

*Liturgy of the Hours*  
LITURGY OF THE HOURS

OFFICE OF READINGS

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March 31, 2024

{ Easter Sunday }



*The Easter Vigil takes the place of the Office of Readings. Those, therefore, who do not participate in the Easter Vigil should read at least four readings with canticles, psalms and prayers from the Easter Vigil. They may wish to choose the four preferred readings which follow.*

*The Office of Easter Sunday begins with the first reading.*

## READINGS

### *First reading*

From the book of Exodus

*14:15—15:1a*

*The Israelites marched through the sea on dry ground*

The Lord said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. And you, lift up your staff and, with hand outstretched over the sea, split the sea in two, that the Israelites may pass through it on dry land. But I will make the Egyptians so obstinate that they will go in after them. Then I will receive glory through Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots and charioteers. The Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I receive glory through Pharaoh and his chariots and charioteers.”

The angel of God, who had been leading Israel’s camp, now moved and went around behind them. The column of cloud also, leaving the front, took up its place behind them, so that it came between the camp of the Egyptians and that of Israel. But the cloud now became dark, and thus the night passed without the rival camps coming any closer together all night long.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the Lord swept the sea with a strong east wind throughout the night and so turned it into dry land. When the water was thus divided, the Israelites marched into the midst of the sea on dry land, with the water like a wall to their right and to their left.

The Egyptians followed in pursuit; all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots and charioteers went after them right into the midst of the sea. In the night watch just before dawn the Lord cast through the column of the fiery cloud upon the Egyptian force a glance that threw it into a panic; and he so clogged their chariot wheels that they could

hardly drive. With that the Egyptians sounded the retreat before Israel, because the Lord was fighting for them against the Egyptians.

Then the Lord told Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may flow back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and their charioteers.” So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea flowed back to its normal depth. The Egyptians were fleeing head on toward the sea, when the Lord hurled them into its midst. As the water flowed back, it covered the chariots and the charioteers of Pharaoh’s whole army which had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not a single one of them escaped. But the Israelites had marched on dry land through the midst of the sea, with the water like a wall to their right and to their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel on that day from the power of the Egyptians. When Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the seashore and beheld the great power that the Lord had shown against the Egyptians, they feared the Lord and believed in him and in his servant Moses.

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord:

*Antiphon*

Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

*Canticle – Exodus 15:1-6, 17-18*

I will sing to the Lord, for he is gloriously triumphant;  
horse and chariot he has cast into the sea.

My strength and my courage is the Lord,  
and he has been my savior.

He is my God, I praise him;  
the God of my father, I extol him.

The Lord is a warrior,

Lord is his name!

Pharaoh’s chariots and army he hurled into the sea;  
the elite of his officers were submerged in the Red Sea.

The flood waters covered them,  
they sank into the depths like a stone.

Your right hand, O Lord, magnificent in power,

your right hand, O Lord, has shattered the enemy.  
And you brought them in and planted them on the  
mountain of your inheritance—  
the place where you made your seat, O Lord,  
the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands established.  
The Lord shall reign forever and ever.

*Antiphon*

Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

*Prayer*

Father,  
even today we see the wonders  
of the miracles you worked long ago.  
You once saved a single nation from slavery,  
and now you offer that salvation to all through baptism.  
May the peoples of the world become true sons of Abraham  
and prove worthy of the heritage of Israel.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

*Second Reading*

From the book of the prophet Ezekiel

*36:16-28*

*I shall pour clean water upon you, and I shall give you a new heart*

Thus the word of the Lord came to me: Son of man, when the house of Israel lived in their land, they defiled it by their conduct and deeds. In my sight their conduct was like the defilement of a menstruous woman. Therefore I poured out my fury upon them (because of the blood which they poured out on the ground, and because they defiled it with idols). I scattered them among the nations, dispersing them over foreign lands; according to their conduct and deeds I judged them. But when they came among the nations (wherever they came), they served to profane my holy name, because it was said of them: “These are the people of the Lord, yet they had to leave their land.” So I have relented because of my holy name which the house of Israel profaned among the nations where they came.

