

*Liturgy of the Hours*  
LITURGY OF THE HOURS

OFFICE OF READINGS

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September 5, 2026

{ Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday }



*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

O Mary, Virgin Mother blest,  
O holy daughter of your Son,  
most humble and yet most sublime,  
above the whole created world:

You are the summit fixed of old,  
predestined by divine decree,  
to be our nature's perfect crown,  
the height of beauty and of grace.

In you our nature shone so fair  
that its Creator, God most high,  
with art so wondrous to behold,  
was made a creature formed through you.

Within the Virgin's purest womb  
the flame of love is born anew,  
and by its warmth, upon the earth  
celestial flowers come to bloom.

To Father and to Paraclete  
and to your Son all glory be,  
who have, all three, invested you  
with such a wondrous robe of grace. Amen.

*Metrical hymn, melody: Hereford, 8 8 8 8; Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1810-1876*

*Plainsong, mode VIII, melody 109; Liber Hymnarius, Solesmes, 1983\*, Text: O virgo mater, filia, Anselmo Lentini, O.S.B., 1901-1989*

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*Sit or stand*

## PSALMODY

### *Antiphon 1*

None but the Lord has done such marvels; his love endures for ever.

*Psalm 136*

*Easter Hymn*

*We praise God by recalling his marvelous deeds (Cassiodorus).*

### I

O give thánks to the Lórd for he is góod, \*  
for his lóve endúres for éver.

Give thánks to the Gód of góds, \*  
for his lóve endúres for éver.

Give thánks to the Lórd of lórd, \*  
for his lóve endúres for éver;

who alóne has wrought márvellous wórks, \*  
for his lóve endúres for éver;

whose wísdóm it wás made the skíes, \*  
for his lóve endúres for éver;

who fixed the earth fírmly on the séas, \*  
for his lóve endúres for éver.

It was hé who máde the great líghts, \*  
for his lóve endúres for éver,

the sún to rúle in the dáy, \*  
for his lóve endúres for éver,

the móon and stárs in the níght, \*  
for his lóve endúres for éver.

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*

None but the Lord has done such marvels; his love endures for ever.

*Antiphon 2*

He brought Israel out of Egypt with powerful hand and arm outstretched.

*II*

The first-bórn of the Egýptians he smóte,\*  
for his lóve endúres for éver.

He brought Ísrael óut from their mídst,\*  
for his lóve endúres for éver;  
arm outstrétched, with pówer in his hánd,\*  
for his lóve endúres for éver.

He divíded the Réd Sea in twó,\*  
for his lóve endúres for éver;  
he made Ísrael páss through the mídst,\*  
for his lóve endúres for éver;  
he flung Pháraoh and his fórcé in the séa,\*  
for his lóve endúres for éver.

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*

He brought Israel out of Egypt with powerful hand and arm outstretched.

*Antiphon 3*

Give praise to the God of heaven; he has ransomed us from our enemies.

*III*

Through the désert his péople he léd,\*

for his love endures for ever.  
Nations in their greatness he struck,\*  
for his love endures for ever.  
Kings in their splendor he slew,\*  
for his love endures for ever.

Sihon, king of the Amorites,\*  
for his love endures for ever;  
and Og, the king of Bashan,\*  
for his love endures for ever.

He let Israel inherit their land,\*  
for his love endures for ever.  
On his servant their land he bestowed,\*  
for his love endures for ever.  
He remembered us in our distress,\*  
for his love endures for ever.

And he snatched us away from our foes,\*  
for his love endures for ever.  
He gives food to all living things,\*  
for his love endures for ever.  
To the God of heaven give thanks,\*  
for his love endures 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*

Give praise to the God of heaven; he has ransomed us from our enemies.

VERSE

Lord, show me your ways.

— Teach me to walk in your footsteps.

READINGS

*First reading*

From the book of the prophet Jeremiah

*31:15-22, 27-34*

*A foretelling of salvation and the new covenant*

Thus says the Lord:

In Ramah is heard the sound of moaning,  
of bitter weeping!  
Rachel mourns her children,  
she refuses to be consoled  
because her children are no more.

