

Liturgy of the Hours
LITURGY OF THE HOURS

OFFICE OF READINGS

January 5, 2025

{ Solemnity – 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

The Magi, when they see the child,
draw forth their gifts from Eastern lands,
and falling down they worship him
with incense, myrrh, and royal gold.

Receive and own, O holy Child,
clear tokens of your kingly pow'r,
for which the Father preordained
a threefold nature, type, and plan.

From Saba perfumed frankincense
and gold proclaim you God and King,
and fragrant dust of bitter myrrh
foretells the tomb where you will lie.

You stand alone, O Bethlehem,
more noble than the greatest towns,
for you brought forth in human flesh
the heav'nly leader sent to save.

His Father, by the testament
that prophets witnessed, sealed, and signed,
now bids him to assume his reign,
receiving his inheritance:

A kingdom that extends to all,
embracing earth and sea and sky,
from rising sun to evening star,
from netherworld to heav'n above.

To you, Lord Jesus, glory be,

revealed to nations on this day,
with God the Father, ever blest,
and loving Spirit, ever one. 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 III, melody 53; Liber Hymnarius, Solesmes, 1983, Text: Magi
videntes parvulum, Prudentius, ca. 348–405*

*The English translation of Hymns and chants from The Liturgy of the Hours © 2023
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Sit or stand

PSALMODY

Antiphon 1

From Tarshish and from the islands, kings have come to offer gifts
to the Lord our King.

Psalm 72

The Messiah's royal power

*Opening their treasures, they offered him gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh
(Matthew 2:11).*

O Gód, give your júdgment to the kíng, *
to a kíng's son your jústice,
that he may júdge your péople in jústice *
and your póor in right júdgment.

May the móuntains bring forth péace for the péople *
and the hills, jústice.

May he defénd the póor of the péople †
and save the chídren of the néedy *
and crúsh the oppréssor.

He shall endúre like the sún and the móon *
from áge to áge.

He shall descénd like ráin on the méadow, *
like ráindrops on the éarth.

In his dáys jústice shall flóurish *
and péace till the móon fails.
He shall rúle from séa to séa, *
from the Great Ríver to earth's bóunds.

Befóre him his énemies shall fáll, *
his fóes lick the dúst.
The kíngs of Társhish and the séa coasts *
shall páy him tríbute.

The kíngs of Shéba and Séba *
shall bríng him gífts.
Before hím all kíngs shall fall próstrate, *
all nátions shall sérve him.

For he shall sáve the póor when they cry *
and the néedy who are hélpless.
Hé will have píty on the wéak *
and save the líves of the póor.

From oppréssion he will réscue their líves, *
to hím their blood is déar.
Lóng may he líve, *
may the góld of Shéba be gíven him.
They shall práy for hím without céasing *
and bléss him all the dáy.

May córn be abúndant in the lánd †
to the péaks of the móuntains. *
May its frúit rústle like Lébanon;
may men flóurish in the cíties *
like gráss on the éarth.

May his náme be bléssed for éver *
and endúre like the sún.
Every tríbe shall be bléssed in hím, *
all nátions bless his náme.

Bléssed be the Lórd, God of Ísrael, †

who alóne works wónders,*
ever bléssed his glórious náme.

Let his glóry fill the éarth.*
Amén! Amén!

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

From Tarshish and from the islands, kings have come to offer gifts
to the Lord our King.

Antiphon 2

Adore the Lord in his holy court, alleluia.

Psalm 96

The Lord, king and judge of the world

A new theme now inspires their praise of God; they belong to the Lamb (see Revelation 14:3).

O síng a new sóng to the Lórd, †
síng to the Lórd, all the éarth.*
O síng to the Lórd, bless his náme.

Procláim his hélp day by dáy, †
téll among the nátions his glóry*
and his wónders amóng all the péoples.

The Lord is gréat and wóthy of práise, †
to be féared abóve all góds;*
the góds of the héathens are náught.

It was the Lórd who máde the héavens, †
his are májesty and státe and pówer*
and spléndor in his hólý pláce.

Give the Lórd, you fámilies of péoples, †
give the Lórd glóry and pówer,*
give the Lórd the glóry of his náme.

