

Liturgy of the Hours
LITURGY OF THE HOURS

OFFICE OF READINGS

October 31, 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

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 wísdom 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 splendour 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 Wisdom

11:20b—12:2, 11b-19

Concerning the mercy and patience of God

You have disposed all things by measure and number and weight,
O Lord.

For with you great strength abides always;
who can resist the might of your arm?

Indeed, before you the whole universe is as a grain from a balance,
or a drop of morning dew come down upon the earth.

But you have mercy on all, because you can do all things;
and you overlook the sins of men that they may repent.

For you love all things that are
and loathe nothing that you have made;
for what you hated, you would not have fashioned.

And how could a thing remain, unless you willed it;
or be preserved, had it not been called forth by you?

But you spare all things, because they
are yours, O Lord and lover of souls,
for your imperishable spirit is in all things!

Therefore you rebuke offenders little by little,
warn them, and remind them of the sins they are committing,
that they may abandon their wickedness and believe in you, O
Lord!

Neither out of fear for anyone
did you grant amnesty for their sins.

For who can say to you, "What have you done?"
or who can oppose your decree?

Or when peoples perish, who can challenge you, their maker;
or who can come into your presence as vindicator of unjust men?

For neither is there any god besides you who have the care of all,
that you need show you have not unjustly condemned;

Nor can any king or prince confront you on behalf of those you have punished.

But as you are just, you govern all things justly;
you regard it as unworthy of your power
to punish one who has incurred no blame.

For your might is the source of justice;
your mastery over all things makes you lenient to all.
For you show your might when the perfection of your power is
disbelieved;
and in those who know you, you rebuke temerity.

But though you are master of might, you judge with clemency,
and with much lenience you govern us;
for power, whenever you will, attends you.

And you taught your people, by these deeds,
that those who are just must be kind;
And you gave your sons good ground for hope
that you would permit repentance for their sins.

Responsory

See Wisdom 11:24, 27; Sirach 36: 1

Lord, you show mercy to all and you despise nothing you have created. You overlook the sins of men, that they may be repentant and that you might spare them,

— because you are the Lord our God.

Look down on us with pity, and may the light of your mercy shine on us.

— Because you are the Lord our God.

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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