

*Liturgy of the Hours*  
LITURGY OF THE HOURS

OFFICE OF READINGS

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May 4, 2025

{ Third Sunday of Easter }



*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

This is the day, true day of God,  
serene with clear and holy light,  
on which the sacred blood has washed  
both shame and guilt from all the world.

In this the lost regain their faith,  
the blind receive the gift of light;  
can one remain in anxious fear  
who sees forgiveness for the thief?

The angels wonder at this work,  
they see the body wracked with pain,  
they see the thief draw near to Christ  
to pluck the fruit of blessed life.

How wondrous is the mystery:  
that flesh should cleanse the sins of flesh,  
to take away the guilt of all  
and wash the world of foul decay.

What could be more sublime than this:  
that guilt should seek the gift of grace,  
that charity should cast out fear,  
and death should render life renewed?

O Jesus, be for mind and heart  
our everlasting paschal joy  
and gather us, reborn by grace,  
to share your triumphs evermore.

To you, Lord Jesus, glory be,

who shine in vict'ry over death,  
with God the Father, ever blest,  
and loving Spirit, ever one. Amen.

*Metrical hymn, melody: EISENACH, 8 8 8 8; Johann Hermann Schein, 1586–1630*

*Plainsong, mode III, melody 56; Liber Hymnarius, Solesmes, 1983\*, Text: Hic est dies  
verus Dei, St. Ambrose, 340–397*

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*Sit or stand*

## PSALMODY

### *Antiphon 1*

Alleluia, the stone was rolled back from the entrance to the tomb,  
alleluia.

### *Psalm 145*

#### *Praise of God's majesty*

*Lord, you are the Just One, who was and who is (Revelation 16:5).*

### *I*

I will give you glóry, O Gód my Kíng,\*  
I will bléss your náme for éver.

I will bléss you dáy after dáy\*  
and práise your náme for éver.  
The Lord is gréat, híghly to be práised,\*  
his gréatness cánot be méasured.

Age to áge shall procláim your wórks,\*  
shall decláre your míghty déeds,  
shall spéak of your spléndor and glóry,\*  
tell the tále of your wónderful wórks.

They will spéak of your térrible déeds,\*

recóunt your gréatness and míght.  
They will recáll your abúndant góodness; \*  
age to áge shall ríng out your jústice.

The Lórd is kínd and fúll of compásson, \*  
slow to ánger, abóunding in lóve.  
How góod is the Lórd to áll, \*  
compássonate to áll his créatures.

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*

Alleluia, the stone was rolled back from the entrance to the tomb,  
alleluia.

*Antiphon 2*

Alleluia, woman, who is it you are looking for? Why do you seek the  
living among the dead? alleluia.

*II*

All your créatures shall thánk you, O Lórd, \*  
and your fríends shall repéat their bléssing.  
They shall spéak of the glóry of your réign \*  
and decláre your míght, O Gód,

to make knówn to mén your mighty déeds \*  
and the glórious spléndor of your réign.  
Yóurs is an éverlasting kíngdom; \*  
your rúle lasts from áge to áge.

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*

Alleluia, woman, who is it you are looking for? Why do you seek the  
living among the dead? alleluia.

*Antiphon 3*

Alleluia, do not weep, Mary; the Lord has risen from the dead,  
alleluia.

*III*

The Lord is faithful in all his words \*  
and loving in all his deeds.

The Lord supports all who fall \*  
and raises all who are bowed down.

The eyes of all creatures look to you \*  
and you give them their food in due time.  
You open wide your hand, \*  
grant the desires of all who live.

The Lord is just in all his ways \*  
and loving in all his deeds.  
He is close to all who call him, \*  
who call on him from their hearts.

He grants the desires of those who fear him, \*  
he hears their cry and he saves them.  
The Lord protects all who love him; \*  
but the wicked he will utterly destroy.

Let me speak the praise of the Lord, †  
let all mankind bless his holy name \*  
for ever, for ages unending.

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*

Alleluia, do not weep, Mary; the Lord has risen from the dead,  
alleluia.

*VERSE*

My whole body rejoices, alleluia.

— With all my strength I will praise my God, alleluia.

*Sit*

## READINGS

### *First reading*

From the book of Revelation

*6:1-17*

### *The Lamb opens the seals of the book of God*

I, John, watched while the Lamb broke open the first of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures cry out in a voice like thunder, “Come forward!” To my surprise I saw a white horse; its rider had a bow, and he was given a crown. He rode forth victorious, to conquer yet again.

