

*Liturgy of the Hours*  
LITURGY OF THE HOURS

EVENING PRAYER

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February 18, 2026

{ Ash Wednesday }



*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.

## HYMN

O Jesus, you have set apart  
these forty days for abstinence  
and you decreed a lenten fast  
to heal and save our mind and heart.

Now come, be present to your Church,  
be near and aid our penitence,  
as we bow down before you, Lord,  
and beg you wash away our sins.

Remit and pardon with your grace  
misdeeds from which we turn aside;  
from future perils keep us safe  
by your most meek and gentle guard,

That, filled with sorrow for our sins  
and cleansed by yearly penitence,  
we may press on to celebrate  
the Paschal Feast with worthy praise.

Let all your works adore you, Lord,  
O merciful and Triune God.  
Renewed by pardon, let us sing  
a new song to your holy name. Amen.

*Metrical hymn, melody: JENA, 8 8 8 8; later form of melody by Melchoir Vulpius, ca.  
1570–1615, composed in 1609*

*Plain-song, mode IV, melody 81; Liber Hymnarius, Solesmes, 1983, Text: Iesu,  
quadragenariae, ca. 10th c.*

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*Sit or stand*

## PSALMODY

### *Antiphon 1*

Lord, how wonderful is your wisdom, so far beyond my understanding.

*Psalm 139:1-18, 23-24*

*God sees all that is*

*Who has known the mind of God, who has been his counselor? (Romans 11:34).*

### *I*

O Lórd, you séarch me and you know me, †  
you know my résting and my rising, \*  
you discern my púrpose from afár.  
You márk when I wálk or lie dówn, \*  
all my wáys lie ópen to yóu.

Before éver a wórd is on my tóngue \*  
you know it, O Lórd, through and thróugh.  
Behínd and befóre you besíege me, \*  
your hánd ever láid upón me.  
Too wónderful for mé, this knówledge, \*  
too hígh, beyónd my réach.

O whére can I gó from your spírit, \*  
or whére can I flée from your fáce?  
If I clímb the héavens, you are thére. \*  
If I lie in the gráve, you are thére.

If I táke the wíngs of the dáwn \*  
and dwéll at the séa's furthest énd,  
even thére your hánd would léad me, \*  
your ríght hand would hólđ me fást.

If I sáy: “Let the dárkness híde me \*  
and the líght aróund me be níght,”  
even dárkness is not dárk for yóu \*  
and the níght is as cléar as the dáy.

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*

Lord, how wonderful is your wisdom, so far beyond my understanding.

*Antiphon 2*

I am the Lord: I search the mind and probe the heart; I give to each one as his deeds deserve.

*II*

For it was yóu who créated my béing, \*  
knit me togéther in my móther’s wómb.  
I thánk you for the wónder of my béing, \*  
for the wónders of áll your création.

Alréady you knéw my sóul, \*  
my bódy held no sécret from yóu  
when Í was being fáshioned in sécret \*  
and mólded in the dépths of the éarth.

Your éyes saw áll my áctions, \*  
they were áll of them wríttén in your bóok,  
every óne of my dáy’s was décréed \*  
before óne of them cáme into béing.

To mé, how mystérious your thóughts, \*  
the súm of them nó’t to be númered!  
If I cóunt them, they are móre than the sánd; \*  
to finish, I must be etérnal, like yóu.

O séarch me, Gód, and know my héart. \*  
O tést me and knów my thóughts.

See that I fóllow not the wróng páth \*  
and léad me in the páth of life etérnal.

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*

I am the Lord: I search the mind and probe the heart; I give to  
each one as his deeds deserve.

*Antiphon 3*

Through him all things were made; he holds all creation together in  
himself.

*Canticle – Colossians 1:12-20*

*Christ the first-born of all creation and the first-born from the dead*

Let us give thanks to the Father \*  
for having made you worthy  
to share the lot of the saints \*  
in light.

