

*Liturgy of the Hours*  
LITURGY OF THE HOURS

OFFICE OF READINGS

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December 1, 2024  
{ First Sunday of Advent }



*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 Word proceeding from on high,  
light coming from the Father's light,  
by birth you came to save the world  
when time's appointed course had run.

Now come and fill our hearts with light,  
consume them in your love's bright heat,  
and when the herald's cry is heard,  
may all deceit be put to flight.

So when at length you come as Judge  
to probe our hearts in thought and deed,  
to weigh the guilt for hidden sin  
and crown the just for deeds well done,

Let not the nature of our sins  
detain us in the evil throng,  
but let us with the blessed share  
the life of heaven evermore.

To you, O Christ, most loving King,  
and to the Father, glory be,  
one with the Spirit Paraclete,  
from age to age for evermore. Amen.

*Metrical hymn, melody: Breslau, 8 8 8 8; first appeared in As Hymnodus Sacer,  
Leipzig, 1625, adapted by Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, 1809–1847*

*Plainsong, mode II, melody 38; Liber Hymnarius, Solesmes, 1983\*, Text: Verbum  
supernum prodiens, a Patre lumen exiens, 10th 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*

This is our heavenly King; he comes with power and might to save the nations, alleluia.

### *Psalm 1*

*There are two ways a man may take*

*They are happy who, putting all their trust in the cross, have plunged into the water of life (from an author of the second century).*

Háppy indéed is the mán \*  
who fóllows not the cóunsel of the wícked;  
nor língers in the wáy of sínners \*  
nor síts in the cómpany of scórners,  
but whose delíght is the lów of the Lórd \*  
and who pónders his lów day and níght.

Hé is like a trée that is plánted \*  
beside the flówing wáters,  
that yíelds its frúit in due séason †  
and whose léaves shall néver fáde; \*  
and áll that he dóes shall próspér.

Not só are the wícked, not só! †  
For théy like wínnowed cháff \*  
shall be dríven awáy by the wínd.  
When the wícked are júdged they shall not stánd, \*  
nor find róom among thóse who are júst;  
for the Lórd guards the wáy of the júst \*  
but the wáy of the wícked leads to dóom.

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*

This is our heavenly King; he comes with power and might to save the nations, alleluia.

*Antiphon 2*

Daughter of Jerusalem, rejoice and be glad; your King will come to you. Zion, do not fear; your Savior hastens on his way.

*Psalm 2*

*The Messiah, king and conqueror*

*The rulers of the earth joined forces to overthrow Jesus, your anointed Son (Acts 4:27).*

Why this tumult among nátions, \*  
among péoples this úseless múrmuring?  
They arise, the kíngs of the éarth, \*  
princes plót against the Lórd and his Anóinted.  
“Cóme let us bréak their fétters, \*  
cóme, let us cást off their yóke.”

He who síts in the héavens láughs; \*  
the Lórd is láughing them to scórn.  
Thén he will spéak in his ánger, \*  
his ráge will stríke them with térror.  
“It is Í who have sét up my kíng \*  
on Zíon, my hólý móuntain.”

I will annóunce the decrée of the Lórd: †  
The Lórd said to me: “Yóu are my Són. \*  
It is Í who have begóttén you this dáy.  
Ásk and I shall bequéath you the nátions, \*  
put the énds of the éarth in your posséssion.  
With a ród of íron you will bréak them, \*  
shátter them like a pótter's jár.”

Nów, O kíngs, understánd, \*  
take wárning, rúlers of the éarth;  
sérve the Lórd with áwe \*

and trémbing, páy him your hómage  
lést he be ángry and you pérish; \*  
for súddenly his ánger will bláze.

Blessed are théy \*  
who put their trúst in Gód.

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*

Daughter of Jerusalem, rejoice and be glad; your King will come to you. Zion, do not fear; your Savior hastens on his way.

*Antiphon 3*

Let us cleanse our hearts for the coming of our great King, that we may be ready to welcome him; he is coming and will not delay

*Psalm 3*

*I am safe in the Lord's keeping*

*Christ fell asleep in death, but he rose from the dead, for God was his deliverer (Saint Irenaeus).*

How mány are my fóes, O Lórd! \*  
How mány are rising up agáinst me!  
How mány are sáying abóut me: \*  
“There is no hélp for hím in Gód.”

But yóu, Lord, are a shíeld abóut me, \*  
my glóry, who líft up my héad.  
I crý alóud to the Lórd. \*  
He ánsvers from his hólý móuntain.

I líe down to rést and I sléep. \*  
I wáke, for the Lórd uphólds me.  
I will not féar even thóusands of péople \*  
who are ránged on every síde agáinst me.

Aríse, Lord; sáve me, my Gód, \*  
you who stríke all my fóes on the móúth,

you who bréak the téeth of the wicked! \*  
O Lórd of salvátion, bless your péople!

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*

Let us cleanse our hearts for the coming of our great King, that we may be ready to welcome him; he is coming and will not delay

VERSE

Lift up your heads and see.

— Your redemption is now at hand.

*Sit*

READINGS

*First reading*

From the beginning of the book of the prophet Isaiah

*1:1-18*

*The reproof of the people*

The vision which Isaiah, son of Amoz, had concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

Hear, O heavens, and listen, O earth,  
for the Lord speaks:

Sons have I raised and reared,  
but they have disowned me!

