

Liturgy of the Hours
LITURGY OF THE HOURS

OFFICE OF READINGS

May 25, 2026

{ Memorial – Mary, Mother of the Church }



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.

Praise to the Father and the Son
and to the Holy Paraclete,
for by their gift you are proclaimed
the blessed Mother of the Church. 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

How good is the God of Israel to the pure of heart!

Psalm 73

Why is it that the good have many troubles?

Blessed is the man who does not lose faith in me (Matthew 11:6).

I

How good God is to Israel, *
to those who are pure of heart.
Yet my feet came close to stumbling, *
my steps had almost slipped
for I was filled with envy of the proud *
when I saw how the wicked prosper.

For them there are no pains; *
their bodies are sound and sleek.
They have no share in men's sorrows; *
they are not stricken like others.

So they wear their pride like a necklace, *
they clothe themselves with violence.
Their hearts overflow with malice, *
their minds seethe with plots.

They scoff; they speak with malice; *
from on high they plan oppression.
They have set their mouths in the heavens *
and their tongues dictate to the earth.

So the people turn to follow them *
and drink in all their words.
They say: "How can God know? *

Dóes the Most Hígh take any nóice?”
Lóok at them, súch are the wícked, *
but untróubled, they grów in wéalth.

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

How good is the God of Israel to the pure of heart!

Antiphon 2

Their laughter will turn to weeping, their merriment to grief.

II

How úseless to kéeep my heart púre *
and wásh my hánds in ínnocence,
when I was strícken áll day lóng, *
suffered púnishment dáy after dáy.

Then I sáid: “If I should spéak like thát, *
I should abándon the fáith of your péople.”

I stróve to fáthom this próblem, *
too hárd for my mínd to understánd,
until I píerced the mýsteries of Gód *
and understóod what becómes of the wícked.

How slíppery the páths on which you sét them; *
you máke them slíde to destrúction.

How súddenly they cóme to their rúin, *
wiped óut, destróyed by térrors.

Like a dréam one wákes from, O Lórd, *
when you wáke you dísmíss them as phántoms.

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

Their laughter will turn to weeping, their merriment to grief.

Antiphon 3

Those who depart from you will perish; my joy is to remain with you, my God.

III

And só when my héart grew embittered *
and whén I was cút to the quíck,
I was stúpid and díd not understánd, *
no bétter than a béast in your síght.

Yet I was álways ín your présence; *
you were hóliding me bý my right hánd.
You will guíde me bý your cóunsel *
and só you will léad me to glóry.

What élse have I in héaven but yóu? *
Apart from yóu I want nóthing on éarth.
My bódy and my héart faint for jóy; *
Gód is my posséssion for éver.

All thóse who abándon you shall pérish; *
you will destróy all thóse who are fáithless.
To bé near Gód is my háppiness. *
I have máde the Lord Gód my réfuge.
I will téll of áll your wórks *
at the gátes of the cíty of Zíon.

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

Those who depart from you will perish; my joy is to remain with you, my God.

VERSE

To savor your words is my delight, O Lord,

— Honey itself is not sweeter.

Sit

READINGS

First reading

From the book of Job

2:1-13

Job in his affliction is visited by friends

Once again the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them. And the Lord said to Satan, “Whence do you come?” And Satan answered the Lord and said, “From roaming the earth and patrolling it.”

And the Lord said to Satan, “Have you noticed my servant Job, and that there is no one on earth like him, faultless and upright, fearing God and avoiding evil? He still holds fast to his innocence although you incited me against him to ruin him without cause.” And Satan answered the Lord and said, “Skin for skin! All that a man has will he give for his life. But now put forth your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and surely he will blaspheme you to your face.” And the Lord said to Satan, “He is in your power; only spare his life.” So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord and smote Job with severe boils from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head. And he took a potsherd to scrape himself, as he sat among the ashes. Then his wife said to him, “Are you still holding to your innocence? Curse God and die.” But he said to her, “Are even you going to speak as senseless women do? We accept good things from God; and should we not accept evil?” Through all this, Job said nothing sinful.

