

*Liturgy of the Hours*  
LITURGY OF THE HOURS

OFFICE OF READINGS

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January 3, 2026

{ Saturday before Epiphany }



*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

Loving, eternal  
splendor of the Godhead,  
Life, Light, and Mercy,  
Christ you come among us,  
Healer of illness  
and all human weakness,  
Gate of Salvation.

Angels in chorus  
to the earth are singing  
tidings from heaven,  
telling of new ages:  
praise to the Father,  
to our human fam'ly  
joy, peace, and gladness.

Infant so lowly,  
Lord of all creation,  
born of the Virgin,  
holy, pure, and sinless,  
rule all the world now,  
Jesus Christ, our Master,  
ever beloved.

Born to give heaven,  
our eternal homeland,  
our flesh assuming,  
joined to us for ever;  
draw hearts that seek you,

mind and soul renewing;  
by your love bind us.

Lord, see us gathered,  
filled with exultation,  
joined to the angels,  
singing hymns of gladness;  
joyous we praise you,  
one with God the Father,  
and Love, your equal. Amen.

*Metrical hymn, melody: Herr, Deinen Zorn, 11 11 11 5; later form of melody by  
Johann Crüger, 1599–1662*

*Plainsong, mode I, melody 22; Liber Hymnarius, Solesmes, 1983\*, Text: Candor  
æternæ Deitatis alme, Anselmo Lentini, O.S.B., 1901–1989*

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*Sit or stand*

## PSALMODY

### *Antiphon 1*

Sing praise to the Lord; remember the wonders he has wrought.

*Psalm 105*

*The Lord is faithful to his promises*

*The apostles proclaim to the nations the wonders which God wrought when he came  
among us (Saint Athanasius).*

*I*

Give thanks to the Lórd, tell his náme, \*  
make knówn his déeds among the péoples.

O síng to him, síng his práise; \*  
téll all his wónderful wórks!  
Be próud of his hóly náme, \*

let the héarts that seek the Lórd rejóice.

Consíder the Lórd and his stréngth; \*  
cónstantly séek his fáce.

Remémber the wónders he has dóne, \*  
his míracles, the júdgments he spóke.

O children of Ábraham, his sérvant, \*  
O sóns of the Jácob he chóse.

Hé, the Lórd, is our Gód: \*  
his júdgments preváil in all the éarth.

He remémbers his cóvenant for éver, \*  
his prómise for a thóusand generátions,  
the cóvenant he máde with Ábraham, \*  
the óath he swóre to Ísaac.

He confirmed it for Jácob as a láw, \*  
for Ísrael as a cóvenant for éver.

He sáid: "I am gíving you a lánd, \*  
Cánaan, your appóinted héritage."

Whén they were féw in númer, \*  
a hándful of stráangers in the lánd,  
when they wándered from cóuntry to cóuntry \*  
and from one kíngdom and nátion to anóther,

he allówed nó one to opprés them; \*  
he admónished kíngs on their accóunt:  
"Do not tóuch thóse I have anóinted; \*  
do no hárm to ány of my próphets."

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*

Sing praise to the Lord; remember the wonders he has wrought.

### *Antiphon 2*

The Lord did not abandon the good man who was sold into slavery,

but freed him from the power of sinners.

## II

But he called down a famine on the land; \*  
he broke the staff that supported them.  
He had sent a man before them. \*  
Joseph, sold as a slave.

His feet were put in chains, \*  
his neck was bound with iron,  
until what he said came to pass \*  
and the word of the Lord proved him true.

Then the king sent and released him; \*  
the ruler of the peoples set him free,  
making him master of his house \*  
and ruler of all he possessed,

to instruct his princes as he pleased \*  
and to teach his elders wisdom.

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 did not abandon the good man who was sold into slavery,  
but freed him from the power of sinners.

### *Antiphon 3*

The Lord was true to his sacred promise; he led his people to  
freedom and joy.

## III

So Israel came into Egypt, \*  
Jacob lived in the country of Ham.

He gave his people increase; \*  
he made them stronger than their foes  
whose hearts he turned to hate his people \*  
and to deal deceitfully with his servants.

Thén he sent Móses his sérvant \*  
and Áaron the mán he had chósen.  
Through thém he shówed his márvels \*  
and his wónders in the cóuntry of Hám.

He sent dárkness, and dárk was máde \*  
but Égypt resisted his wórds.  
He túrned the wáters into blóod \*  
and cáused their físh to díe.

Their lánd was álíve with frógs, \*  
éven in the hálls of their kíngs.  
He spóke; the dóg-fly cáme \*  
and gnáts cóvered the lánd.

He sent háil-stones in pláce of the ráin \*  
and fláshing fire in their lánd.  
He strúck their vínes and fíg trees; \*  
he shátttered the trées through their lánd.

He spóke; the lócusts cáme, \*  
young lócusts, too mány to be cóunted.  
They áte up every bláde in the lánd; \*  
they áte up all the frúit of their fíelds.

