  
Staunch and steadfast in the strife!  
Bless thy people now in Monmouth,  
And all those for whom thou diedst.  
Grant us always: strong, courageous,  
Loyal to our loving God,  
To Him then will glory flourish,  
In the places thou hast trod.

4 To the Father, and the Spirit,  
With Them both, th'eternal Son:  
praise and honour, might and blessing,  
through the ages now be sung:  
by that Martyr, Priest, Confessor,  
David Lewis, glorious One:  
reigning 'neath Thine endless vision,  
which his life-blood by Thee won.

—*Sr. Canisius, Llantarnam Abbey: 87.87.87.87*