

Liturgy of the Hours
LITURGY OF THE HOURS

OFFICE OF READINGS

January 12, 2025

{ Feast – Baptism of the Lord }



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

As John fulfilled his sacred charge,
Christ Jesus, Author of the world,
immersed this day in Jordan's tide,
by bathing, washed its waters clean.

Born from the Virgin Mother's womb,
he did not need to be baptized,
yet by his washing, he desired
to take away our guilt and sin.

The Father speaks, his voice proclaims:
This is my own beloved Son;
from heaven's height on him descends,
in dovelike form, the Spirit blest.

Beneath the myst'ry of this Name,
salvation shines within the Church;
the Trinity abides with her,
one God through ev'ry time and place.

All glory be to you, O Christ;
the Father and the Spirit blest,
in splendor from the heights of heav'n,
reveal that you are Life and Truth. 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 I, melody 17; Liber Hymnarius, Solesmes, 1983, Text: Implente
munus debitum ca. 10th c.*

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Sit or stand

PSALMODY

Antiphon 1

The voice of the Lord, the God of majesty, echoes over the waters.

Psalm 29

A tribute of praise to the Word of God

The Father's voice proclaimed: "This is my beloved Son" (Matthew 3:17).

O give the Lórd, you sóns of Gód,*
give the Lórd glóry and pówer;
give the Lórd the glóry of his náme.*
Adore the Lórd in his hólý court.

The Lord's vóice resóunding on the wáters,*
the Lórd on the imménsity of wáters;
the vóice of the Lórd, full of pówer,*
the vóice of the Lórd, full of spléndor.

The Lord's vóice sháttering the cédars,*
the Lord shátters the cédars of Lébanon;
he makes Lébanon léap like a cálf*
and Síron like a yóung wild-óx.

The Lord's vóice fláshes flames of fire. †
The Lord's vóice sháking the wílderness,*
the Lord shákes the wílderness of Kádesh;
the Lord's vóice rénding the óak tree*
and strípping the fórest báre.

The Gód of glóry thúnders.*
In his témples they áll cry: "Glóry!"
The Lórd sat enthroned over the flóod;*
the Lórd sits as kíng for éver.

The Lórd will give stréngth to his péople, *
the Lórd will bless his péople with péace.

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 voice of the Lord, the God of majesty, echoes over the waters.

Antiphon 2

Let all the earth adore you, Lord, and let it be joyful; for a new light
has dawned upon the ages.

Psalm 66

Eucharistic Hymn

The Lord is risen and all people have been brought by him to the Father (Hesychius).

I

Cry out with jój to Gód, all the éarth, *
O síng to the glóry of his náme.
O rénder him glórious práise. *
Say to Gód: "How treméndous your déeds!

Because of the gréatness of your stréngth *
your énemies críngé befóre you.
Befóre you all the éarth shall bów; *
shall síng to you, síng to your náme!"

Come and sée the wórks of Gód, *
treméndous his déeds among mén.
He túrned the séa into dry lánd, *
they pássed through the ríver dry-shód.

Let our jój then bé in hím; *
he rúles for éver by his míght.
His éyes keep wátch over the nátions; *
let rébels not ríse agáinst him.

O péoples, bléss our Gód, *
let the vóice of his práise resóund,

of the Gód who gave life to our sóuls *
and képt our féet from stúmbing.

For yóu, O Gód, have tésted us, *
you have tried us as sílver is tried:
you léd us, Gód, into the snáre; *
you láid a heavy búrden on our bácks.

You lét men ríde over our héads; †
we wént through fire and through wáter *
but thén you bróught us relíef.

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 all the earth adore you, Lord, and let it be joyful; for a new light
has dawned upon the ages.

Antiphon 3

Blessed be God, for he has willed that my soul should live; he has
led me to a place of refuge.

II

Burnt óffering I bring to your hóuse; *
to yóu I will páy my vóws,
the vóws which my líps have úttered, *
which my móuth spóke in my distréss.

I will óffer burnt ófferings of fátlings †
with the smóke of búrning ráms. *
I will óffer búllocks and góats.

Come and héar, áll who fear Gód. *
I will téll what he díd for my sóul:
to hím I críed alóud, *
with high práise réady on my tóngue.

If there had béen évil in my héart, *
the Lórd would nótt have lístened.

But truly Gód has listened; *
he has heeded the voice of my prayer.

Blessed be Gód who did not reject my prayer *
nor withhold his love from 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.

Antiphon

Blessed be God, for he has willed that my soul should live; he has
led me to a place of refuge.

VERSE

This is my beloved Son.

— Listen to him.

