

Liturgy of the Hours
LITURGY OF THE HOURS

OFFICE OF READINGS

May 25, 2024

{ Saturday of the Seventh Week in Ordinary Time }



Stand and make sign of cross

God, come to my assistance.

— Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

HYMN

Lord Jesus, once you spoke to men
Upon the mountain, in the plain;
O help us listen now, as then,
And wonder at your words again.

We all have secret fears to face,
Our minds and motives to amend;
We seek your truth, we need your grace,
Our living Lord and present Friend.

The Gospel speaks, and we receive
Your light, your love, your own command.
O help us live what we believe
In daily work of heart and hand.

Melody: O Jesu, mi dulcissime; Music: Clausener Gesangbuch, 1653; Text: H. C. A. Gaunt, 1902-

'Lord Jesus, once you spoke to men' words by H C A Gaunt (1902-83). Reproduced by permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

Sit or stand

PSALMODY

Antiphon 1

Let us praise the Lord for his mercy and for the wonderful things he has done for men.

Psalm 107

Thanksgiving for deliverance

This is God's message to the sons of Israel; the good news of peace proclaimed through

I

“O give thánks to the Lórd for he is góod; *
for his lóve endúres for éver.”

Let them sáy this, the Lórd's redéemed, *
whom he redéemed from the hánd of the fóe
and gáthered from fár-off lánds, *
from éast and wést, north and sóuth.

Some wándered in the désert, in the wílderness, *
finding no wáy to a cíty they could dwéll in.
Húngry they wére and thírsty; *
their sóul was fáinting withín them.

Then they críed to the Lórd in their néed *
and he réscued thém from their distréss
and he léd them alóng the right páth *
to reach a cíty théy could dwéll in.

Let them thánk the Lórd for his lóve, *
for the wónders he dóes for mén.
For he sáatisfies the thírsty sóul; *
he fílls the húngry with good thínks.

Sóme lay in dárkness and in glóom, *
prísoners in míserý and cháíns,
Having defíed the wórd's of Gód *
and spúrn'd the cóunsels of the Most Hígh.
He crúshed their spírít with tóil; *
they stúmbled; there was nó one to hélp.

Then they críed to the Lórd in their néed *
and he réscued thém from their distréss.
He led them fóρθ from dárkness and glóom *
and bróke their cháíns to píeces.

Let them thánk the Lórd for his góodness, *
for the wónders he dóes for mén:
for he búrst's the gátes of brónze *
and shátters the íron bárs.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, *
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, *
and will be for ever. Amen.

Antiphon

Let us praise the Lord for his mercy and for the wonderful things he
has done for men.

Antiphon 2

Men have seen the works of God, the marvels he has done.

II

Some were sick on account of their sins *
and afflicted on account of their guilt.
They had a loathing for every food; *
they came close to the gates of death.

Then they cried to the Lord in their need *
and he rescued them from their distress.
He sent forth his word to heal them *
and saved their life from the grave.

Let them thank the Lord for his love, *
for the wonders he does for men.
Let them offer a sacrifice of thanks *
and tell of his deeds with rejoicing.

Some sailed to the sea in ships *
to trade on the mighty waters.
These men have seen the Lord's deeds, *
the wonders he does in the deep.

For he spoke; he summoned the gale, *
raising up the waves of the sea.
Tossed up to heaven, then into the deep; *
their soul melted away in their distress.

They staggered, reeled like drunken men, *
for all their skill was gone.
Then they cried to the Lord in their need *

and he rescued them from their distress.

He stilled the storm to a whisper: *
all the waves of the sea were hushed.
They rejoiced because of the calm *
and he led them to the haven they desired.

Let them thank the Lord for his love, *
the wonders he does for men.
Let them exalt him in the gathering of the people *
and praise him in the meeting of the elders.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, *
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, *
and will be for ever. Amen.

Antiphon

Men have seen the works of God, the marvels he has done.

Antiphon 3

Those who love the Lord will see and rejoice; they will understand
his loving kindness.

III

He changes streams into a desert, *
springs of water into thirsty ground,
fruitful land into a salty waste, *
for the wickedness of those who live there.

But he changes desert into streams, *
thirsty ground into springs of water.
There he settles the hungry *
and they build a city to dwell in.

They sow fields and plant their vines; *
these yield crops for the harvest.
He blesses them; they grow in numbers. *
He does not let their herds decrease.

He pours contempt upon princes, *
makes them wander in trackless wastes.

They diminish, are reduced to nothing*
by oppression, evil and sorrow.

But he raises the needy from distress;*
makes families numerous as a flock.
The upright see it and rejoice*
but all who do wrong are silenced.

Whoever is wise, let him heed these things*
and consider the love of the Lord.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,*
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now,*
and will be for ever. Amen.

Antiphon

Those who love the Lord will see and rejoice; they will understand
his loving kindness.

VERSE

Your truth, O God, is high as the clouds.

