

Liturgy of the Hours
LITURGY OF THE HOURS

OFFICE OF READINGS

May 25, 2024

{ 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

The God whom earth and sea and sky
Adore and laud and magnify,
Whose might they own, whose praise they tell,
In Mary's body deigned to dwell.

O Mother blest! the chosen shrine
Wherein the Architect divine,
Whose hand contains the earth and sky,
Vouchsafed in hidden guise to lie:

Blest in the message Gabriel brought;
Blest in the work the Spirit wrought;
Most blest, to bring to human birth
The long desired of all the earth.

O Lord, the Virgin born, to thee
Eternal praise and glory be,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Ghost for ever more.

*Melody: Eisenach L.M.; Music: Johann H. Schein, 1586-1630; Text: Venantius
Fortunatus, 530-609; Translator: J. M. Neale, 1818-1866*

Sit or stand

PSALMODY

Antiphon 1

Let us praise the Lord for his mercy and for the wonderful things he
has done for men.

Psalm 107

Thanksgiving for deliverance

This is God's message to the sons of Israel; the good news of peace proclaimed through Jesus Christ (Acts 10:36).

I

“O give thanks to the Lórd for he is good; *
for his love endúres for éver.”

Let them sáy this, the Lórd's redéemed, *
whom he redéemed from the hánd of the fóe
and gáthered from fár-off lánds, *
from éast and wést, north and sóuth.

Some wándered in the désert, in the wílderness, *
finding no wáy to a cíty they could dwéll in.
Húngry they wére and thírsty; *
their sóul was fáinting wíthín them.

Then they críed to the Lórd in their néed *
and he réscued thém from their distréss
and he léd them alóng the right páth *
to reach a cíty théy could dwéll in.

Let them thánk the Lórd for his love, *
for the wónders he dóes for mén.
For he sátisfies the thírsty sóul; *
he fills the húngry with good thínks.

Sóme lay in dárkness and in glóom, *
prisoners in míserý and cháins,
Having defíed the wórds of Gód *
and spúrned the cóunsels of the Most Hígh.
He crúshed their spírít with tóil; *
they stúmbled; there was nó one to hélp.

Then they críed to the Lórd in their néed *
and he réscued thém from their distréss.
He led them fóρθ from dárkness and glóom *
and bróke their cháins to píeces.

Let them thánk the Lórd for his góodness, *

for the wónders he dóes for mén:
for he búrst the gátes of brónze *
and shátters the íron bárs.

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

Let us praise the Lord for his mercy and for the wonderful things he has done for men.

Antiphon 2

Men have seen the works of God, the marvels he has done.

II

Some were síck on accóunt of their síns *
and afflícted on accóunt of their guílt.
They had a lóathing for évery fód; *
they came clóse to the gátes of déath.

Then they críed to the Lórd in their néed *
and he réscued thém from their dístréss.
He sént forth his wórd to héal them *
and sáved their lífe from the gráve.

Let them thánk the Lórd for his lóve, *
for the wónders he dóes for mén.
Let them óffer a sácrífice of thánks *
and téll of his déeds with rejóicing.

Some sáiled to the séa in shíps *
to tráde on the míghty wáters.
Thése men have séen the Lord's déeds, *
the wónders he dóes in the déep.

For he spóke; he súmmoned the gále, *
ráising up the wáves of the séa.
Tóssed up to héaven, then into the déep; *
their sóul melted awáy in their dístréss.

They stággered, réeled like drunken mén, *
for áll their skill was góne.

Then they cried to the Lórd in their néed *
and he réscued thém from their distréss.

He stilled the stórm to a whísper: *
all the wáves of the séa were húshed.
They rejóiced becáuse of the cálm *
and he léd them to the háven they desíred.

Let them thánk the Lórd for his lóve, *
the wónders he dóes for mén.
Let them exált him in the gáthéring of the péople *
and práise him in the méeting of the élders.

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

Men have seen the works of God, the marvels he has done.

Antiphon 3

Those who love the Lord will see and rejoice; they will understand
his loving kindness.

III

He chánges stréams into a désert, *
springs of wáter into thírsty gróund,
fruitful lánd into a sálty wáste, *
for the wíckedness of thóse who líve there.

But he chánges désert into stréams, *
thirsty gróund into spríngs of wáter.
Thére he séttles the húngry *
and they búild a cíty to dwéll in.

They sow fields and plánt their vínes; *
thése yield cróps for the hárvest.
He blésses them; they grów in númer. *

He does not lét their hérds decrease.

He póurs contémp^t upon prínces,^{*}
makes them wánder in tráckless wástes.
They dimínish, are redúced to nóthing^{*}
by oppréssion, évil and sórrow.

But he ráises the néedy from distréss;^{*}
makes fámilies númerous as a flóck.
The úpright sée it and rejóice^{*}
but áll who do wróng are sílenced.

Whoever is wíse, let him héed these thín^gs^{*}
and considér the lóve of the Lórd.

Glory to the Fát^her, and to the Son,^{*}
and to the Holy Spí^rit:
as it was in the beginn^g, is now,^{*}
and will be for ever. Amen.

Antiphon

Those who love the Lord will see and rejoice; they will understand his loving kindness.

VERSE

Your truth, O God, is high as the clouds.

— Lord, your goodness is deep as the ocean.