Therefore say to the house of Israel: Thus says the Lord God: Not for your sakes do I act, house of Israel, but for the sake of my holy name, which you profaned among the nations to which you came. I will prove the holiness of my great name, profaned among the nations, in whose midst you have profaned it. Thus the nations shall know that I am the Lord, says the Lord God, when in their sight I prove my holiness through you.

For I will take you away from among the nations, gather you from all the foreign lands, and bring you back to your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you to cleanse you from all your impurities, and from all your idols I will cleanse you.

I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you, taking from your bodies your stony hearts and giving you natural hearts. I will put my spirit within you and make you live by my statutes, careful to observe my decrees. You shall live in the land I gave your fathers; you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

*Antiphon*

Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for you, my God.

*Psalm 42:2-3, 5bcd; 43:3-4*

Like the deer that yearns  
for running streams,  
so my soul is yearning  
for you, my God.

My soul is thirsting for God,  
the God of my life;  
when can I enter and see  
the face of God?

These things will I remember  
as I pour out my soul:  
how I would lead the rejoicing crowd  
into the house of God,  
amid cries of gladness and thanksgiving,  
the throng wild with joy.

O send forth your light and your truth;  
let these be my guide.  
Let them bring me to your holy mountain  
to the place where you dwell.

And I will come to the altar of God,  
the God of my joy.  
My redeemer, I will thank you on the harp,  
O God, my God.

*Antiphon*

Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for you,  
my God.

*Prayer*

God of unchanging power and light,  
look with mercy and favor on your entire Church.  
Bring lasting salvation to mankind,  
so that the world may see  
the fallen lifted up,  
the old made new,  
and all things brought to perfection,  
through him who is their origin,  
our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

*Third Reading*

From the letter of the apostle Paul to the Romans

*6:3-11*

*Christ is raised from the dead and will never die again*

Are you not aware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were  
baptized into his death? Through baptism into his death we were  
buried with him, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by  
the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life.

If we have been united with him through likeness to his death, so  
shall we be through a like resurrection. This we know: our old self  
was crucified with him so that the sinful body might be destroyed  
and we might be slaves to sin no longer. A man who is dead has

been freed from sin.

If we have died with Christ, we believe that we are also to live with him. We know that Christ, once raised from the dead, will never die again; death has no more power over him. His death was death to sin, once for all; his life is life for God. In the same way, you must consider yourselves dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

*Antiphon*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*Psalm 118:1-2, 16ab-17, 22-23*

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,  
for his love endures for ever.

Let the sons of Israel say:  
His love endures for ever.

The Lord's right hand has triumphed;  
his right hand raised me.  
I shall not die, I shall live  
and recount his deeds.

The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.  
This is the work of the Lord,  
a marvel in our eyes.

*Antiphon*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*Fourth Reading*

From the holy gospel according to Matthew

*28:1-10*

*He has risen from the dead and goes before you to Galilee*

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene came with the other Mary to inspect the tomb. Suddenly there was a mighty earthquake, as the angel of the Lord descended from heaven. He came to the stone, rolled it back, and sat on it. In appearance he resembled a flash of lightning while his garments were dazzling as snow. The guards grew paralyzed with fear of him

and fell down like dead men.

Then the angel spoke, addressing the women: “Do not be frightened. I know you are looking for Jesus the crucified, but he is not here. He has been raised, exactly as he promised. Come and see the place where he was laid. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has been raised from the dead and now goes ahead of you to Galilee, where you will see him.’ That is the message I have for you.”

They hurried away from the tomb half-overjoyed, half fearful, and ran to carry the good news to his disciples.

Suddenly, without warning, Jesus stood before them and said, “Peace!” The women came up and embraced his feet and did him homage. At this Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid! Go and carry the news to my brothers that they are to go to Galilee, where they will see me.”

### 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, creator of all,  
today is the day of Easter joy.

This is the morning on which the Lord appeared to men who had  
begun to lose hope

and opened their eyes to what the scriptures foretold:  
that first he must die, and then he would rise  
and ascend into his Father's glorious presence.

May the risen Lord

breathe on our minds and open our eyes  
that we may know him in the breaking of bread,  
and follow him in his risen life.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

#### *Acclamation*

Let us praise the Lord.

— And give him thanks.

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