He strúck all the fírst-born in their lánd, \*  
the fínest flówer of their sóns.  
He led out Ísrael with sílver and góld. \*  
In his tríbes were nóne who fell behínd.

Égypt rejóiced when they léft \*  
for dréad had fálled upón them.  
He spréad a clóud as a scréen \*  
and fíre to give líght in the dárkness.

When they ásked for fód he sent quáils; \*  
he fílléd them with bréad from héaven.  
He píerced the rók to give them wáter; \*  
it gushed fórth in the désert like a ríver.

For he remémbered his hólý wórd, \*  
which he gáve to Ábraham his sérvant.

So he bróught out his péople with jóy, †  
his chósen ones with shóuts of rejóicing. \*  
And he gáve them the lánd of the nátions.

They tóok the frúit of óther men's tóil, †  
that thús they might kéeep his précepts, \*  
that thús they might obsérve his láws.

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 was true to his sacred promise; he led his people to  
freedom and joy.

### VERSE

In these last days God has spoken to us through his Son.

— The Word through whom he made all things.

### *Sit*

### READINGS

#### *First reading*

From the book of the prophet Isaiah

*61:1-11*

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon his servant*

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me;  
He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly,  
to heal the brokenhearted,

To proclaim liberty to the captives  
and release to the prisoners,  
To announce a year of favor from the Lord  
and a day of vindication by our God,  
to comfort all who mourn;  
To place on those who mourn in Zion

a diadem instead of ashes,  
To give them oil of gladness in place of mourning,  
a glorious mantle instead of a listless spirit.  
They will be called oaks of justice,  
planted by the Lord to show his glory.

They shall rebuild the ancient ruins,  
the former wastes they shall raise up  
And restore the ruined cities,  
desolate now for generations.

Strangers shall stand ready to pasture your flocks,  
foreigners shall be your farmers and vinedressers.  
You yourselves shall be named priests of the Lord,  
ministers of our God you shall be called.  
You shall eat the wealth of the nations  
and boast of riches from them.

Since their shame was double  
and disgrace and spittle were their portion,  
They shall have a double inheritance in their land,  
everlasting joy shall be theirs.

For I, the Lord, love what is right,  
I hate robbery and injustice;  
I will give them their recompense faithfully,  
a lasting covenant I will make with them.

Their descendants shall be renowned among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
All who see them shall acknowledge them  
as a race the Lord has blessed.

I rejoice heartily in the Lord,  
in my God is the joy of my soul;  
For he has clothed me with a robe of salvation,  
and wrapped me in a mantle of justice,  
Like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem,  
like a bride bedecked with her jewels.

As the earth brings forth its plants,



and a garden makes its growth spring up,  
So will the Lord God make justice and praise  
spring up before all the nations.

*Responsory*

*Isaiah 61:1; John 8:42*

The Spirit of God rests upon me, for the Lord has anointed me; and  
he has sent me to bring good news to the poor,

— to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim that captivity is now  
ended and prisoners are set free.

I have come forth from God and have come into the world. I did  
not come of myself; the Father has sent me.

— To heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim that captivity is now  
ended and prisoners are set free.

*Second reading*

From a sermon by Saint Augustine, bishop

*(Sermo 13 de Tempore: PL 39, 1097-1098)*

*God became man so that man might become God*

Beloved, our Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal creator of all things,  
today became our Savior by being born of a mother. Of his own  
will he was born for us today, in time, so that he could lead us to his  
Father's eternity. God became man so that man might become God.  
The Lord of angels became man today so that man could eat the  
bread of angels.

Today, the prophecy is fulfilled that said: *Pour down, heavens, from  
above, and let the clouds rain the just one: let the earth be opened and  
bring forth a savior.* The Lord who had created all things is himself  
now created, so that he who was lost would be found. Thus man, in  
the words of the psalmist, confesses: *Before I was humbled, I sinned.*  
Man sinned and became guilty; God is born a man to free man  
from his guilt. Man fell, but God descended; man fell miserably, but  
God descended mercifully; man fell through pride, God descended  
with his grace.

My brethren, what miracles! What prodigies! The laws of nature are

changed in the case of man. God is born. A virgin becomes pregnant with man. The Word of God marries the woman who knows no man. She is now at the same time both mother and virgin. She becomes a mother, yet she remains a virgin. The virgin bears a son, yet she does not know man; she remains untouched, yet she is not barren. He alone was born without sin, for she bore him without the embrace of a man, not by the concupiscence of the flesh but by the obedience of the mind.

*Responsory*

*1 John 4:14; 1:9*

We have seen with our own eyes and we bear witness:

— the Father sent his own Son to be the Savior of the world.

He has come to take away the burden of our sins and to cleanse us of every stain of evil.

— The Father sent his own Son to be the Savior of the world.

*Stand*

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Let us pray.

All-powerful and ever-living God,  
you give us a new vision of your glory  
in the coming of Christ your Son.

He was born of the Virgin Mary  
and came to share our life.

May we come to share his eternal life  
in the glory of your kingdom,  
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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