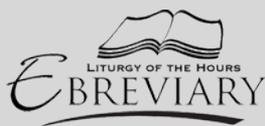


Liturgy of the Hours
LITURGY OF THE HOURS

OFFICE OF READINGS

April 25, 2026

{ Feast – Mark, Evangelist }



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 blessed Mark, the Apostles' friend,
who shared their labors zealously
and helped them in their saving work,
receive our praise and humble prayer.

Through those great messengers of Christ
an age of deepest joy arose,
a lasting age of truth and peace,
of gladness only Christ can give.

And since their burdens you have shared,
to heaven you are borne aloft;
like them you shine in glory now,
exalted in their pow'r on high.

You once were sower of the Light,
so by the Sun, the living Christ,
bring seeds to harvest ev'rywhere,
to fill the barns of heaven's store.

When with the apostolic band
you stand beside the sov'reign judge,
obtain release from all our debts
and gain for us God's healing grace.

All glory to the Three in One;
and may they grant us to rejoice
with you and all the heav'nly hosts
for ever in their great reward. Amen.

Metrical hymn, melody: ST VENANTIUS, 8 8 8 8; Rouen church melody, 1728

Plainsong, mode III, melody 54; Liber Hymnarius, Solesmes, 1983, Text: O vir beate, Apostolis, Anselmo Lentini, O.S.B., 1901–1989*

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Sit or stand

PSALMODY

Antiphon 1

Their voice has gone out to the limits of the earth, their words to the ends of the world, alleluia.

Psalm 19A

Praise of the Lord, Creator of all

The dawn from on high shall break on us . . . to guide our feet into the way of peace (Luke 1:78, 79).

The héavens procláim the glóry of Gód *
and the firmament shows fóρθ the wórk of his hánds.
Dáy unto dáy tákes up the stóry *
and níght unto níght makes knówn the méssage.

No spéech, no wórd, no vóice is héard †
yet their spán exténds through áll the éarth, *
their wórd to the útmost bóunds of the wórd.

Thére he has pláced a tént for the sún; †
it comes fóρθ like a brídegroom cóming from his tént, *
rejóices like a chámption to rún its cóurse.

At the énd of the ský is the rísing of the sún; †
to the fúrthest énd of the ský is its cóurse. *
There is nóthing concéaled from its búrning héat.

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

Their voice has gone out to the limits of the earth, their words to the ends of the world, alleluia.

Antiphon 2

They proclaimed what God has done for us; they grasped the meaning of his deeds, alleluia.

Psalm 64

Prayer for help against enemies

This psalm commemorates most particularly our Lord's passion (Saint Augustine).

Hear my voice, O Gód, *
guard my life from dréad of the fóe.
Híde me from the bánd of the wícked, *
from the thróng of thóse who do évil.

They shárpen their tóngues like swórd; *
they áim bitter wórd; like árows
to shóot at the ínnocent from ámbush, *
shóoting súddenly and récklessly.

They schéme their évil cóurse; *
they conspíre to lay sécret snáres.
They sáy: "Whó will sée us? *
Whó can séarch out our crímes?"

He will séarch who séarches the mínd *
and knóws the dépth of the héart.
Gód has shót them with his árow *
and déalt them súdden wóunds.
Their ówn tongue has bróught them to rúin *
and áll who sée them móck.

Thén will áll men féar; †
they will téll what Gód has dóne. *
They will únderstánd God's déeds.
The júst will rejóice in the Lórd †

and flý to hím for réfuge.*
All the úpright héarts will glóry.

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

They proclaimed what God has done for us; they grasped the meaning of his deeds, alleluia.

Antiphon 3

God's holiness was revealed by them; all nations saw God's glory, alleluia.

Psalm 97

The glory of the Lord in his decrees for the world

This psalm foretells a world-wide salvation and that peoples of all nations will believe in Christ (St. Athanasius).

The Lord is kóng, let éarth rejóice,*
let áll the cóastlands be glád.
Clóud and dárkness are his ráiment; *
his thróne, jústice and ríght.

A fire prepáres his páth; *
it búrns up his fóes on every síde.
His líghtnings líght up the wórld,*
the éarth trémbles at the síght.

The móuntains mélt like wáx *
before the Lórd of áll the éarth.
The skíes procláim his jústice; *
all péoples sée his glóry.

Let thóse who serve ídols be ashámed, †
those who bóast of their wóρθless góds.*
All you spírits, wórship hím.

Zíon héars and is glád; †
the péople of Júdah rejóice *

because of your judgments, O Lórd.

For yóu indéed are the Lórd, †
most híg above áll the éarth,*
exálted far abóve all spírits.

The Lórd loves thóse who hate évil: †
he gúards the sóuls of his sáints;*
he séts them frée from the wícked.