Sit

READINGS

First reading

From the book of the prophet Isaiah

42:1-9; 49:1-9

The gentle servant of the Lord is a light to the nations

Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one with whom I am pleased,
Upon whom I have put my spirit;
he shall bring forth justice to the nations,
Not crying out, not shouting,
not making his voice heard in the street.
A bruised reed he shall not break,
and a smoldering wick he shall not quench,
Until he establishes justice on the earth;
the coastlands will wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,

who spreads out the earth with its crops,
Who gives breath to its people
and spirit to those who walk on it:

I, the Lord, have called you for the victory of justice,
I have grasped you by the hand;
I formed you, and set you
as a covenant of the people,
a light for the nations,
To open the eyes of the blind,
to bring out prisoners from confinement,
and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.

I am the Lord, this is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
See, the earlier things have come to pass,
new ones I now foretell;
Before they spring into being,
I announce them to you.

Hear me, O coastlands,
listen, O distant peoples.
The Lord called me from birth,
from my mother's womb he gave me my name.
He made of me a sharp-edged sword
and concealed me in the shadow of his arm.
He made me a polished arrow,
in his quiver he hid me.

You are my servant, he said to me,
Israel, through whom I show my glory.
Though I thought I had toiled in vain,
and for nothing, uselessly, spent my strength,
Yet my reward is with the Lord,
my recompense is with my God.

For now the Lord has spoken
who formed me as his servant from the womb,
That Jacob may be brought back to him

and Israel gathered to him
And I am made glorious in the sight of the Lord,
and my God is now my strength!

It is too little, he says, for you to be my servant,
to raise up the tribes of Jacob,
and restore the survivors of Israel;
I will make you a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

Thus says the Lord,
the redeemer and the Holy One of Israel,
To the one despised, whom the nations abhor,
the slave of rulers;
When kings see you, they shall stand up,
and princes shall prostrate themselves
Because of the Lord who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel who has chosen you.

Thus says the Lord:
In a time of favor I answer you,
on the day of salvation I help you,
To restore the land
and allot the desolate heritages,
Saying to the prisoners: Come out!
To those in darkness: Show yourselves!
Along the ways they shall find pasture,
on every bare height shall their pastures be.

Responsory

Matthew 3:16, 17; Luke 3:22

Today in the Jordan as the Lord was baptized, the heavens opened
and the Spirit in the form of a dove rested upon him; the voice of
the Father was heard:

— This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.

The Spirit descended in visible form as a dove, and a voice from
heaven was heard:

— This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.

Second reading

From a Sermon by Saint Gregory of Nazianzus, bishop

(Oratio 39 in Sancta Lumina, 14-16, 20: PG 36, 350-351, 354, 358-359)

The baptism of Christ

Christ is bathed in light; let us also be bathed in light. Christ is baptized; let us also go down with him, and rise with him.

John is baptizing when Jesus draws near. Perhaps he comes to sanctify his baptizer; certainly he comes to bury sinful humanity in the waters. He comes to sanctify the Jordan for our sake and in readiness for us; he who is spirit and flesh comes to begin a new creation through the Spirit and water.

The Baptist protests; Jesus insists. Then John says: *I ought to be baptized by you.* He is the lamp in the presence of the sun, the voice in the presence of the Word, the friend in the presence of the Bridegroom, the greatest of all born of woman in the presence of the firstborn of all creation, the one who leapt in his mother's womb in the presence of him who was adored in the womb, the forerunner and future forerunner in the presence of him who has already come and is to come again. *I ought to be baptized by you;* we should also add: *and for you,* for John is to be baptized in blood, washed clean like Peter, not only by the washing of his feet.

Jesus rises from the waters; the world rises with him. The heavens like Paradise with its flaming sword, closed by Adam for himself and his descendants, are rent open. The Spirit comes to him as to an equal, bearing witness to his Godhead. A voice bears witness to him from heaven, his place of origin. The Spirit descends in bodily form like the dove that so long ago announced the ending of the flood and so gives honor to the body that is one with God.

Today let us do honor to Christ's baptism and celebrate this feast in holiness. Be cleansed entirely and continue to be cleansed. Nothing gives such pleasure to God as the conversion and salvation of men, for whom his every word and every revelation exist. He wants you to become a living force for all mankind, lights shining in the world. You are to be radiant lights as you stand beside Christ, the great

light, bathed in the glory of him who is the light of heaven. You are to enjoy more and more the pure and dazzling light of the Trinity, as now you have received—though not in its fullness—a ray of its splendor, proceeding from the one God, in Christ Jesus our Lord, to whom be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.

Responsory

Psalm 114:5

Today the heavens opened and the waters of the sea became sweet and fragrant; the earth rejoiced, the mountains and hills exulted,

— because Christ was baptized by John in the Jordan.

What has happened that the sea has been put to flight, and the Jordan has turned back upon itself?

— Because Christ was baptized by John in the Jordan.

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.

Almighty, eternal God,
when the Spirit descended upon Jesus
at his baptism in the Jordan,
you revealed him as your own beloved Son.
Keep us, your children born of water and the Spirit,
faithful to our calling.

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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