

Liturgy of the Hours
LITURGY OF THE HOURS

OFFICE OF READINGS

November 21, 2024

{ Memorial – Presentation of Mary }



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

Ye who own the faith of Jesus,
Sing the wonders that were done,
When the love of God the Father
O'er our sin the victory won,
When he made the Virgin Mary
Mother of his only Son.
Hail, Mary, full of grace.

Blessed were the chosen people
Out of whom the Lord did come,
Blessed was the land of promise
Fashioned for his earthly home;
But more blessed far the mother,
She who bore him in her womb.
Hail, Mary, full of grace.

Wherefore let all faithful people
Tell the honor of her name,
Let the Church in her foreshadowed
Part in her thanksgiving claim;
What Christ's mother sang in gladness
Let Christ's people sing the same.
Hail, Mary, full of grace.

Praise, O Mary, praise the Father,
Praise thy Savior and thy Son,
Praise the everlasting Spirit,
Who hath made thee ark and throne.
O'er all creatures high exalted,

Lowly praise the three in one.
Hail, Mary, full of grace.

Melody: Den das Vaters Sinn geboren 87.87.876; Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739; Text: V. S. S. Coles, 1845-1929

Sit or stand

PSALMODY

Antiphon 1

The word of the Lord is a strong shield for all who put their trust in him.

Psalm 18:31-51

Hymn of thanksgiving

If God is on our side who can be against us? (Romans 8:31).

IV

As for Gód, his wáys are pérfect; *
the wórd of the Lórd, purest góld.
Hé indéed is the shíeld *
of áll who máke him their réfuge.

For whó is Gód but the Lórd? *
Whó is a rók but our Gód?
The Gód who gírd me with stréngth *
and mákes the páth safe befóre me.

My féet you made swíft as the déer's; *
you have máde me stand firm on the héights.
You have tráined my hánds for báttle *
and my árms to bend the héavy bów.

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 word of the Lord is a strong shield for all who put their trust in him.

Antiphon 2

Your strong right hand has upheld me, Lord.

V

You gáve me your sáving shield; *
you uphéld me, tráined me with cáre.
You gáve me fréedom for my stéps; *
my féet have néver slípped.

I pursúed and overtóok my fóes, *
néver turning báck till they were sláin.
I smóte them so they cóuld not rise; *
they féll benéath my féet.

You gírded me with stréngth for báttle; *
you made my énemies fáll benéath me,
you máde my fóes take flíght; *
those who háted me Í destróyed.

They críed, but there was nó one to sáve them; *
they críed to the Lórd, but in váin.
I crúshed them fine as dúst before the wínd; *
trod them dówn like dírt in the stréets.

You sáved me from the féuds of the péople *
and pút me at the héad of the nátions.
Péople unknówn to me sérved me: *
when they héard of mé they obéyed me.

Foreign nátions cáme to me crínging: †
foreign nátions fáded away. *
They came trémbing óut of their stróngtholds.

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

Your strong right hand has upheld me, Lord.

Antiphon 3

May the living God, my Savior, be praised for ever.

VI

Long life to the Lórd, my róck! *
Práised be the Gód who sáves me,
the Gód who gíves me redrés *
and subdúes péople únder me.

You sáved me from my fúrious fóes. *
You sét me abóve my assáilants.
You sáved me from víolent mén, †
so I will práise you, Lórd, among the nátions: *
I will síng a psálm to your náme.

He has gíven great víctories to his kíng †
and shówn his lóve for his anóinted, *
for Dávid and his sóns for éver.

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

May the living God, my Savior, be praised for ever.

VERSE

Open my eyes, Lord, that I may see.

— The wonders of your law.

Sit

READINGS

First reading

From the book of the prophet Zechariah

11:4—12:8

The parable of the shepherds

Thus said the Lord, my God: Shepherd the flock to be slaughtered.

For they who buy them slay them with impunity; while those who sell them say, “Blessed be the Lord, I have become rich!” Even their own shepherds do not feel for them. (Nor shall I spare the inhabitants of the earth any more, says the Lord. Yes, I will deliver each of them into the power of his neighbor, or into the power of his king; they shall crush the earth, and I will not deliver it out of their power.)

So I became the shepherd of the flock to be slaughtered for the sheep merchants. I took two staffs, one of which I called “Favor,” and the other, “Bonds,” and I fed the flock. In a single month I did away with the three shepherds. I wearied of them, and they behaved badly toward me. “I will not feed you,” I said. “What is to die, let it die; what is to perish, let it perish, and let those that are left devour one another’s flesh.”

Then I took my staff “Favor” and snapped it asunder, breaking off the covenant which I had made with all peoples; that day it was broken off. The sheep merchants who were watching me understood that this was the word of the Lord. I said to them, “If it seems good to you, give me my wages; but if not, let it go.” And they counted out my wages, thirty pieces of silver. But the Lord said to me, “Throw it in the treasury, the handsome price at which they valued me.” So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the treasury in the house of the Lord.