When the Lamb broke open the second seal, I heard the second living creature cry out, “Come forward!” Another horse came forth, a red one. Its rider was given power to rob the earth of peace by allowing men to slaughter one another. For this he was given a huge sword.

When the Lamb broke open the third seal, I heard the third living creature cry out, “Come forward!” This time I saw a black horse, the rider of which held a pair of scales in his hand. I heard what seemed to be a voice coming from in among the four living creatures. It said: “A day’s pay for a ration of wheat and the same for three of barley! But spare the olive oil and the wine!”

When the Lamb broke open the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature cry out, “Come forward!” Now I saw a horse sickly green in color. Its rider was named Death, and the nether world was in his train. These four were given authority over one quarter of the earth, to kill with sword and famine and plague and the wild beasts of the earth.

When the Lamb broke open the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the spirits of those who had been martyred because of the witness they bore to the word of God. They cried out at the top of their voices: “How long will it be, O Master, holy and true, before you judge our

cause and avenge our blood among the inhabitants of the earth?” Each of the martyrs was given a long white robe, and they were told to be patient a little while longer until the quota was filled of their fellow servants and brothers to be slain, as they had been.

When I saw the Lamb break open the sixth seal, there was a violent earthquake; the sun turned black as a goat’s hair tentcloth and the moon grew red as blood. The stars in the sky fell crashing to earth like figs shaken loose by a mighty wind. Then the sky disappeared as if it were a scroll being rolled up; every mountain and island was uprooted from its base. The kings of the earth, the nobles and those in command, the wealthy and powerful, the slave and the free—all hid themselves in caves and mountain crags. They cried out to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us! Hide us from the face of the One who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! The great day of their vengeance has come. Who can withstand it?”

*Responsory*

*Revelation 6:9, 10, 11*

I heard the voices of those who had been slain crying out from under the altar: Why do you not avenge our blood? The Lord answered:

- Be patient a little while longer until the full number of your brothers joins you, alleluia.

They were given white robes to wear and he said to them:

- Be patient a little while longer until the full number of your brothers joins you, alleluia.

*Second reading*

From the first apology in defense of the Christians by Saint Justin, martyr

*(Cap. 66-67: PB 6, 427-431)*

*The celebration of the eucharist*

No one may share the eucharist with us unless he believes that what we teach is true, unless he is washed in the regenerating waters of baptism for the remission of his sins, and unless he lives in accordance with the principles given us by Christ.

We do not consume the eucharistic bread and wine as if it were ordinary food and drink, for we have been taught that as Jesus Christ our Savior became a man of flesh and blood by the power of the Word of God, so also the food that our flesh and blood assimilates for its nourishment becomes the flesh and blood of the incarnate Jesus by the power of his own words contained in the prayer of thanksgiving.

The apostles, in their recollections, which are called gospels, handed down to us what Jesus commanded them to do. They tell us that he took bread, gave thanks and said: *Do this in memory of me. This is my body.* In the same way he took the cup, he gave thanks and said: *This is my blood.* The Lord gave this command to them alone. Ever since then we have constantly reminded one another of these things. The rich among us help the poor and we are always united. For all that we receive we praise the Creator of the universe through his Son Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit.

On Sunday we have a common assembly of all our members, whether they live in the city or the outlying districts. The recollections of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as long as there is time. When the reader has finished, the president of the assembly speaks to us; he urges everyone to imitate the examples of virtue we have heard in the readings. Then we all stand up together and pray.

On the conclusion of our prayer, bread and wine and water are brought forward. The president offers prayers and gives thanks to the best of his ability, and the people give assent by saying, "Amen." The eucharist is distributed, everyone present communicates, and the deacons take it to those who are absent.

The wealthy, if they wish, may make a contribution, and they themselves decide the amount. The collection is placed in the custody of the president, who uses it to help the orphans and widows and all who for any reason are in distress, whether because they are sick, in prison, or away from home. In a word, he takes care of all who are in need.

We hold our common assembly on Sunday because it is the first day



of the week, the day on which God put darkness and chaos to flight and created the world, and because on that same day our savior Jesus Christ rose from the dead. For he was crucified on Friday and on Sunday he appeared to his apostles and disciples and taught them the things that we have passed on for your consideration.

*Responsory*

When he was about to pass from this world to the Father, Jesus established a memorial of his death:

— he gave us the sacrament of his body and blood, alleluia.

He gave us his body as food, his blood as drink, and he said: Do this in memory of me.

— He gave us the sacrament of his body and blood, 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 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.

God our Father,  
may we look forward with hope to our resurrection,  
for you have made us your sons and daughters,  
and restored the joy of our youth.

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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