

Liturgy of the Hours
LITURGY OF THE HOURS

OFFICE OF READINGS

December 25, 2024
{ Solemnity – Christmas }



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 family
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

The Lord said to me: You are my Son, today I have begotten you.

Psalm 2

The Messiah, king and conqueror

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

Whý this túmúlt among nátions,*
among péoples this úseless múrmuring?
They aríse, 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 hóly móuntain.”

I will annóunce the decreée 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 trémbling, 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

The Lord said to me: You are my Son, today I have begotten you.

Antiphon 2

The Lord comes forth, the bridegroom from his bridal chamber.

Psalm 19A

Praise of the Lord, Creator of all

*The dawn from on high shall break on us . . . to guide our feet into the way of peace
(Luke 1:78,79).*

The héavens procláim the glóry of Gód^{*}

and the firmament shows forth the work of his hands.
Dáy unto dáy takes up the stóry *
and níght unto níght makes knówn the méssage.

No spéech, no wórd, no vóice is héard †
yet their spán exténds through áll the éarth, *
their wórds to the útmost bóunds of the wórlð.

Thére he has pláced a tént for the sún; †
it comes forth like a brídegroom cóming from his tént, *
rejóices like a chámption to rún its cóurse.

At the énd of the ský is the rísing of the sún; †
to the fúrthest énd of the ský is its cóurse. *
There is nóthing conceáled from its búrning héat.

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 comes forth, the bridegroom from his bridal chamber.

Antiphon 3

Your words are filled with grace, because God has blessed you for ever.

Psalm 45

The marriage of the king

The Bridegroom is here; go out and welcome him (Matthew 25:6).

My héart overflóws with nóble wórds. †
To the kíng I must spéak the sóng I have máde; *
my tóngue as nímble as the pén of a scríbe.

Yóu are the fáirest of the chíldren of mén †
and gráciousness is póured upón your líps: *
because Gód has bléssed you for évermóre.

O míghty one, gírd your swórd upon your thíg; †
in spléndor and státe, ríde on in tríumph *

for the cause of truth and goodness and right.

Take aim with your bow in your dread right hand. †

Your arrows are sharp: peoples fall beneath you. *

The foes of the king fall down and lose heart.

Your throne, O God, shall endure for ever. †

A scepter of justice is the scepter of your kingdom. *

Your love is for justice; your hatred for evil.

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you †

with the oil of gladness above other kings: *

your robes are fragrant with aloes and myrrh.

From the ivory palace you are greeted with music. †

The daughters of kings are among your loved ones. *

On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words: *

forget your own people and your father's house.

So will the king desire your beauty: *

he is your lord, pay homage to him.

And the people of Tyre shall come with gifts, *

the richest of the people shall seek your favor.

The daughter of the king is clothed with splendor, *

her robes embroidered with pearls set in gold.

She is led to the king with her maiden companions. †

They are escorted amid gladness and joy; *

they pass within the palace of the king.

Sons shall be yours in place of your fathers: *

you will make them princes over all the earth.

May this song make your name for ever remembered. *

May the peoples praise you from age to age.

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

Your words are filled with grace, because God has blessed you for ever.

VERSE

The Word was made man, alleluia.

— He lived among us, alleluia.

Sit

READINGS

First reading

From the book of the prophet Isaiah

11:1-10

The root of Jesse

Thus says the Lord God:

A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse,
and from his roots a bud shall blossom.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him:

a spirit of wisdom and of understanding,

A spirit of counsel and of strength,

a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the Lord,

and his delight shall be the fear of the Lord.

Not by appearance shall he judge,

nor by hearsay shall he decide,

But he shall judge the poor with justice,

and decide aright for the land's afflicted.

He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth,

and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked.

Justice shall be the band around his waist,

and faithfulness a belt upon his hips.

Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb,

and the leopard shall lie down with the kid;

The calf and the young lion shall browse together,

with a little child to guide them.

The cow and the bear shall be neighbors,

together their young shall rest;
the lion shall eat hay like the ox.
The baby shall play by the cobra's den,
and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair.

There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the Lord,
as water covers the sea.

On that day,
The root of Jesse,
set up as a signal for the nations,
The Gentiles shall seek out,
for his dwelling shall be glorious.

Responsory

Today, for our sake, the King of heaven chose to be born of his virgin mother, to reclaim lost men for the heavenly kingdom.

— All the angels cry aloud with joy, for God has come himself to save mankind.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

— All the angels cry aloud with joy, for God has come himself to save mankind.

Second reading

From a sermon by Saint Leo the Great, pope

(Sermo 1 in Nativitate Domini, 1-3: PL 54, 190-193)

Christian, remember your dignity

Dearly beloved, today our Savior is born; let us rejoice. Sadness should have no place on the birthday of life. The fear of death has been swallowed up; life brings us joy with the promise of eternal happiness.

No one is shut out from this joy; all share the same reason for rejoicing. Our Lord, victor over sin and death, finding no man free from sin, came to free us all. Let the saint rejoice as he sees the palm of victory at hand. Let the sinner be glad as he receives the offer of forgiveness. Let the pagan take courage as he is summoned to life.

In the fullness of time, chosen in the unfathomable depths of God's wisdom, the Son of God took for himself our common humanity in order to reconcile it with its creator. He came to overthrow the devil, the origin of death, in that very nature by which he had overthrown mankind.

And so at the birth of our Lord the angels sing in joy: *Glory to God in the highest*, and they proclaim *peace to his people on earth* as they see the heavenly Jerusalem being built from all the nations of the world. When the angels on high are so exultant at this marvellous work of God's goodness, what joy should it not bring to the lowly hearts of men?

Beloved, let us give thanks to God the Father, through his Son, in the Holy Spirit, because in his great love for us he took pity on us, *and when we were dead in our sins he brought us to life with Christ*, so that in him we might be a new creation. Let us throw off our old nature and all its ways and, as we have come to birth in Christ, let us renounce the works of the flesh.

Christian, remember your dignity, and now that you share in God's own nature, do not return by sin to your former base condition. Bear in mind who is your head and of whose body you are a member. Do not forget that you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the light of God's kingdom.

Through the sacrament of baptism you have become a temple of the Holy Spirit. Do not drive away so great a guest by evil conduct and become again a slave to the devil, for your liberty was bought by the blood of Christ.

Responsory

Today true peace came down to us from heaven.

— Today the whole earth was filled with heaven's sweetness.

Today a new day dawns, the day of our redemption, prepared by God from ages past, the beginning of our never ending gladness.

— Today the whole earth was filled with heaven's sweetness.

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.

Lord God,

we praise you for creating man,
and still more for restoring him in Christ.
Your Son shared our weakness:
may we share his glory,
for 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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