

Liturgy of the Hours
LITURGY OF THE HOURS

OFFICE OF READINGS

September 26, 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*

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

PSALMODY

Antiphon 1

Whoever humbles himself, like a little child, will be greater in the kingdom of heaven.

Psalm 131

Childlike trust in God

Learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart (Matthew 11:29).

O Lórd, my héart is not pród *
nor háughty my éyes.
I have not góne after thínks too gréat *
nor márvels beyónd me.

Trúly I have sét my sóul *
in sílence and péace.
As a chéild has rést in its mother's árms, *
even só is my sóul.

O Ísrael, hópe in the Lórd *
both nów and 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

Whoever humbles himself, like a little child, will be greater in the kingdom of heaven.

Antiphon 2

With simplicity of heart, I have joyfully offered everything to you, my God.

Psalm 132

God's promises to the house of David

The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David (Luke 1:32).

I

O Lórd, remémber Dávid *
and áll the many hárdships he endúred,
the óath he swóre to the Lórd, *
his vów to the Stróng One of Jácob.

“I will not énter the hóuse where I líve *
nor gó to the béd where I rést.
I will gíve no sléep to my éyes, *
to my éyelids I will gíve no slúmber
till I find a pláce for the Lórd, *
a dwélling for the Stróng One of Jácob.”

At Éphrathah we héard of the árkJ; *
we fóund it in the pláins of Yearím.
“Let us gó to the pláce of his dwélling; *
let us gó to knéel at his fóotstool.”

Go up, Lórd, to the pláce of your rést, *
yóu and the árkJ of your stréngth.
Your priests shall be clóthed with hóliness: *
your fáithful shall ríng out their jóy.
For the sáke of Dávid your sérvant *
dó not rejéct your anóinted.

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

With simplicity of heart, I have joyfully offered everything to you,
my God.

Antiphon 3

The Lord has sworn an oath to David; his kingdom will stand for

ever.

II

The Lórd swore an óath to Dávid; *
he wíll not go báck on his wórd;
“A són, the frúit of your bódý, *
will I sét upón your thróne.

If they kéeep my cóvenant in trúth *
and my láws that Í have táught them,
their sóns álso shall rúle *
on your thróne from áge to áge.”

For the Lórd has chósen Zíon; *
he has desíred it fór his dwélling:
“Thís is my résting-place for éver, *
hére have I chósen to líve.

I will gréatly bléss her próduce, *
I will fíll her póor with bréad.
I will clóthe her príests with salvátion *
and her fáithful shall ríng out their jóy.

Thére David’s stóck will flówer: *
I will prépare a lámp for my anóinted.
I will cóver his énemies with sháme *
but on hím my crówn shall shíne.”

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 has sworn an oath to David; his kingdom will stand for ever.

VERSE

Come, consider the works of the Lord.

— The marvels he has created on this earth.

READINGS

First reading

From the book of the prophet Ezekiel

47:1-12

The vision of water flowing from the temple

The angel brought me back to the entrance of the temple, and I saw water flowing out from beneath the threshold of the temple toward the east, for the facade of the temple was toward the east; the water flowed down from the southern side of the temple, south of the altar. He led me outside by the north gate, and around to the outer gate facing the east, where I saw water trickling from the southern side.

Then when he had walked off to the east with a measuring cord in his hand, he measured off a thousand cubits and had me wade through the water, which was ankle-deep. He measured off another thousand and once more had me wade through the water, which was now knee-deep. Again he measured off a thousand and had me wade; the water was up to my waist. Once more he measured off a thousand, but there was now a river through which I could not wade; for the water had risen so high it had become a river that could not be crossed except by swimming. He asked me, "Have you seen this, son of man?" Then he brought me to the bank of the river, where he had me sit.

Along the bank of the river I saw very many trees on both sides. He said to me, "This water flows into the eastern district down upon the Arabah, and empties into the sea, the salt waters, which it makes fresh. Wherever the river flows, every sort of living creature that can multiply shall live, and there shall be abundant fish, for wherever this water comes the sea shall be made fresh. Fishermen shall be standing along it from En-gedi to En-eqlaim, spreading their nets there. Its kinds of fish shall be like those of the Great Sea, very numerous. Only its marshes and swamps shall not be made fresh; they shall be left for salt.

“Along both banks of the river, fruit trees of every kind shall grow; their leaves shall not fade, nor their fruit fail. Every month they shall bear fresh fruit, for they shall be watered by the flow from the sanctuary. Their fruit shall serve for food, and their leaves for medicine.”

Responsory

See Ezekiel 47:1, 9; see John 4:14

I saw water flowing eastward from beneath the threshold of the temple.

— Wherever this water flows, everything shall live.

The water I shall give you will become in you a spring welling up to eternal life.

— Wherever this water flows, everything shall live.

Second reading

From a sermon by Saint Lawrence Justinian, bishop

(Sermo 8, in festo Purificationis B.M.V.: Opera, 2, Venetiis 1751, 38–39)

Mary stored up all these things in her heart

While Mary contemplated all she had come to know through reading, listening and observing, she grew in faith, increased in merits, and was more illuminated by wisdom and more consumed by the fire of charity. The heavenly mysteries were opened to her, and she was filled with joy; she became fruitful by the Spirit, was being directed toward God, and watched over protectively while on earth. So remarkable are the divine graces that they elevate one from the lowest depths to the highest summit, and transform one to a greater holiness. How entirely blessed was the mind of the Virgin which, through the indwelling and guidance of the Spirit, was always and in every way open to the power of the Word of God. She was not led by her own senses, nor by her own will; thus she accomplished outwardly through her body what wisdom from within gave to her faith. It was fitting for divine Wisdom, which created itself a home in the Church, to use the intervention of the most blessed Mary in guarding the law, purifying the mind, giving an example of humility and providing a spiritual sacrifice.

Imitate her, O faithful soul. Enter into the deep recesses of your heart so that you may be purified spiritually and cleansed from your sins. God places more value on good will in all we do than on the works themselves. Therefore, whether we give ourselves to God in the work of contemplation or whether we serve the needs of our neighbor by good works, we accomplish these things because the love of Christ urges us on. The acceptable offering of the spiritual purification is accomplished not in a man-made temple but in the recesses of the heart where the Lord Jesus freely enters.

Responsory

O pure and holy virgin, how can I find words to praise your beauty?

- The highest heavens cannot contain God whom you carried in your womb.

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

- The highest heavens cannot contain God whom you carried in your womb.

Stand

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Let us pray.

All-powerful God,
we rejoice in the protection of the holy Virgin Mary.
May her prayers help to free us from all evils here on earth
and lead us to eternal joy in heaven.

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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