

Liturgy of the Hours
LITURGY OF THE HOURS

OFFICE OF READINGS

August 14, 2024

{ Memorial – Maximilian Mary Kolbe, Priest and Martyr }



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

Faith of our fathers! faith and prayer
Shall win all nations unto thee;
And through the truth that comes from God,
Mankind shall then indeed be free.

Faith of our fathers, holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our fathers! we will love
Both friend and foe in all our strife:
And preach thee too, as love knows how,
By kindly deeds and virtuous life.

Faith of our fathers, holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death.

*Melody: Saint Catherine L.M. with Refrain; Music: Henri F. Hemy, 1818-1888 and
James G. Walton, 1821-1905; Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863*

Sit or stand

PSALMODY

Antiphon 1

Wherever you are, Lord, there is mercy, there is truth.

Psalms 89:2-38

God's favors to the house of David

According to his promise, the Lord has raised up Jesus, a Savior, from the family of

I

I will síng for éver of your lóve, O Lórd; *
through all áges my móuth will procláim your trúth.
Of thís I am síre, that your lóve lasts for éver, *
that your trúth is firmly established in the héavens.

“With my chósen one, Í have made a cóvenant; *
I have swórn to Dávid my sérvant:
I will establish your dýnasty for éver *
and sét up your thróne through all áges.”

The héavens procláim your wónders, O Lórd; *
the assémbly of your hóly ones procláims your trúth.
For whó in the skíes can compáre with the Lórd *
or whó is like the Lórd among the sóns of Gód?

A Gód to be féared in the cóuncil of the hóly ones, *
gréat and dréadful to áll aróund him.
O Lórd God of hósts, whó is your équal? *
You are míghty, O Lórd, and trúth is your gárment.

It is yóu who rúle the séa in its príde; *
it is yóu who stíll the súrging of its wáves.
You crúshed the mónster Ráhab and kílled it, *
scáttering your fóes with your míghty árm.

The héavens are yóurs, the wórlđ is yóurs. *
It is yóu who fóunded the éarth and all it hólđs;
it is yóu who créated the Nóρθ and the Sóuth. *
Tábor and Hérmon shout with jóy at your náme.

Yóurs is a míghty árm, O Lórd; *
your hánd is stróng, your ríght hand réady.
Jústice and ríght are the píllars of your thróne, *
lóve and trúth wálk in your présence.

Háppy the péople who accláim such a kíng, *
who wálk, O Lórd, in the líght of your fáce,
who fínd their jóy every dáy in your náme, *
who máke your jústice the sóurce of their blíss.

For yóu, O Lórd, are the glóry of their stréngth; *
by your fávor it is that our míght is exálted:
for our rúler is in the kéeping of the Lórd; *
our kíng in the kéeping of the Hóly One of Ísrael.

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

Wherever you are, Lord, there is mercy, there is truth.

Antiphon 2

When the Son of God came into this world, he was born of David's line.

II

Of óld you spóke in a vísion. *
To your fríends the próphets you saíd:
“I have sét the crówn on a wárrior, *
I have exálted one chósen from the péople.

I have fóund Dávid my sérvant *
and with my hóly óil anóinted him.
My hánd shall álways be wíth him *
and my árm shall máke him stróng.

The ényemy shall néver outwít him *
nor the évil mán opprés him.
I will béat down his fóes befóre him *
and smíte thóse who háte him.

My trúth and my lóve shall be wíth him; *
by my náme his míght shall be exálted.
I will strétch out his hánd to the Séa *
and his ríght hand as fár as the Ríver.

He will sáy to me: ‘Yóu are my fáther, *
my Gód, the róck who sáves me.’
And I will máke hím my first-born, *

the highest of the kings of the éarth.

I will kéeep my lóve for him álways; *
with hím my cóvenant shall lást.

I will estáblish his dýnasty for éver, *
make his thróne endúre as the héavens.”

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

When the Son of God came into this world, he was born of David’s
line.

Antiphon 3

Once for all I swore to my servant David: his dynasty shall never fail.

III

“If his sóns forsáke my lów *
and refúse to wálk as I decreé
and if éver they víolate my státutes, *
refúsing to kéeep my commánds;

then I will púnish their offénses with the ród, *
then I will scóurge them on accóunt of their guílt.
But I will néver take báck my lóve: *
my trúth will néver fáil.

I will néver víolate my cóvenant *
nor go báck on the wórd I have spóken.
Once for áll, I have swórn by my hóliness. *
‘I will néver líe to Dávid.

His dýnasty shall lást for éver. *
In my síght his thróne is like the sún;
like the móon, it shall endúre for éver, *
a fáithful wítness in the skíes.”

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

Once for all I swore to my servant David: his dynasty shall never fail.

VERSE

When we listen to your word, our minds are filled with light.

— It is the lowly heart that understands.