He rescued us \*  
from the power of darkness  
and brought us \*  
into the kingdom of his beloved Son.  
Through him we have redemption, \*  
the forgiveness of our sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, \*  
the first-born of all creatures.  
In him everything in heaven and on earth was created, \*  
things visible and invisible.

All were created through him; \*  
all were created for him.  
He is before all else that is. \*  
In him everything continues in being.

It is he who is head of the body, the church! \*

he who is the beginning,  
the first-born of the dead, \*  
so that primacy may be his in everything.

It pleased God to make absolute fulness reside in him \*  
and, by means of him, to reconcile everything in his person,  
both on earth and in the heavens, \*  
making peace through the blood of his cross.

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*

Through him all things were made; he holds all creation together in himself.

*Sit*

READING

*Philippians 2:12b-15a*

Work with anxious concern to achieve your salvation. It is God who, in his good will toward you, begets in you any measure of desire or achievement. In everything you do, act without grumbling or arguing; prove yourselves innocent and straightforward, children of God beyond reproach.

*Responsory*

To you, O Lord, I make my prayer for mercy.

— To you, O Lord, I make my prayer for mercy.

Heal my soul, for I have sinned against you.

— I make my prayer for mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

— To you, O Lord, I make my prayer for mercy.

*Stand*

## GOSPEL CANTICLE

*Antiphon*

When you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.

*Luke 1:46-55*

*The soul rejoices in the Lord*

*Make sign of cross*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, \*  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. \*

From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
the Almighty has done great things for me, \*  
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
the promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

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*

When you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your

right hand is doing.

### INTERCESSIONS

All glory and honor to God, for in the blood of Christ he has ratified a new and everlasting covenant with his people, and renews it in the sacrament of the altar. Let us lift our voices in prayer:

— Bless your people, Lord.

Lord, guide the minds and hearts of peoples and all in public office, may they seek the common good.

— Bless your people, Lord.

Renew the spirit of dedication in those who have left all to follow Christ,  
may they give clear witness to the holiness of the Church.

— Bless your people, Lord.

You have made all men and women in your image,  
may they always uphold human dignity.

— Bless your people, Lord.

Lead back to your friendship and truth all who have gone astray,  
teach us how to help them.

— Bless your people, Lord.

Grant that the dead may enter into your glory,  
to praise you for ever.

— Bless your people, Lord.

### *The Lord's Prayer*

Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us,

and lead us not into temptation,



but deliver us from evil.

### CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord,  
protect us in our struggle against evil.  
As we begin the discipline of Lent,  
make this day holy by our self-denial.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

— Amen.

### *Dismissal*

May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to  
everlasting life.

— Amen.

# O Jesus, You Have Set Apart



1. O Je - sus, you have set a - part
2. Now come, be pre - sent to your Church,
3. Re - mit and par - don with your grace
4. That, filled with sor - row for our sins
5. Let all your works a - dore you, Lord,



1. these for - ty days for ab - stin - ence
2. be near and aid our pen - i - tence,
3. mis - deeds from which we turn a - side;
4. and cleansed by year - ly pen - i - tence,
5. O mer - ci - ful and Tri - une God.



1. and you de - creed a lent - en fast
2. as we bow down be - fore you, Lord,
3. from fu - ture per - ils keep us safe
4. we may press on to cel - e - brate
5. Re-newed by par - don, let us sing



1. to heal and save our mind and heart.
2. and beg you wash a - way our sins.
3. by your most meek and gen - tle guard,
4. the Pas - chal Feast with wor - thy praise.
5. a new song to your ho - ly name.



5. A - men.

*Metrical hymn, melody: JENA, 8 8 8 8; later form of melody by Melchoir Vulpius, ca. 1570-1615, composed in 1609. Text: Iesu, quadragenariae, ca. 10th c. Hymn copyrights and acknowledgments are listed on page 2.*

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