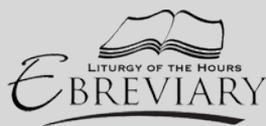


*Liturgy of the Hours*  
LITURGY OF THE HOURS

OFFICE OF READINGS

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April 4, 2026  
{ Holy 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.

HYMN

O Christ, the Lord of heav'n on high,  
most glorious Savior of the world,  
who by the Cross, your gracious gift,  
have freed us from the laws of death,

We beg you now with fervent prayer:  
Preserve, O Lord, the holy gifts  
you grant through sacred mysteries  
to ev'ry people, ev'ry land.

As blameless, meek, and gentle Lamb,  
the Victim offered for the world,  
you washed in your redeeming blood  
the robes of all your blessed saints.

And those you ransomed with the price  
of your most sacred flesh and blood  
you bring to heaven as you rise  
where they extol you evermore.

Include us in their number, Lord,  
we humbly pray and call on you,  
who, for the Father, made of us  
a Kingdom drawn from ev'ry race. Amen.

*Metrical hymn, melody: ERHALT UNS, HERR, 8 8 8 8; later form of melody from  
Joseph Klug's Gestliche Lieder, Wittenberg, 1535*

*Plainsong, mode II, melody 36; Liber Hymnarius, Solesmes, 1983\*, Text: Christe,  
calorum Domine, 5-6th c.*

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

*International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation (ICEL).*

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*Sit or stand*

## PSALMODY

### *Antiphon 1*

In peace, I will lie down and sleep.

*Psalm 4*

*Thanksgiving*

*The resurrection of Christ was God's supreme and wholly marvelous work (Saint Augustine).*

When I call, answer me, O God of justice; \*  
from anguish you released me; have mercy and hear me!

O men, how long will your hearts be closed, \*  
will you love what is futile and seek what is false?

It is the Lord who grants favors to those whom he loves; \*  
the Lord hears me whenever I call him.

Fear him; do not sin: ponder on your bed and be still. \*  
Make justice your sacrifice and trust in the Lord.

“What can bring us happiness?” many say. \*  
Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord.

You have put into my heart a greater joy \*  
than they have from abundance of corn and new wine.

I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once \*  
for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

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*

In peace, I will lie down and sleep.

*Antiphon 2*

My body shall rest in hope.

*Psalm 16*

*God is my portion, my inheritance*

*The Father raised up Jesus from the dead and broke the bonds of death (Acts 2:24).*

Presérve me, Gód, I take réfuge in yóu. †  
I sáy to the Lórd: “Yóu are my Gód.\*  
My háppiness líes in yóu alóne.”

He has pút into my héart a márvellous lóve\*  
for the fáithful ónes who dwéll in his lánd.  
Those who chóose other góds increáse their sórrows. †  
Néver will I óffer their ófferings of blóod.\*  
Néver will I táke their náme upon my líps.

O Lórd, it is yóu who are my pórtion and cúp;\*  
it is yóu yoursélf who áre my príze.  
The lót marked óut for me is mý delíght:\*  
welcome indéed the héritage that fálls to mé!

I will bléss the Lórd who gíves me cóunsel,\*  
who éven at níght dirécts my héart.  
I kéepe the Lórd ever ín my síght:\*  
since hé is at my ríght hand, I shall stand firm.

And so my héart rejóices, my sóul is glád;\*  
éven my bódý shall rést in sáfety.  
For yóu will not léave my sóul among the déad,\*  
nor lét your belóved knów decáy.

You will shów me the páth of lífe, †  
the fúllness of jóy in your présence,\*  
at your ríght hand háppiness 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*

My body shall rest in hope.

*Antiphon 3*

Lift high the ancient portals. The King of glory enters.

*Psalm 24*

*The Lord's entry into his temple*

*Christ opened heaven for us in the manhood he assumed (St. Irenaeus)*

The Lórd's is the éarth and its fúllness, \*  
the wórld and áll its péoples.  
It is hé who sét it on the séas; \*  
on the wáters he máde it fírm.

Who shall clímb the móuntain of the Lórd? \*  
Who shall stánd in his hóly pláce?  
The mán with clean hánds and pure héart, †  
who desíres not wórtless thínings, \*  
who has not swórn so as to decéive his néighbor.

He shall recéive bléssings from the Lórd \*  
and rewárd from the Gód who sáves him.  
Súch are the mén who séek him, \*  
seek the fáce of the Gód of Jácob.

O gátes, lift hígh your héads; †  
grow hígher, áncient dóors. \*  
Let him énter, the kíng of glóry!

Whó is the kíng of glóry? †  
The Lórd, the míghty, the váliant, \*  
the Lórd, the váliant in wár.

O gátes, lift hígh your héads; †  
grow hígher, áncient dóors. \*  
Let him énter, the kíng of glóry!

Who is hé, the kíng of glóry? †  
Hé, the Lórd of ármies, \*

hé is the k<sup>í</sup>ng of 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*

Lift high the ancient portals. The King of glory enters.

