

Liturgy of the Hours
LITURGY OF THE HOURS

OFFICE OF READINGS

August 23, 2025

{ 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

The Lord summons heaven and earth to witness his judgment on his people.

Psalm 50

Genuine love of God

I have come not to abolish the law but to bring it to perfection (see Matthew 5:17).

I

The Gód of góds, the Lórd, †
has spóken and súmmoned the éarth,*
from the rísing of the sún to its sétting.
Out of Zíon's perfect béauty he shínes.*
Our God cómes, he keeps sílence no lónger.

Befóre him fíre devóurs,*
aróund him témpet ráges.
He cálls on the héavens and the éarth*
to wítness his júdgment of his péople.

“Súmmon befóre me my péople*
who made cóvenant with mé by sácrifice.”
The héavens procláim his jústice,*
for Gód himsélf is the júdge.

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 summons heaven and earth to witness his judgment on his

people.

Antiphon 2

Come to me in your distress, and I will save you.

II

“Listen, my péople, I will spéak; *

Ísrael, I will téstify agáinst you,

for Í am Gód your Gód. *

I accúse you, láy the charge befóre you.

I fínd no fáult with your sácrifices, *

your ófferings are álways befóre me.

I do not ásk more búllocks from your fárms, *

nor góats from amóng your hérds.

For I ówn all the béasts of the fórest, *

béasts in their thóusands on my hílls.

I knów all the bírds in the ský, *

all that móves in the fíeld belongs to mé.

Were I húngrý, Í wóuld not téll you, *

for I ówn the wórld and all it hólds.

Do you thínk I eat the flésh of búlls, *

or drínk the blóod of góats?

Pay your sácrifice of thánksgiving to Gód *

and rénder him your vótive ófferings.

Call on mé in the dáy of distréss. *

I will frée you and yóu shall hónor 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.

Antiphon

Come to me in your distress, and I will save you.

Antiphon 3

A sacrifice of praise will give me glory.

III

But Gód sáys to the wicked: †
“But hów can you recíte my commándments *
and táke my cóvenant on your líps,
yóu who despíse my láu *
and thrów my wórds to the wínds,
you who sée a thíef and go with him; *
who thrów in your lót with adúlterers,
who unbridle your móuth for évil *
and whose tóngue is plóttíng críme,
you who sít and malígn your bróther *
and slándér your ówn mother’s són.
You do thís, and should Í keep sílence? *
Do you thínk that Í am like yóu?
Mark thís, you who néver think of Gód, *
lest I séize you and you cánnót escápe;
a sácrífice of thanksgíving hónors me *
and I will shów God’s salvátion to the úpríght.”
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

A sacrifice of praise will give me glory.

VERSE

We are always praying earnestly for you.

— That you may have a deep knowledge of God’s will.

Sit

READINGS

First reading

From the book of the prophet Isaiah

Isaiah prophesies about the Assyrian king

Isaiah, son of Amoz, sent this message to Hezekiah: Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: In answer to your prayer for help against Sennacherib, king of Assyria, this is the word the Lord has spoken concerning him:

She despises you, laughs you to scorn,
the virgin daughter Zion;
Behind you she wags her head,
daughter Jerusalem.

Whom have you insulted and blasphemed,
against whom have you raised your voice
And lifted up your eyes on high?

Against the Holy One of Israel!

Through your servants you have insulted the Lord:

You said, "With my many chariots

I climbed the mountain heights,
the recesses of Lebanon;

I cut down its lofty cedars,
its choice cypresses;

I reached the remotest heights,
its forest park.

I dug wells and drank water in foreign lands;

I dried up with the soles of my feet all the rivers of Egypt.

Have you not heard?

Long ago I prepared it,

From days of old I planned it,

now I have brought it to pass:

That you should reduce fortified cities
into heaps of ruins,

While their inhabitants, shorn of power,
are dismayed and ashamed,

Becoming like the plants of the field,

like the green growth,

like the scorched grass on the housetops.

I am aware whether you stand or sit;

I know whether you come or go,
and also your rage against me.
Because of your rage against me
and your fury which has reached my ears,
I will put my hook in your nose
and my bit in your mouth,
and make you return the way you came.

This shall be a sign for you:
this year you shall eat the aftergrowth,
next year, what grows of itself;
But in the third year, sow and reap,
plant vineyards and eat their fruit!
The remaining survivors of the house of Judah
shall again strike root below
and bear fruit above.

For out of Jerusalem shall come a remnant,
and from Mount Zion, survivors.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts shall do this.

Therefore, thus says the Lord concerning the king of Assyria: He shall not reach this city, nor shoot an arrow at it, nor come before it with a shield, nor cast up siegeworks against it. He shall return by the same way he came, without entering the city, says the Lord. I will shield and save this city for my own sake, and for the sake of my servant David.

Responsory

Isaiah 52:9-10

The Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem,
— and all the ends of the earth shall see the saving power of
God.

The Lord has bared his holy arm in the sight of all the nations.
— And all the ends of the earth shall see the saving power of
God.

Second reading

From a homily by Saint Amadeus of Lausanne, bishop

Queen of the world and of peace

Observe how fitting it was that even before her assumption the name of Mary shone forth wondrously throughout the world. Her fame spread everywhere even before she was raised above the heavens in her magnificence. Because of the honor due her Son, it was indeed fitting for the Virgin Mother to have first ruled upon earth and then be raised up to heaven in glory. It was fitting that her fame be spread in this world below, so that she might enter the heights of heaven in overwhelming blessedness. Just as she was borne from virtue to virtue by the Spirit of the Lord, she was transported from earthly renown to heavenly brightness.

So it was that she began to taste the fruits of her future reign while still in the flesh. At one moment she withdrew to God in ecstasy; at the next she would bend down to her neighbors with indescribable love. In heaven angels served her, while here on earth she was venerated by the service of men. Gabriel and the angels waited upon her in heaven. The virgin John, rejoicing that the Virgin Mother was entrusted to him at the cross, cared for her with the other apostles here below. The angels rejoiced to see their queen; the apostles rejoiced to see their lady, and both obeyed her with loving devotion.

Dwelling in the loftiest citadel of virtue, like a sea of divine grace or an unfathomable source of love that has everywhere overflowed its banks, she poured forth her bountiful waters on trusting and thirsting souls. Able to preserve both flesh and spirit from death she bestowed health-giving salve on bodies and souls. Has anyone ever come away from her troubled or saddened or ignorant of the heavenly mysteries? Who has not returned to everyday life gladdened and joyful because his request had been granted by the Mother of God?

She is a bride, so gentle and affectionate, and the mother of the only true bridegroom. In her abundant goodness she has channeled the spring of reason's garden, the well of living and life-giving waters that pour forth in a rushing stream from divine Lebanon and flow down from Mount Zion until they surround the shores of every far-flung nation. With divine assistance she has redirected these waters

and made them into streams of peace and pools of grace. Therefore, when the Virgin of virgins was led forth by God and her Son, the King of kings, amid the company of exulting angels and rejoicing archangels, with the heavens ringing with praise, the prophecy of the psalmist was fulfilled, in which he said to the Lord: *At your right hand stands the queen, clothed in gold of Ophir.*

Responsory

A great sign appeared in the heavens: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet,

— and upon her head a crown of twelve stars.

The queen clothed in cloth of gold, stood on your right hand.

— And upon her head a crown of twelve stars.

Stand

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of mercy,
give us strength.

May we who honor the memory of the Mother of God
rise above our sins and failings with the help of her prayers.

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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