Then I snapped asunder my other staff, “Bonds,” breaking off the brotherhood between Judah and Israel. The Lord said to me: This time take the gear of a foolish shepherd. For I will raise up a shepherd in the land who will take no note of those that perish, nor seek the strays, nor heal the injured, nor feed what survives—he will eat the flesh of the fat ones and tear off their hoofs!

Woe to my foolish shepherd
who forsakes the flock!
May the sword fall upon his arm
and upon his right eye;
Let his arm wither away entirely,
and his right eye be blind forever!

An oracle: the word of the Lord concerning Israel. Thus says the Lord, who spreads out the heavens, lays the foundations of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him:

See, I will make Jerusalem a bowl to stupefy all peoples round about. [Judah will be besieged, even Jerusalem.]

On that day I will make Jerusalem a weighty stone for all peoples. All who attempt to lift it shall injure themselves badly, and all the nations of the earth shall be gathered against her. On that day, says the Lord, I will strike every horse with fright, and its rider with madness. I will strike blind all the horses of the peoples, but upon the house of Judah I will open my eyes, and the princes of Judah shall say to themselves, “The inhabitants of Jerusalem have their strength in the Lord of hosts, their God.”

On that day I will make the princes of Judah like a brazier of fire in the woodland, and like a burning torch among sheaves, and they shall devour right and left all the surrounding peoples; but Jerusalem shall still abide on its own site. The Lord shall save the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem may not be exalted over Judah.

On that day, the Lord will shield the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the weakling among them shall be like David on that day, and the house of David godlike, like an angel of the Lord before them.

Responsory

Zechariah 11:12, 13; Matthew 26:15

They counted out my wages, thirty pieces of silver,

— the noble price at which they valued me.

Judas said: What will you give me if I hand him over to you? They decided to pay him thirty pieces of silver.

— The noble price at which they valued me.

Second reading

From a sermon by Saint Augustine, bishop

(*Sermo 25, 7–8: PL 46, 937–938*)

She who believed by faith, conceived by faith

Stretching out his hand over his disciples, the Lord Christ declared: *Here are my mother and my brothers; anyone who does the will of my Father who sent me is my brother and my sister and my mother.* I would urge you to ponder these words. Did the Virgin Mary, who believed by faith and conceived by faith, who was the chosen one from whom our Savior was born among men, who was created by Christ before Christ was created in her—did she not do the will of the Father? Indeed the blessed Mary certainly did the Father's will, and so it was for her a greater thing to have been Christ's disciple than to have been his mother, and she was more blessed in her discipleship than in her motherhood. Hers was the happiness of first bearing in her womb him whom she would obey as her master.

Now listen and see if the words of Scripture do not agree with what I have said. The Lord was passing by and crowds were following him. His miracles gave proof of divine power, and a woman cried out: *Happy is the womb that bore you, blessed is that womb!* But the Lord, not wishing people to seek happiness in a purely physical relationship, replied: *More blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it.* Mary heard God's word and kept it, and so she is blessed. She kept God's truth in her mind, a nobler thing than carrying his body in her womb. The truth and the body were both Christ: he was kept in Mary's mind insofar as he is truth, he was carried in her womb insofar as he is man; but what is kept in the mind is of a higher order than what is carried in the womb.

The Virgin Mary is both holy and blessed, and yet the Church is greater than she. Mary is a part of the Church, a member of the Church, a holy, an eminent—the most eminent—member, but still only a member of the entire body. The body undoubtedly is greater than she, one of its members. This body has the Lord for its head, and head and body together make up the whole Christ. In other words, our head is divine—our head is God.

Now, beloved, give me your whole attention, for you also are members of Christ; you also are the body of Christ. Consider how you yourselves can be among those of whom the Lord said: *Here*

are my mother and my brothers. Do you wonder how you can be the mother of Christ? He himself said: *Whoever hears and fulfils the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and my sister and my mother.* As for our being the brothers and sisters of Christ, we can understand this because although there is only one inheritance and Christ is the only Son, his mercy would not allow him to remain alone. It was his wish that we too should be heirs of the Father, and co-heirs with himself.

Now having said that all of you are brothers of Christ, shall I not dare to call you his mother? Much less would I dare to deny his own words. Tell me how Mary became the mother of Christ, if it was not by giving birth to the members of Christ? You, to whom I am speaking, are the members of Christ. Of whom were you born? “Of Mother Church,” I hear the reply of your hearts. You became sons of this mother at your baptism, you came to birth then as members of Christ. Now you in your turn must draw to the font of baptism as many as you possibly can. You became sons when you were born there yourselves, and now by bringing others to birth in the same way, you have it in your power to become the mothers of Christ.

Responsory

Isaiah 61:10; Luke 1:46-47

I will cry out with joy to the Lord; my soul will rejoice in my God,
— for he has clothed me with the robe of salvation, like a bride adorned with her jewels.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

— For he has clothed me with the robe of salvation, like a bride adorned with her jewels.

Stand

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Eternal Father,
we honor the holiness and glory of the Virgin Mary.

May her prayers bring us
the fullness of your life and love.

We ask 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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