

Liturgy of the Hours
LITURGY OF THE HOURS

OFFICE OF READINGS

February 8, 2025

{ Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday }



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

O Mary, Virgin Mother blest,
O holy daughter of your Son,
most humble and yet most sublime,
above the whole created world:

You are the summit fixed of old,
predestined by divine decree,
to be our nature's perfect crown,
the height of beauty and of grace.

In you our nature shone so fair
that its Creator, God most high,
with art so wondrous to behold,
was made a creature formed through you.

Within the Virgin's purest womb
the flame of love is born anew,
and by its warmth, upon the earth
celestial flowers come to bloom.

To Father and to Paraclete
and to your Son all glory be,
who have, all three, invested you
with such a wondrous robe of grace. Amen.

Metrical hymn, melody: Hereford, 8 8 8 8; Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1810-1876

Plainsong, mode VIII, melody 109; Liber Hymnarius, Solesmes, 1983, Text: O virgo mater, filia, Anselmo Lentini, O.S.B., 1901-1989*

*The English translation of Hymns and chants from The Liturgy of the Hours © 2023
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Sit or stand

PSALMODY

Antiphon 1

The Lord summons heaven and earth to witness his judgment on his people.

Psalm 50

Genuine love of God

I have come not to abolish the law but to bring it to perfection (see Matthew 5:17).

I

The Gód of góds, the Lórd, †
has spóken and súmmoned the éarth, *
from the rísing of the sún to its sétting.
Out of Zíon's perfect béauty he shínes. *
Our God cómes, he keeps sílence no lónger.

Befóre him fire devóurs, *
aróund him témpest ráges.
He cálls on the héavens and the éarth *
to wítness his júdgment of his péople.

“Súmmon befóre me my péople *
who made cóvenant with mé by sácrifice.”
The héavens procláim his jústice, *
for Gód himsélf is the júdge.

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

The Lord summons heaven and earth to witness his judgment on his

people.

Antiphon 2

Come to me in your distress, and I will save you.

II

“Listen, my péople, I will spéak; *
Ísrael, I will téstify agáinst you,
for Í am Gód your Gód. *

I accúse you, láy the charge befóre you.

I fínd no fáult with your sácrifices, *
your ófferings are álways befóre me.

I do not ásk more búllocks from your fárms, *
nor góats from amóng your hérds.

For I ówn all the béasts of the fórest, *
béasts in their thóusands on my hílls.
I knów all the bírds in the ský, *
all that móves in the fíeld belongs to mé.

Were I húngry, Í would not téll you, *
for I ówn the wórld and all it hólds.
Do you thínk I eat the flésh of búlls, *
or drínk the blóod of góats?

Pay your sácrifice of thánksgiving to Gód *
and rénder him your vótive ófferings.
Call on mé in the dáy of distréss. *
I will frée you and yóu shall hónor 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.

Antiphon

Come to me in your distress, and I will save you.

Antiphon 3

A sacrifice of praise will give me glory.

III

But Gód sáys to the wícked: †
“But hów can you recíte my commándments *
and táke my cóvenant on your líps,
yóu who despíse my lów *
and thrów my wórds to the wínds,
you who sée a thíef and go with him; *
who thrów in your lót with adúlterers,
who unbrídle your móuth for évil *
and whose tóngue is plótting críme,
you who sít and malígn your bróther *
and slándér your ówn mother’s són.
You do thís, and should Í keep sílence? *
Do you thínk that Í am like yóu?
Mark thís, you who néver think of Gód, *
lest I séize you and you cánnót escápe;
a sácrafice of thanksgíving hónors me *
and I will shów God’s salvátion to the úpright.”

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

A sacrifice of praise will give me glory.

VERSE

We are always praying earnestly for you.

— That you may have a deep knowledge of God’s will.

Sit

READINGS

First reading

From the second letter to the Thessalonians

Exhortations and counsels

For the rest, brothers, pray for us that the word of the Lord may make progress and be hailed by many others, even as it has been by you. Pray that we may be delivered from confused and evil men. For not every man has faith, but the Lord keeps faith; he it is who will strengthen you and guard you against the evil one. In the Lord we are confident that you are doing and will continue to do whatever we enjoin. May the Lord rule your hearts in the love of God and the constancy of Christ.