Sit

READINGS

First reading

From the book of the prophet Micah

4:1-7

The nations go up to the mountain of the Lord

Thus says the Lord:

In days to come

the mount of the Lord's house

Shall be established higher than the mountains;

it shall rise high above the hills,

And peoples shall stream to it:

Many nations shall come, and say,

“Come, let us climb the mount of the Lord,

to the house of the God of Jacob,

That he may instruct us in his ways,

that we may walk in his paths.”

For from Zion shall go forth instruction,

and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between many peoples

and impose terms on strong and distant nations;

They shall beat their swords into plowshares,

and their spears into pruning hooks;

One nation shall not raise the sword against another,

nor shall they train for war again.

Every man shall sit under his own vine

or under his own fig tree, undisturbed;
for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.

For all the peoples walk
each in the name of its god,
But we will walk in the name of the Lord,
our God, forever and ever.
On that day, says the Lord,
I will gather the lame,
And I will assemble the outcasts,
and those whom I have afflicted.
I will make of the lame a remnant,
and of those driven far off a strong nation;
And the Lord shall be king over them on Mount Zion,
from now on forever.

Responsory

Micah 4:2; John 4:25

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the
God of Jacob.

— He will teach us his ways, and we will walk in his paths.

The Messiah, who is called the Christ, is coming. When he comes,
he will teach us everything.

— He will teach us his ways, and we will walk in his paths.

Second reading

From the Letters of Maximilian Mary Kolbe

*(Scritti del P. Massimiliano M. Kolbe, Italian translation, vol. I, pt. 1
[Padua, 1971], 75-77; 166)*

Apostolic zeal for the salvation and sanctification of souls

The burning zeal for God's glory that motivates you fills my heart
with joy. It is sad for us to see in our own time that indifferentism
in its many forms is spreading like an epidemic not only among the
laity but also among religious. But God is worthy of glory beyond
measure, and therefore it is of absolute and supreme importance to
seek that glory with all the power of our feeble resources. Since we

are mere creatures we can never return to him all that is his due.

The most resplendent manifestation of God's glory is the salvation of souls, whom Christ redeemed by shedding his blood. To work for the salvation and sanctification of as many souls as possible, therefore, is the preeminent purpose of the apostolic life. Let me, then, say a few words that may show the way toward achieving God's glory and the sanctification of many souls.

God, who is all-knowing and all-wise, knows best what we should do to increase his glory. Through his representatives on earth he continually reveals his will to us; thus it is obedience and obedience alone that is the sure sign to us of the divine will. A superior may, it is true, make a mistake; but it is impossible for us to be mistaken in obeying a superior's command. The only exception to this rule is the case of a superior commanding something that in even the slightest way would contravene God's law. Such a superior would not be conveying God's will.

God alone is infinitely wise, holy, merciful, our Lord, Creator, and Father; he is beginning and end, wisdom and power and love; he is all. Everything other than God has value to the degree that it is referred to him, the maker of all and our own redeemer, the final end of all things. It is he who, declaring his adorable will to us through his representatives on earth, draws us to himself and whose plan is to draw others to himself through us and to join us all to himself in an ever deepening love.

Look, then, at the high dignity that by God's mercy belongs to our state in life. Obedience raises us beyond the limits of our littleness and puts us in harmony with God's will. In boundless wisdom and care, his will guides us to act rightly. Holding fast to that will, which no creature can thwart, we are filled with unsurpassable strength.

Obedience is the one and the only way of wisdom and prudence for us to offer glory to God. If there were another, Christ would certainly have shown it to us by word and example. Scripture, however, summed up his entire life at Nazareth in the words: *He was subject to them*; Scripture set obedience as the theme of the rest of his life, repeatedly declaring that he came into the world to do his

Father's will.

Let us love our loving Father with all our hearts. Let our obedience increase that love, above all when it requires us to surrender our own will. Jesus Christ crucified is our sublime guide toward growth in God's love.

We will learn this lesson more quickly through the Immaculate Virgin, whom God has made the dispenser of his mercy. It is beyond all doubt that Mary's will represents to us the will of God himself. By dedicating ourselves to her we become in her hands instruments of God's mercy even as she was such an instrument in God's hands. We should let ourselves be guided and led by Mary and rest quiet and secure in her hands. She will watch out for us, provide for us, answer our needs of body and spirit; she will dissolve all our difficulties and worries.

Responsory

Ephesians 5:1-2; 6:6

Be imitators of God as his dear children. Follow the way of love, even as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as an offering to God.

— A gift of pleasing fragrance.

Do God's will with your whole heart as servants of Christ.

— A gift of pleasing fragrance.

Stand

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Gracious God,
you filled your priest and martyr,
Saint Maximilian Kolbe,
with zeal for your house
and love for his neighbor.

Through the prayers of this devoted servant of Mary Immaculate,
grant that in our efforts to serve others for your glory

we too may become like Christ your Son,
who loved his own in the world even to the end,
and now 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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