— Lord, your goodness is deep as the ocean.

Sit

READINGS

First reading

From the book of Ecclesiastes

11:7—12:14

Thoughts on old age

Light is sweet! and it is pleasant for the eyes to see the sun. However
many years a man may live, let him, as he enjoys them all, remember
that the days of darkness will be many. All that is to come is vanity.

Rejoice, O young man, while you are young
and let your heart be glad in the days of your youth.
Follow the ways of your heart,
the vision of your eyes;

Yet understand that as regards all this
God will bring you to judgment.

Ward off grief from your heart
and put away trouble from your presence,
though the dawn of youth is fleeting.

Remember your Creator in the days of your youth,
before the evil days come

And the years approach of which you will say,
I have no pleasure in them;

Before the sun is darkened,
and the light, and the moon, and the stars,
while the clouds return after the rain;

When the guardians of the house tremble,
and the strong men are bent,

And the grinders are idle because they are few,
and they who look through the windows grow blind;

When the doors to the street are shut,
and the sound of the mill is low;

When one waits for the chirp of a bird,
but all the daughters of song are suppressed;

And one fears heights,
and perils in the street;

When the almond tree blooms,
and the locust grows sluggish
and the caper berry is without effect,

Because man goes to his lasting home,
and mourners go about the streets;

Before the silver cord is snapped
and the golden bowl is broken,

And the pitcher is shattered at the spring,
and the broken pulley falls into the well,

And the dust returns to the earth as it once was,
and the life breath returns to God who gave it.

Vanity of vanities, says Qoheleth,
all things are vanity!

Besides being wise, Qoheleth taught the people knowledge, and

weighed, scrutinized and arranged many proverbs. Qoheleth sought to find pleasing sayings, and to write down true sayings with precision.

The sayings of the wise are like goads; like fixed spikes are the topics given by one collector.

As to more than these, my son, beware. Of the making of many books there is no end, and in much study there is weariness for the flesh.

The last word, when all is heard: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is man's all; because God will bring to judgment every work, with all its hidden qualities, whether good or bad.

Responsory

Psalm 71:17, 9; see Psalm 16:11

O God, you have taught me from my youth, and to this very day I proclaim your marvelous works.

— Do not abandon me in my old age.

Your presence fills me with joy, and everlasting pleasures are at your right hand.

— Do not abandon me in my old age.

Second reading

From a commentary on Ecclesiastes by Saint Gregory of Agrigentum, bishop

(Lib. 10, 2: PG 98, 1138-1139)

Approach the Lord and receive his light

In the words of Ecclesiastes: *Light itself is delightful*, and it is a great boon for the eye to have sight of the sun. Devoid of light, the world would be without beauty and life would be lifeless. That was why Moses, who saw God, said in anticipation: *And God saw the light and said that it was good*. To reflect on the true and eternal light is even more fitting for us. This light is Christ who *enlightens every man who comes into the world*, the savior and redeemer of the world. He is the

one who became man and sank to the very depths of the human condition. As David said: *Sing to God a hymn to his name, make a highway for him who rises to the west. His name is the Lord, rejoice before him!*

This light he called delightful and foretold that it would be good to see the sun of glory. In the days of his incarnation, he said: *I am the light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in darkness but will possess the light of life.* On another occasion he said: *This is the judgment: the light has come into the world.*

Sunlight, then, is a symbol. What we see with our eyes foretells the coming of the Sun of Justice. He was a most delightful light for those who were worthy to be instructed by him personally. He was also a radiance to those who saw him with their bodily eyes when he lived on earth as a man among men. It was not just any man they saw, for he was true God. He made the blind see, the lame walk, and the deaf hear. He cleansed the lepers, and by a simple command he raised the dead back to life.

Now it is our supreme delight to behold him and contemplate his divine splendor with the eyes of our spirit. When we participate in and associate with that beauty, we are enlightened and adorned and this is our delight. We take delight in being saturated with the sweetness of the Spirit, in being clothed in holiness, in achieving wisdom. Finally we are filled with a joy that comes from God and endures through all the days of our earthly life. In the wise words of Ecclesiastes: *A man may live for many years, but he will experience happiness throughout his days.* For all who gaze upon the Sun of Justice, he is their supreme delight. David spoke of them: *Let them be joyful before God and be jubilant with joy.* Indeed he even said: *Rejoice in the Lord, you who are just, for praise befits those who are upright.*

Responsory

See Psalm 34:4, 6; Colossians 1:12-13

Join with me in glorifying God, let us praise his name together.

— Look to him and be radiant with joy; may your faces never be ashamed.

God has made us worthy to share the lot of his saints in light; he has delivered us from the power of darkness.

— Look to him and be radiant with joy; may your faces never be ashamed.

Stand

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Father,
keep before us the wisdom and love
you have revealed in your Son.
Help us to be like him
in word and deed,
for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

— Amen.

Acclamation

Let us praise the Lord.

— And give him thanks.

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