Bring an offering and enter his courts, †
worship the Lórd in his t mple.*

O  arth, tr mble before him.

Procl im to the n tions: “God is k ng.” †
The w rld he made firm in its pl ce; *
he will j dge the p oples in fairness.

Let the h avens rej ice and earth be gl d, *
let the s a and all within it thunder pr ise,
let the l nd and all it b ars rej ice, *
all the tr es of the w od shout for j y

at the pr sence of the Lórd for he c mes, *
he c mes to r le the  arth.

With j stice he will r le the w rld, *
he will j dge the p oples with his tr th.

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

Adore the Lord in his holy court, alleluia.

Antiphon 3

Worship the Lord, all you his angels, alleluia.

Psalms 97

The glory of the Lord in his decrees for the world

This psalm foretells a world-wide salvation and that peoples of all nations will believe in Christ (St. Athanasius).

The Lord is k ng, let  arth rej ice, *
let  ll the c astlands be gl d.
Cl ud and d rkness are his r iment; *
his thr ne, j stice and r ight.

A fire prepares his p th; *
it b rns up his f es on every s de.
His l ghtnings light up the w rld, *

the éarth trémbles at the síght.

The móuntains mélt like wáx *
before the Lórd of áll the éarth.

The skíes procláim his jústice; *
all péoples sée his glóry.

Let thóse who serve ídols be ashámed, †
those who bóast of their wórtless góds. *
All you spírits, wórship hím.

Zíon héars and is glád; †
the péople of Júdah rejóice *
becáuse of your júdgments, O Lórd.

For yóu indéed are the Lórd, †
most hígh above áll the éarth, *
exálted far abóve all spírits.

The Lórd loves thóse who hate évil: †
he gúards the sóuls of his sáints; *
he séts them frée from the wícked.

Líght shines fóρθ for the júst *
and jóy for the úpright of héart.
Rejóice, you júst, in the Lórd; *
give glóry to his hóly náme.

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

Worship the Lord, all you his angels, alleluia.

VERSE

The heavens proclaim the justice of God.

— All nations shall see his glory.

Sit

READINGS

First reading

From the book of the prophet Isaiah

60:1-22

The revelation of God's glory over Jerusalem

Rise up in splendor, O Jerusalem! Your light has come,
the glory of the Lord shines upon you.

See, darkness covers the earth,
and thick clouds cover the peoples;
But upon you the Lord shines,
and over you appears his glory.

Nations shall walk by your light,
and kings by your shining radiance.

Raise your eyes and look about;
they all gather and come to you:
Your sons come from afar,
and your daughters in the arms of their nurses.

Then you shall be radiant at what you see,
your heart shall throb and overflow,
For the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you,
the wealth of nations shall be brought to you.

Caravans of camels shall fill you,
dromedaries from Midian and Ephah;
All from Sheba shall come
bearing gold and frankincense,
and proclaiming the praises of the Lord.

All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered for you,
the rams of Nebaioth shall be your sacrifices;
They will be acceptable offerings on my altar,
and I will enhance the splendor of my house.

What are these that fly along like clouds,
like doves to their cotes?

All the vessels of the sea are assembled,
with the ships of Tarshish in the lead,
To bring your children from afar
with their silver and gold,
In the name of the Lord, your God,
the Holy One of Israel, who has glorified you.

Foreigners shall rebuild your walls,
and their kings shall be your attendants;
Though I struck you in my wrath,
yet in my good will I have shown you mercy.

Your gates shall stand open constantly;
day and night they shall not be closed
But shall admit to you the wealth of nations,
and their kings, in the vanguard.
For the people or kingdom shall perish
that does not serve you;
those nations shall be utterly destroyed.

The glory of Lebanon shall come to you:
the cypress, the plane and the pine,
To bring beauty to my sanctuary,
and glory to the place where I set my feet.

The children of your oppressors shall come,
bowing low before you;
All those who despised you
shall fall prostrate at your feet.
They shall call you "City of the Lord,"
"Zion of the Holy One of Israel."