Líght shines fóρθ for the júst*
and jóy for the úpright of héart.
Rejóice, you júst, in the Lórd;*
give glóry to his hólý náme.

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

God's holiness was revealed by them; all nations saw God's glory,
alleluia.

VERSE

The Lord will give his message to the preachers of the Gospel, alleluia.

— He will give them strength to proclaim it fearlessly, alleluia.

Sit

READINGS

First reading

From the letter of the apostle Paul to the Ephesians

4:1–16

The various graces for the different ministries in the one body of Christ.

I plead with you, then, as a prisoner for the Lord, to live a life worthy of the calling you have received, with perfect humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another lovingly. Make every

effort to preserve the unity which has the Spirit as its origin and peace as its binding force. There is but one body and one Spirit, just as there is but one hope given all of you by your call. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all, and works through all, and is in all.

Each of us has received God's favor in the measure in which Christ bestows it. Thus you find Scripture saying:

“When he ascended on high, he took a host of captives and gave gifts to men.”

“He ascended”—what does this mean but that he had first descended into the lower regions of the earth? He who descended is the very one who ascended high above the heavens, that he might fill all men with his gifts.

It is he who gave apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers in roles of service for the faithful to build up the body of Christ, till we become one in faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, and form that perfect man who is Christ come to full stature.

Let us, then, be children no longer, tossed here and there, carried about by every wind of doctrine that originates in human trickery and skill in proposing error. Rather, let us profess the truth in love and grow to the full maturity of Christ the head. Through him the whole body grows, and with the proper functioning of the members joined firmly together by each supporting ligament, builds itself up in love.

Responsory

2 Peter 1:21; Proverbs 2:6

No prophecy ever came from man.

- The men who spoke the word of God were inspired by the Holy Spirit, alleluia.

The Lord gives wisdom; knowledge and understanding flow from his mouth

- The men who spoke the word of God were inspired by the Holy Spirit, alleluia.

Second reading

From the treatise *Against Heresies* by Saint Irenaeus, bishop

(Lib. 1, 10, 1-3: PG 7, 550-554)

Preaching truth

The Church, which has spread everywhere, even to the ends of the earth, received the faith from the apostles and their disciples. By faith, we believe in one God, the almighty Father *who made heaven and earth and the sea and all that is in them*. We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who became man for our salvation. And we believe in the Holy Spirit who through the prophets foretold God's plan: the coming of our beloved Lord Jesus Christ, his birth from the Virgin, his passion, his resurrection from the dead, his ascension into heaven, and his final coming from heaven in the glory of his Father, *to recapitulate all things* and to raise all men from the dead, so that, by the decree of his invisible Father, he may make a just judgment in all things and so that *every knee should bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth* to Jesus Christ our Lord and our God, our Savior and our King, and *every tongue confess him*.

The Church, spread throughout the whole world, received this preaching and this faith and now preserves it carefully, dwelling as it were in one house. Having one soul and one heart, the Church holds this faith, preaches and teaches it consistently as though by a single voice. For though there are different languages, there is but one tradition.

The faith and the tradition of the churches founded in Germany are no different from those founded among the Spanish and the Celts, in the East, in Egypt, in Libya and elsewhere in the Mediterranean world. Just as God's creature, the sun, is one and the same the world over, so also does the Church's preaching shine everywhere to enlighten all men who want to come to a knowledge of the truth.

Now of those who speak with authority in the churches, no preacher however forceful will utter anything different—for no one is above the Master—nor will a less forceful preacher diminish what has been handed down. Since our faith is everywhere the same, no

one who can say more augments it, nor can anyone who says less diminish it.

Responsory

1 Corinthians 1:17-18, 21

Christ sent me to preach the Gospel, but not with the wisdom of this world in which the cross of Christ loses all its meaning.

- For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are on the way to destruction; but to us who are on the way to salvation it is the proof of God's power, alleluia.

The world did not come to know God through wisdom; it has pleased God to save those who believed through the foolishness of the message we preach.

- For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are on the way to destruction; but to us who are on the way to salvation it is the proof of God's power, alleluia.

Stand

TE DEUM

You are God: we praise you;
You are the Lord: we acclaim you;
You are the eternal Father:
All creation worships you.

To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,
Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:
Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

The glorious company of apostles praise you.
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.

Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you:
Father, of majesty unbounded,
your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,
and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

You, Christ, are the King of glory,
the eternal Son of the Father.

When you became man to set us free
you did not spurn the Virgin's womb.

You overcame the sting of death,
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

You are seated at God's right hand in glory.
We believe that you will come, and be our judge.

Come then, Lord, and help your people,
bought with the price of your own blood,
and bring us with your saints
to glory everlasting.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Father,
you gave Saint Mark
the privilege of proclaiming your gospel.
May we profit by his wisdom
and follow Christ more faithfully.

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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