

Liturgy of the Hours
LITURGY OF THE HOURS

OFFICE OF READINGS

August 14, 2025

{ Memorial – Maximilian Mary Kolbe, Priest and Martyr }



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 blessed Martyr, bring us joy,
on your triumphant holy day,
when you received the victor's crown,
for which you paid the price of blood.

From all the darkness of the world
this day raised you to heav'nly heights
in triumph over rack and judge,
restoring you to Christ in joy.

And now you share the angels' hymn,
all clad in robes of dazzling white:
you washed them clean in streams of blood
by bearing witness none could thwart.

Draw near with mercy and implore
that Christ incline his gracious ear
and, in his reconciling love,
take no account of all our faults.

Come down, abide with us awhile
to bring the gracious gifts of Christ,
that we with hearts weighed down by guilt
may find his pardon and relief.

Praise to the Father and the Son
and to the Spirit Paraclete,
who crown you with a lasting crown
in heaven's glorious court on high. Amen.

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

Plainsong, mode I, melody 21; Liber Hymnarius, Solesmes, 1983, Text: Beate (Beata) martyr, prospera, Prudentius, ca. 348–405*

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Sit or stand

PSALMODY

Antiphon 1

Look on us, Lord, and see how we are despised.

Psalm 89:39–53

Lament for the fall of David's dynasty

He has raised up for us a mighty Savior born of the house of David his servant (Luke 1:69).

IV

And yét you have rejeécted and spúrnéd *
and are ángry with the óne you have anóinted.
You have bróken your cóvenant with your sérvant *
and dishónored his crówm in the dúst.

You have bróken down áll his wálls *
and redúced his fórtresses to rúins.
He is despóiled by áll who pass bý: *
he has becóme the táunt of his néighbors.

You have exálted the ríght hand of his fóes; *
you have máde all his énemies rejóice.
You have máde his swórd give wáy, *
you háve not uphéld him in báttle.

You have bróught his glóry to an énd; *
you have húrled his thróne to the gróund.
You have cút short the yéars of his yóuth; *
you have héaped disgráce upón him.

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

Look on us, Lord, and see how we are despised.

Antiphon 2

I am the root and stock of David; I am the morning star.

V

How lóng, O Lórd? Will you híde yourself for éver? *
How lóng will your ánger búrn like a fire?
Remémber, Lórd, the shórtness of my life *
and how fráil you have máde the sóns of mén.
What mán can líve and néver see déath? *
Who can sáve himsélf from the grásp of the gráve?
Whére are your mércies of the pást, O Lórd, *
whích you have swórn in your fáithfulness to Dávid?
Remémber, Lórd, how your sérvant is táunted, *
how I háve to béar all the ínsults of the péoples.
Thús your énemies táunt me, O Lórd, *
mócking your anóinted at évery stép.

Bléssed be the Lórd for ever. *
Amén, amén!

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

I am the root and stock of David; I am the morning star.

Antiphon 3

Our years wither away like grass, but you, Lord God, are eternal.

Psalm 90

May we live in the radiance of God

There is no time with God: a thousand years, a single day, it is all one (2 Peter 3:8).

O Lórd, you have béen our réfuge *
from óne generátion to the néxt.
Befóre the móuntains were bórn †
or the éarth or the wórld brought fóρθ, *
you are Gód, without beginníng or énd.

You túrn men báck into dúst *
and say: “Go báck, sóns of mén.”
To yóur eyes a thóusand yéars †
are like yésterday, cóme and góne, *
no móre than a wáтч in the níght.

You swéep men awáy like a dréam, *
like gráss which springs úp in the mórning.
In the mórning it springs úp and flówers: *
by évening it wíthers and fádes.

So wé are destróyed in your ánger, *
strúck with térror in your fúry.
Our guílt lies ópen befóre you; *
our sécrets in the líght of your fáce.

All our dáys pass awáy in your ánger. *
Our lífe is óver like a sígh.
Our spán is séventy yéars *
or éíghty for thóse who are stróng.

And most of thése are émptiness and páin. *
They pass swíftly and wé are góne.
Who understánds the pówer of your ánger *
and féars the stréngth of your fúry?

Make us knów the shórtness of our lífe *
that we may gáin wísdom of héart.
Lord, relént! Is your ánger for éver? *
Show píty tó your sérvants.

In the mórning, fill us with your lóve; *

we shall exúlt and rejóice all our dáy.
Give us jóy to bálance our afflíction *
for the yéars when we knéw misfórtune.

Show fórth your wórk to your sérvants; *
let your glóry shíne on their children.
Let the fávör of the Lórd be upón us: †
give succéss to the wórk of our hánds, *
give succéss to the wórk of our hánds.

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

Our years wither away like grass, but you, Lord God, are eternal.

VERSE

In you is the source of life.

— In your light we see light itself.

Sit

READINGS

First reading

From the book of the prophet Micah

4:14—5:7

The Christ will be our peace

Thus says the Lord:

Now fence yourself in, Bat-gader!

“They have laid siege against us!”

With the rod they strike on the cheek
the ruler of Israel.