Thus says the Lord:

Cease your cries of mourning,  
wipe the tears from your eyes.  
The sorrow you have shown shall have its reward,  
says the Lord,  
they shall return from the enemy's land.  
There is hope for your future, says the Lord;  
your sons shall return to their own borders.

I hear, I hear Ephraim pleading:

You chastised me, and I am chastened;

I was an untamed calf.

If you allow me, I will return,  
for you are the Lord, my God.

I turn in repentance;

I have come to myself, I strike my breast;

I blush with shame,

I bear the disgrace of my youth.

Is Ephraim not my favored son,  
the child in whom I delight?

Often as I threaten him,

I still remember him with favor;

My heart stirs for him,

I must show him mercy, says the Lord.

Set up road markers,  
put up guideposts;

Turn your attention to the highway,  
the road by which you went.

Turn back, O virgin Israel,  
turn back to these your cities.

How long will you continue to stray,  
rebellious daughter?

The Lord has created a new thing upon the earth:  
the woman must encompass the man with devotion.

The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will seed the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of man and the seed of beast. As I once watched over them to uproot and pull down, to destroy, to ruin, and to harm, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the Lord.

In those days they shall no longer say,

“The fathers ate unripe grapes,  
and the children’s teeth are set on edge,”

but through his own fault only shall anyone die: the teeth of him who eats the unripe grapes shall be set on edge.

The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers the day I took them by the hand to lead them forth from the land of Egypt; for they broke my covenant and I had to show myself their master, says the Lord.

But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord. I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer will they have need to teach their friends and kinsmen how to know the Lord. All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the Lord, for I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more.

*Responsory*

*Psalm 51:12, 11*

Create a clean heart in me, O God,

— and put a new and steadfast spirit within me.

Turn away your face from my sins, O God, and blot out all my guilt.

— And put a new and steadfast spirit within me.

*Second reading*

From a sermon by Saint Bernard, abbot

*(Sermo de Aquaeductu: Opera omnia, Edit. Cisterc. 5 [1968], 282–283)*

*We should meditate on the mysteries of salvation*

The child to be born of you will be called holy, the Son of God, the fountain of wisdom, the Word of the Father on high. Through you, blessed Virgin, this Word will become flesh, so that even though, as he says: *I am in the Father and the Father is in me*, it is still true for him to say: “I came forth from God and am here.”

*In the beginning was the Word.* The spring was gushing forth, yet still within himself. Indeed, *the Word was with God*, truly dwelling in inaccessible light. And the Lord said from the beginning: *I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction.* Yet your thought was locked within you, and whatever you thought, we did not know; for who knew the mind of the Lord, or who was his counselor?

And so the idea of peace came down to do the work of peace: *The Word was made flesh and even now dwells among us.* It is by faith that he dwells in our hearts, in our memory, our intellect and penetrates even into our imagination. What concept could man have of God if he did not first fashion an image of him in his heart? By nature incomprehensible and inaccessible, he was invisible and unthinkable, but now he wished to be understood, to be seen and thought of.

But how, you ask, was this done? He lay in a manger and rested on a virgin’s breast, preached on a mountain, and spent the night in prayer. He hung on a cross, grew pale in death, and roamed free

among the dead and ruled over those in hell. He rose again on the third day, and showed the apostles the wounds of the nails, the signs of victory; and finally in their presence he ascended to the sanctuary of heaven.

How can we not contemplate this story in truth, piety and holiness? Whatever of all this I consider, it is God I am considering; in all this he is my God. I have said it is wise to meditate on these truths, and I have thought it right to recall the abundant sweetness, given by the fruits of this priestly root; and Mary, drawing abundantly from heaven, has caused this sweetness to overflow for us.

*Responsory*

O Virgin Mary, no other daughter of Jerusalem is your equal, for you are the mother of the King of kings, you are the Queen of heaven and of angels.

— Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

Hail, full of grace; the Lord is with you.

— Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

*Stand*

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Lord God,  
give to your people the joy  
of continual health in mind and body.  
With the prayers of the Virgin Mary to help us,  
guide us through the sorrows of this life  
to eternal happiness in the life to come.

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.

*Acclamation*

Let us praise the Lord.

— And give him thanks.

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