Sit

READINGS

First reading

From the book of Ecclesiastes

11:7—12:14

Thoughts on old age

Light is sweet! and it is pleasant for the eyes to see the sun. However many years a man may live, let him, as he enjoys them all, remember that the days of darkness will be many. All that is to come is vanity.

Rejoice, O young man, while you are young

and let your heart be glad in the days of your youth.
Follow the ways of your heart,
the vision of your eyes;
Yet understand that as regards all this
God will bring you to judgment.
Ward off grief from your heart
and put away trouble from your presence,
though the dawn of youth is fleeting.

Remember your Creator in the days of your youth,
before the evil days come
And the years approach of which you will say,
I have no pleasure in them;
Before the sun is darkened,
and the light, and the moon, and the stars,
while the clouds return after the rain;
When the guardians of the house tremble,
and the strong men are bent,
And the grinders are idle because they are few,
and they who look through the windows grow blind;
When the doors to the street are shut,
and the sound of the mill is low;
When one waits for the chirp of a bird,
but all the daughters of song are suppressed;
And one fears heights,
and perils in the street;
When the almond tree blooms,
and the locust grows sluggish
and the caper berry is without effect,
Because man goes to his lasting home,
and mourners go about the streets;
Before the silver cord is snapped
and the golden bowl is broken,
And the pitcher is shattered at the spring,
and the broken pulley falls into the well,
And the dust returns to the earth as it once was,
and the life breath returns to God who gave it.

Vanity of vanities, says Qoheleth,
all things are vanity!

Besides being wise, Qoheleth taught the people knowledge, and weighed, scrutinized and arranged many proverbs. Qoheleth sought to find pleasing sayings, and to write down true sayings with precision.

The sayings of the wise are like goads; like fixed spikes are the topics given by one collector.

As to more than these, my son, beware. Of the making of many books there is no end, and in much study there is weariness for the flesh.

The last word, when all is heard: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is man's all; because God will bring to judgment every work, with all its hidden qualities, whether good or bad.

Responsory

Psalm 71:17, 9; see Psalm 16:11

O God, you have taught me from my youth, and to this very day I proclaim your marvelous works.

— Do not abandon me in my old age.

Your presence fills me with joy, and everlasting pleasures are at your right hand.

— Do not abandon me in my old age.

Second reading

From a sermon by Saint Augustine, bishop

(Sermo 25, 7-8: PL 46, 937-938)

She who believed by faith, conceived by faith

Stretching out his hand over his disciples, the Lord Christ declared: *Here are my mother and my brothers; anyone who does the will of my Father who sent me is my brother and my sister and my mother.* I would urge you to ponder these words. Did the Virgin Mary, who believed by faith and conceived by faith, who was the chosen one from whom

our Savior was born among men, who was created by Christ before Christ was created in her—did she not do the will of the Father? Indeed the blessed Mary certainly did the Father's will, and so it was for her a greater thing to have been Christ's disciple than to have been his mother, and she was more blessed in her discipleship than in her motherhood. Hers was the happiness of first bearing in her womb him whom she would obey as her master.

Now listen and see if the words of Scripture do not agree with what I have said. The Lord was passing by and crowds were following him. His miracles gave proof of divine power, and a woman cried out: *Happy is the womb that bore you, blessed is that womb!* But the Lord, not wishing people to seek happiness in a purely physical relationship, replied: *More blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it.* Mary heard God's word and kept it, and so she is blessed. She kept God's truth in her mind, a nobler thing than carrying his body in her womb. The truth and the body were both Christ: he was kept in Mary's mind insofar as he is truth, he was carried in her womb insofar as he is man; but what is kept in the mind is of a higher order than what is carried in the womb.

The Virgin Mary is both holy and blessed, and yet the Church is greater than she. Mary is a part of the Church, a member of the Church, a holy, an eminent—the most eminent—member, but still only a member of the entire body. The body undoubtedly is greater than she, one of its members. This body has the Lord for its head, and head and body together make up the whole Christ. In other words, our head is divine—our head is God.

Now, beloved, give me your whole attention, for you also are members of Christ; you also are the body of Christ. Consider how you yourselves can be among those of whom the Lord said: *Here are my mother and my brothers.* Do you wonder how you can be the mother of Christ? He himself said: *Whoever hears and fulfils the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and my sister and my mother.* As for our being the brothers and sisters of Christ, we can understand this because although there is only one inheritance and Christ is the only Son, his mercy would not allow him to remain alone. It was his wish that we too should be heirs of the Father, and co-heirs with

himself.

Now having said that all of you are brothers of Christ, shall I not dare to call you his mother? Much less would I dare to deny his own words. Tell me how Mary became the mother of Christ, if it was not by giving birth to the members of Christ? You, to whom I am speaking, are the members of Christ. Of whom were you born? “Of Mother Church,” I hear the reply of your hearts. You became sons of this mother at your baptism, you came to birth then as members of Christ. Now you in your turn must draw to the font of baptism as many as you possibly can. You became sons when you were born there yourselves, and now by bringing others to birth in the same way, you have it in your power to become the mothers of Christ.

Responsory

Isaiah 61:10; Luke 1:46-47

I will cry out with joy to the Lord; my soul will rejoice in my God,

— for he has clothed me with the robe of salvation, like a bride adorned with her jewels.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

— For he has clothed me with the robe of salvation, like a bride adorned with her jewels.

Stand

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Lord,

take away the sins of your people.

May the prayers of Mary the mother of your Son help us, for alone and unaided we cannot hope to please you.

We ask 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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