

Liturgy of the Hours
LITURGY OF THE HOURS

OFFICE OF READINGS

October 24, 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 próud *
nor háughty my éyes.
I have not góne after thínigs too gréat *
nor márvels beyónd me.

Trúly I have sét my sóul *
in sílence and péace.
As a chíld 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 chósén Zíon; *
he has desíred it fór his dwélling:
“Thís is my résting-place for éver, *
hére have I chósén to líve.

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

Thére David’s stóck will flówer: *
I will prépáre 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 Baruch

3:9-15, 24—4:4

The salvation of Israel is founded on wisdom

Hear, O Israel, the commandments of life:
listen, and know prudence!
How is it, Israel,
that you are in the land of your foes,
grown old in a foreign land,
Defiled with the dead,
accounted with those destined for the nether world?
You have forsaken the fountain of wisdom!
Had you walked in the way of God,
you would have dwelt in enduring peace.

Learn where prudence is,
where strength, where understanding;
That you may know also
where are length of days, and life,
where light of the eyes, and peace.
Who has found the place of wisdom,
who has entered into her treasures?
O Israel, how vast is the house of God,
how broad the scope of his dominion:
Vast and endless,
high and immeasurable!
In it were born the giants,
renowned at the first,
stalwarts, skilled in war.
Not these did God choose,
nor did he give them the way of understanding;
They perished for lack of prudence,
perished through their folly.

Who has gone up to the heavens and taken her,
or brought her down from the clouds?
Who has crossed the sea and found her,
bearing her away rather than choice gold?
None knows the way to her,
nor has any understood her paths.

Yet he who knows all things knows her;
he has probed her by his knowledge—
He who established the earth for all time,
and filled it with four-footed beasts;
He who dismisses the light, and it departs,
calls it, and it obeys him trembling;
Before whom the stars at their posts
shine and rejoice;
When he calls them, they answer, “Here we are!”
shining with joy for their Maker.

Such is our God;
no other is to be compared to him:
He has traced out all the way of understanding,
and has given her to Jacob, his servant,
to Israel, his beloved son.
Since then she has appeared on earth,
and moved among men.

She is the book of the precepts of God,
the law that endures forever;
All who cling to her will live,
but those will die who forsake her.
Turn, O Jacob, and receive her:
walk by her light toward splendor.
Give not your glory to another,
your privileges to an alien race.
Blessed are we, O Israel;
for what pleases God is known to us!

Responsory

Romans 11:33; Baruch 3:32, 37

How deep are the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

- How unsearchable his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

The one who knows all things knows wisdom and has given her to Jacob, his servant.

- How unsearchable his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

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.

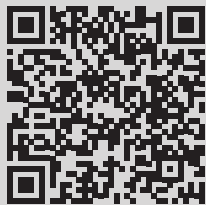
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