But you, Bethlehem-Ephrathah

too small to be among the clans of Judah,

From you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel;

Whose origin is from of old,
from ancient times.

(Therefore the Lord will give them up, until the time
when she who is to give birth has borne,
And the rest of his brethren shall return
to the children of Israel.)

He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock
by the strength of the Lord,
in the majestic name of the Lord, his God;
And they shall remain, for now his greatness
shall reach to the ends of the earth;
he shall be peace.

If Assyria invades our country
and treads upon our land,
We shall raise against it seven shepherds,
eight men of royal rank;
And they shall tend the land of Assyria with the sword,
and the land of Nimrod with the drawn sword;
And we shall be delivered from Assyria,
if it invades our land
and treads upon our borders.

The remnant of Jacob shall be
in the midst of many peoples,
Like dew coming from the Lord,
like raindrops on the grass,
Which wait for no man,
nor tarry for the sons of men.
And the remnant of Jacob shall be among the nations,
in the midst of many peoples,
Like a lion among beasts of the forest,
like a young lion among flocks of sheep;
When it passes through, it tramples
and tears, and there is none to deliver.

Responsory

Micah 5:2, 4, 5; Zechariah 9:10

Bethlehem, city of God Most High, from you will come forth a ruler for Israel, one whose origin will go back to the distant past, to ancient times. His greatness will reach to the ends of the earth,

— and he will be our peace.

He will proclaim peace to the nations; his dominion will extend from sea to sea.

— And he will be our peace.

Second reading

From the Letters of Maximilian Mary Kolbe

*(Scritti del P. Massimiliano M. Kolbe, Italian translation, vol. I, pt. 1
[Padua, 1971], 75-77; 166)*

Apostolic zeal for the salvation and sanctification of souls

The burning zeal for God's glory that motivates you fills my heart with joy. It is sad for us to see in our own time that indifferentism in its many forms is spreading like an epidemic not only among the laity but also among religious. But God is worthy of glory beyond measure, and therefore it is of absolute and supreme importance to seek that glory with all the power of our feeble resources. Since we are mere creatures we can never return to him all that is his due.

The most resplendent manifestation of God's glory is the salvation of souls, whom Christ redeemed by shedding his blood. To work for the salvation and sanctification of as many souls as possible, therefore, is the preeminent purpose of the apostolic life. Let me, then, say a few words that may show the way toward achieving God's glory and the sanctification of many souls.

God, who is all-knowing and all-wise, knows best what we should do to increase his glory. Through his representatives on earth he continually reveals his will to us; thus it is obedience and obedience alone that is the sure sign to us of the divine will. A superior may, it is true, make a mistake; but it is impossible for us to be mistaken in obeying a superior's command. The only exception to this rule is the

case of a superior commanding something that in even the slightest way would contravene God's law. Such a superior would not be conveying God's will.

God alone is infinitely wise, holy, merciful, our Lord, Creator, and Father; he is beginning and end, wisdom and power and love; he is all. Everything other than God has value to the degree that it is referred to him, the maker of all and our own redeemer, the final end of all things. It is he who, declaring his adorable will to us through his representatives on earth, draws us to himself and whose plan is to draw others to himself through us and to join us all to himself in an ever deepening love.

Look, then, at the high dignity that by God's mercy belongs to our state in life. Obedience raises us beyond the limits of our littleness and puts us in harmony with God's will. In boundless wisdom and care, his will guides us to act rightly. Holding fast to that will, which no creature can thwart, we are filled with unsurpassable strength.

Obedience is the one and the only way of wisdom and prudence for us to offer glory to God. If there were another, Christ would certainly have shown it to us by word and example. Scripture, however, summed up his entire life at Nazareth in the words: *He was subject to them*; Scripture set obedience as the theme of the rest of his life, repeatedly declaring that he came into the world to do his Father's will.

Let us love our loving Father with all our hearts. Let our obedience increase that love, above all when it requires us to surrender our own will. Jesus Christ crucified is our sublime guide toward growth in God's love.

We will learn this lesson more quickly through the Immaculate Virgin, whom God has made the dispenser of his mercy. It is beyond all doubt that Mary's will represents to us the will of God himself. By dedicating ourselves to her we become in her hands instruments of God's mercy even as she was such an instrument in God's hands. We should let ourselves be guided and led by Mary and rest quiet and secure in her hands. She will watch out for us, provide for us, answer our needs of body and spirit; she will dissolve all our

difficulties and worries.

Responsory

Ephesians 5:1-2; 6:6

Be imitators of God as his dear children. Follow the way of love, even as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as an offering to God.

— A gift of pleasing fragrance.

Do God's will with your whole heart as servants of Christ.

— A gift of pleasing fragrance.

Stand

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Gracious God,
you filled your priest and martyr,
Saint Maximilian Kolbe,
with zeal for your house
and love for his neighbor.

Through the prayers of this devoted servant of Mary Immaculate,
grant that in our efforts to serve others for your glory
we too may become like Christ your Son,
who loved his own in the world even to the end,
and now 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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