Now when three of Job’s friends heard of all the misfortune that had come upon him, they set out each one from his own place: Eliphaz from Teman, Bildad from Shuh, and Zophar from Naamath. They met and journeyed together to give him sympathy and comfort. But when, at a distance, they lifted up their eyes and did not recognize him, they began to weep aloud; they tore their cloaks and threw dust upon their heads. Then they sat down upon the

ground with him seven days and seven nights, but none of them spoke a word to him; for they saw how great was his suffering.

Responsory

Psalm 38:2, 3, 4, 12

O God, do not chastise me in your anger, for your arrows have pierced me through.

— My body is sick because of your indignation.

My friends and neighbors avoid me in my sickness.

— My body is sick because of your indignation.

Second reading

From the Address of Pope Saint Paul VI, at the conclusion of the third session of the most holy Second Vatican Council

(November 21, 1964: AAS 56 [1964], 1015-1016)

Mary, Mother of the Church

Taking into consideration the close ties by which Mary and the Church are bound together, to the glory of the Blessed Virgin and for our consolation, We declare Mary Most Holy to be Mother of the Church, that is, of the whole Christian people, faithful and Pastors alike, who invoke her as their most loving Mother; and We establish that by this sweetest of names the whole Christian people should henceforth give still greater honor to the Mother of God and offer her their supplications.

Venerable Brothers, this concerns a title by no means new to Christian piety; indeed the Christian faithful and the universal Church choose to invoke Mary principally by the name of Mother. In truth, this name belongs to the genuine nature of devotion to Mary, since it rests firmly on that very dignity with which Mary is endowed as the Mother of the Incarnate Word of God.

Just as the Divine Motherhood is the basis both for Mary's unique relationship with Christ and for her presence in the work of human salvation accomplished by Christ Jesus, so likewise, it is principally from the Divine Motherhood that the relationships which exist between Mary and the Church flow. Mary is indeed the Mother of

Christ who, at the moment he assumed human nature in her virginal womb, joined to himself, as Head, his Mystical Body, which is the Church. Mary, therefore, as Mother of Christ, must also be regarded as Mother of all the faithful and Pastors alike, that is to say, of the Church.

Herein lies the reason why we, though unworthy and weak, yet in a spirit of trust and with ardent filial love, raise our eyes to her. She who once gave us Jesus, the fount of heavenly grace, cannot fail to offer her maternal help to the Church, especially at this time in which the Spouse of Christ strives with greater zeal to fulfil her salvific mission.

These closest of bonds between our heavenly Mother and the human race urge Us, moreover, to foster and further strengthen this confidence. Even though she has been enriched with superabundant and wondrous gifts from God so as to be made worthy to be Mother of the Incarnate Word, nevertheless, Mary is very near to us. Like us, she is a child of Adam and so too our sister on account of our common human nature; she was preserved from the stain of original sin by reason of the future merits of Christ, but she added to these gifts received from on high the example of her own perfect faith and so merited the proclamation in the Gospel: “Blessed are you who have believed.”

In this mortal life she embodied the perfect form of a disciple of Christ, she was the mirror of all virtues, and in her manner of life exemplified fully those beatitudes proclaimed by Christ Jesus. Consequently, the universal Church, while she lives out the many facets of her life and in her active zeal, draws from the Virgin Mother of God the peerless example of how to imitate Christ perfectly.

Responsory

The Holy Spirit came down upon Mary:

— the Power of the Most High overshadowed her.

Once more it filled her, sharing in the Passion of her Son as the Mother of the redeemed:

— the Power of the Most High overshadowed her.

Stand

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Let us pray.

O God, Father of mercies,
whose Only Begotten Son, as he hung upon the Cross,
chose the Blessed Virgin Mary, his Mother,
to be our Mother also,
grant, we pray, that with her loving help
your Church may be more fruitful day by day
and, exulting in the holiness of her children,
may draw to her embrace all the families of the peoples.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

— Amen.

Acclamation

Let us praise the Lord.

— And give him thanks.

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