An ox knows its owner,  
and an ass, its master's manger;

But Israel does not know,  
my people has not understood.

Ah! sinful nation, people laden with wickedness,  
evil race, corrupt children!

They have forsaken the Lord,

spurned the Holy One of Israel, apostatized.

Where would you yet be struck,  
you that rebel again and again?

The whole head is sick,  
the whole heart faint.

From the sole of the foot to the head  
there is no sound spot:

Wound and welt and gaping gash,  
not drained, or bandaged,  
or eased with salve.

Your country is waste,  
your cities burnt with fire;  
Your land before your eyes  
strangers devour  
[a waste, like Sodom overthrown]—

And daughter Zion is left  
like a hut in a vineyard,  
Like a shed in a melon patch,  
like a city blockaded.

Unless the Lord of hosts  
had left us a scanty remnant,  
We had become as Sodom,  
we should be like Gomorrah.

Hear the word of the Lord,  
princes of Sodom!  
Listen to the instruction of our God,  
people of Gomorrah!

What care I for the number of your sacrifices?  
says the Lord.

I have had enough of whole-burnt rams  
and fat of fatlings;

In the blood of calves, lambs and goats  
I find no pleasure.

When you come in to visit me,  
who asks these things of you?

Trample my courts no more!  
Bring no more worthless offerings;  
your incense is loathsome to me.  
New moon and sabbath, calling of assemblies,  
octaves with wickedness: these I cannot bear.  
Your new moons and festivals I detest;  
they weigh me down, I tire of the load.  
When you spread out your hands,  
I close my eyes to you;  
Though you pray the more,  
I will not listen.

Your hands are full of blood!  
Wash yourselves clean!  
Put away your misdeeds from before my eyes;  
cease doing evil; learn to do good.  
Make justice your aim: redress the wronged,  
hear the orphan's plea, defend the widow.  
Come now, let us set things right,  
says the Lord:  
Though your sins be like scarlet,  
they may become white as snow;  
Though they be crimson red,  
they may become white as wool.

*Responsory*

*Isaiah 1:16, 18, 17*

Wash yourselves, be clean. Banish evil from your hearts, away from my sight.

— Though your sins be scarlet, they shall be made white as snow.

Cease to do evil and learn to do good, seek always what is just.

— Though your sins be scarlet, they shall be made white as snow.

*Second reading*

From a catechetical instruction by Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop



(Cat. 15, 1-3: PG 33, 870-874)

*On the twofold coming of Christ*

We do not preach only one coming of Christ, but a second as well, much more glorious than the first. The first coming was marked by patience; the second will bring the crown of a divine kingdom.

In general, whatever relates to our Lord Jesus Christ has two aspects. There is a birth from God before the ages, and a birth from a virgin at the fullness of time. There is a hidden coming, like that of rain on fleece, and a coming before all eyes, still in the future.

At the first coming he was wrapped in swaddling clothes in a manger. At his second coming he will be clothed in light as in a garment. In the first coming he endured the cross, despising the shame; in the second coming he will be in glory, escorted by an army of angels. We look then beyond the first coming and await the second. At the first coming we said: *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.* At the second we shall say it again; we shall go out with the angels to meet the Lord and cry out in adoration: *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*

The Savior will not come to be judged again, but to judge those by whom he was judged. At his own judgment he was silent; then he will address those who committed the outrages against him when they crucified him and will remind them: *You did these things, and I was silent.*

His first coming was to fulfill his plan of love, to teach men by gentle persuasion. This time, whether men like it or not, they will be subjects of his kingdom by necessity. The prophet Malachi speaks of the two comings. *And the Lord whom you seek will come suddenly to his temple:* that is one coming.

Again he says of another coming: *Look, the Lord almighty will come, and who will endure the day of his entry, or who will stand in his sight? Because he comes like a refiner's fire, a fuller's herb, and he will sit refining and cleansing.*

These two comings are also referred to by Paul in writing to Titus: *The grace of God the Savior has appeared to all men, instructing us to put*

*aside impiety and worldly desires and live temperately, uprightly, and religiously in this present age, waiting for the joyful hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Notice how he speaks of a first coming for which he gives thanks, and a second, the one we still await.*

That is why the faith we profess has been handed on to you in these words: *He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.*

Our Lord Jesus Christ will therefore come from heaven. He will come at the end of the world, in glory, at the last day. For there will be an end to this world, and the created world will be made new.

*Responsory*

Watching from afar, I see the power of God advancing, and the whole earth enveloped in a cloud. Go out to meet him crying:

— Tell us if you are the One who is to reign over the people of Israel.

All peoples of the earth, all children of men,

— rich and poor alike, go out to meet him crying:

Shepherd of Israel, hear us, you who lead Joseph's race like a flock,

— Tell us if you are the One.

Throw wide the gates, you princes, let the King of glory enter,

— who is to reign over the people of Israel.

Watching from afar, I see the power of God advancing, and the whole earth enveloped in a cloud. Go out to meet him crying:

— Tell us if you are the One who is to reign over the people of Israel.

*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 acclaim 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.

All-powerful God,  
increase our strength of will for doing good  
that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming  
and call us to his side in the kingdom 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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