Once you were forsaken,
hated and unvisited,
Now I will make you the pride of the ages,
a joy to generation after generation.
You shall suck the milk of nations,
and be nursed at royal breasts;
You shall know that I, the Lord, am your savior,

your redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.

In place of bronze I will bring gold,
instead of iron, silver;
In place of wood, bronze,
instead of stones, iron;
I will appoint peace your governor,
and justice your ruler.

No longer shall violence be heard of in your land,
or plunder and ruin within your boundaries.
You shall call your walls “Salvation”
and your gates “Praise.”

No longer shall the sun
be your light by day,
Nor the brightness of the moon
shine upon you at night;
The Lord shall be your light forever,
your God shall be your glory.

No longer shall your sun go down,
or your moon withdraw,
For the Lord will be your light forever,
and the days of your mourning shall be at an end.

Your people shall all be just,
they shall always possess the land,
They, the bud of my planting,
my handiwork to show my glory.

The smallest shall become a thousand,
the youngest, a mighty nation;
I, the Lord, will swiftly accomplish these things
when their time comes.

Responsory

Isaiah 60:1, 3

Arise, shine forth, Jerusalem, for now your light has come:
— the glory of your God has risen upon you.

All nations will walk in your brightness, and kings in the splendor of your dawn.

— The glory of your God has risen upon you.

Second reading

From a sermon by Saint Leo the Great, pope

(Sermo 3 in Epiphania Domini, 1-3. 5: PL 54, 240-244)

The Lord has made his salvation known to the whole world

The loving providence of God determined that in the last days he would aid the world, set on its course to destruction. He decreed that all nations should be saved in Christ.

A promise had been made to the holy patriarch Abraham in regard to these nations. He was to have a countless progeny, born not from his body but from the seed of faith. His descendants are therefore compared with the array of the stars. The father of all nations was to hope not in an earthly progeny but in a progeny from above.

Let the full number of the nations now take their place in the family of the patriarchs. Let the children of the promise now receive the blessing in the seed of Abraham, the blessing renounced by the children of his flesh. In the persons of the Magi let all people adore the Creator of the universe; let God be known, not in Judea only, but in the whole world, so that *his name may be great in all Israel*.

Dear friends, now that we have received instruction in this revelation of God's grace, let us celebrate with spiritual joy the day of our first harvesting, of the first calling of the Gentiles. Let us give thanks to the merciful God, *who has made us worthy*, in the words of the Apostle, *to share the position of the saints in light; who has rescued us from the power of darkness, and brought us into the kingdom of his beloved Son*. As Isaiah prophesied: *the people of the Gentiles, who sat in darkness, have seen a great light, and for those who dwelt in the region of the shadow of death a light has dawned*. He spoke of them to the Lord: *The Gentiles, who do not know you, will invoke you, and the peoples, who knew you not, will take refuge in you*.

This is *the day that Abraham saw, and rejoiced to see*, when he knew that the sons born of his faith would be blessed in his seed, that is,

in Christ. Believing that he would be the father of the nations, he looked into the future, *giving glory to God, in full awareness that God is able to do what he has promised.*

This is the day that David prophesied in the psalms, when he said: *All the nations that you have brought into being will come and fall down in adoration in your presence, Lord, and glorify your name. Again, the Lord has made known his salvation; in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice.*

This came to be fulfilled, as we know, from the time when the star beckoned the three wise men out of their distant country and led them to recognize and adore the King of heaven and earth. The obedience of the star calls us to imitate its humble service: to be servants, as best we can, of the grace that invites all men to find Christ.

Dear friends, you must have the same zeal to be of help to one another; then, in the kingdom of God, to which faith and good works are the way, you will shine as children of the light: through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with God the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

Responsory

This is the glorious day on which Christ himself, the savior of the world, appeared; the prophets foretold him, the angels worshiped him;

— the Magi saw his star and rejoiced to lay their treasures at his feet.

God's holy day has dawned for us at last; come, all you peoples, and adore the Lord.

— The Magi saw his star and rejoiced to lay their treasures at his feet.

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.

Father,
you revealed your Son to the nations
by the guidance of a star.
Lead us to your glory in heaven
by the light of faith.

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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