We command you, brothers, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, to avoid any brother who wanders from the straight path and does not follow the tradition you received from us.

You know how you ought to imitate us. We did not live lives of disorder when we were among you, nor depend on anyone for food. Rather, we worked day and night, laboring to the point of exhaustion so as not to impose on any of you. Not that we had no claim on you, but that we might present ourselves as an example for you to imitate.

Indeed, when we were with you we used to lay down the rule that anyone who would not work should not eat.

We hear that some of you are unruly, not keeping busy but acting like busybodies. We enjoin all such, and we urge them strongly in the Lord Jesus Christ, to earn the food they eat by working quietly.

You must never grow weary of doing what is right, brothers.

If anyone will not obey our injunction, delivered through this letter, single him out to be ostracized that he may be ashamed of his conduct. But do not treat him like an enemy; rather, correct him as you would a brother.

May he who is the Lord of peace give you continued peace in every possible way. The Lord be with you all.

This greeting is in my own hand—Paul's. I append this signature to every letter I write.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Responsory

See 1 Thessalonians 2:13; see Ephesians 1:13

When you opened your hearts to the message of God,

- you received it, not as the word of men, but as what it truly is, the word of God.

You have heard the word of truth, the good news of your salvation.

- You received it, not as the word of men, but as what it truly is, the word of God.

Second reading

From a homily by Saint Amadeus of Lausanne, bishop

(Hom. 7: SC 72, 188. 190. 192. 200)

Queen of the world and of peace

Observe how fitting it was that even before her assumption the name of Mary shone forth wondrously throughout the world. Her fame spread everywhere even before she was raised above the heavens in her magnificence. Because of the honor due her Son, it was indeed fitting for the Virgin Mother to have first ruled upon earth and then be raised up to heaven in glory. It was fitting that her fame be spread in this world below, so that she might enter the heights of heaven in overwhelming blessedness. Just as she was borne from virtue to virtue by the Spirit of the Lord, she was transported from earthly renown to heavenly brightness.

So it was that she began to taste the fruits of her future reign while still in the flesh. At one moment she withdrew to God in ecstasy; at the next she would bend down to her neighbors with indescribable love. In heaven angels served her, while here on earth she was venerated by the service of men. Gabriel and the angels waited upon her in heaven. The virgin John, rejoicing that the Virgin Mother was entrusted to him at the cross, cared for her with the other apostles here below. The angels rejoiced to see their queen; the apostles rejoiced to see their lady, and both obeyed her with loving devotion.

Dwelling in the loftiest citadel of virtue, like a sea of divine grace

or an unfathomable source of love that has everywhere overflowed its banks, she poured forth her bountiful waters on trusting and thirsting souls. Able to preserve both flesh and spirit from death she bestowed health-giving salve on bodies and souls. Has anyone ever come away from her troubled or saddened or ignorant of the heavenly mysteries? Who has not returned to everyday life gladdened and joyful because his request had been granted by the Mother of God?

She is a bride, so gentle and affectionate, and the mother of the only true bridegroom. In her abundant goodness she has channeled the spring of reason's garden, the well of living and life-giving waters that pour forth in a rushing stream from divine Lebanon and flow down from Mount Zion until they surround the shores of every far-flung nation. With divine assistance she has redirected these waters and made them into streams of peace and pools of grace. Therefore, when the Virgin of virgins was led forth by God and her Son, the King of kings, amid the company of exulting angels and rejoicing archangels, with the heavens ringing with praise, the prophecy of the psalmist was fulfilled, in which he said to the Lord: *At your right hand stands the queen, clothed in gold of Ophir.*

Responsory

A great sign appeared in the heavens: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet,

— and upon her head a crown of twelve stars.

The queen clothed in cloth of gold, stood on your right hand.

— And upon her head a crown of twelve stars.

Stand

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of mercy,
give us strength.

May we who honor the memory of the Mother of God
rise above our sins and failings with the help of her prayers.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who 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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