VERSE

Take up my cause and rescue me.

— Be true to your word, give me life.

*Sit*

READINGS

*First reading*

From the letter to the Hebrews

*4:1–13*

*Let us strive to enter the Lord's rest*

While the promise of entrance into his rest still holds, we ought to be fearful of disobeying lest any one of you be judged to have lost his chance of entering. We have indeed heard the good news, as they did. But the word which they heard did not profit them, for they did not receive it in faith.

It is we who have believed who enter into that rest, just as God said:

“Thus I swore in my anger,  
“They shall never enter into my rest.”

Yet God's work was finished when he created the world, for in reference to the seventh day Scripture somewhere says, “And God rested from all his work on the seventh day”; and again, in the place we have referred to, God says, “They shall never enter into my rest.”

Therefore, since it remains for some to enter, and those to whom it was first announced did not because of unbelief, God once more

set a day, “today,” when long afterward he spoke through David the words we have quoted:

“Today, if you should hear his voice,  
harden not your hearts.”

Now if Joshua had led them into the place of rest, God would not have spoken afterward of another day. Therefore a sabbath rest still remains for the people of God. And he who enters into God’s rest, rests from his own work as God did from his. Let us strive to enter into that rest, so that no one may fall, in imitation of the example of Israel’s unbelief.

Indeed, God’s word is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword. It penetrates and divides soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the reflections and thoughts of the heart. Nothing is concealed from him; all lies bare and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must render an account.

*Responsory*

*See Matthew 27:66, 60, 62*

They buried the Lord and sealed the tomb by rolling a large stone in front of it.

— They stationed soldiers there to guard it.

The chief priests asked Pilate for a guard.

— They stationed soldiers there to guard it.

*Second reading*

From an ancient homily on Holy Saturday

*(PG 43, 439, 451, 462–463)*

*The Lord descends into hell*

Something strange is happening—there is a great silence on earth today, a great silence and stillness. The whole earth keeps silence because the King is asleep. The earth trembled and is still because God has fallen asleep in the flesh and he has raised up all who have slept ever since the world began. God has died in the flesh and hell trembles with fear.

He has gone to search for our first parent, as for a lost sheep. Greatly desiring to visit those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death, he has gone to free from sorrow the captives Adam and Eve, he who is both God and the son of Eve. The Lord approached them bearing the cross, the weapon that had won him the victory. At the sight of him Adam, the first man he had created, struck his breast in terror and cried out to everyone: "My Lord be with you all." Christ answered him: "And with your spirit." He took him by the hand and raised him up, saying: "Awake, O sleeper, and rise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

I am your God, who for your sake have become your son. Out of love for you and for your descendants I now by my own authority command all who are held in bondage to come forth, all who are in darkness to be enlightened, all who are sleeping to arise. I order you, O sleeper, to awake. I did not create you to be held a prisoner in hell. Rise from the dead, for I am the life of the dead. Rise up, work of my hands, you who were created in my image. Rise, let us leave this place, for you are in me and I am in you; together we form only one person and we cannot be separated.

For your sake I, your God, became your son; I, the Lord, took the form of a slave; I, whose home is above the heavens, descended to the earth and beneath the earth. For your sake, for the sake of man, I became like a man without help, free among the dead. For the sake of you, who left a garden, I was betrayed to the Jews in a garden, and I was crucified in a garden.

See on my face the spittle I received in order to restore to you the life I once breathed into you. See there the marks of the blows I received in order to refashion your warped nature in my image. On my back see the marks of the scourging I endured to remove the burden of sin that weighs upon your back. See my hands, nailed firmly to a tree, for you who once wickedly stretched out your hand to a tree.

I slept on the cross and a sword pierced my side for you who slept in paradise and brought forth Eve from your side. My side has healed the pain in yours. My sleep will rouse you from your sleep in hell. The sword that pierced me has sheathed the sword that was

turned against you.

Rise, let us leave this place. The enemy led you out of the earthly paradise. I will not restore you to that paradise, but I will enthrone you in heaven. I forbade you the tree that was only a symbol of life, but see, I who am life itself am now one with you. I appointed cherubim to guard you as slaves are guarded, but now I make them worship you as God. The throne formed by cherubim awaits you, its bearers swift and eager. The bridal chamber is adorned, the banquet is ready, the eternal dwelling places are prepared, the treasure houses of all good things lie open. The kingdom of heaven has been prepared for you from all eternity.

*Responsory*

Our shepherd, the source of the water of life, has died. The sun was darkened when he passed away. But now man's captor is made captive.

- This is the day when our Savior broke through the gates of death.

He has destroyed the barricades of hell, overthrown the sovereignty of the devil.

- This is the day when our Savior broke through the gates of death.

*Stand*

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Let us pray.

All-powerful and ever-living God,  
your only Son went down among the dead  
and rose again in glory.  
In your goodness  
raise up your faithful people,  
buried with him in baptism,  
to be one with him  
in the eternal life of heaven,  
where 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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