

Liturgy of the Hours
LITURGY OF THE HOURS

OFFICE OF READINGS

November 21, 2025

{ Memorial – Presentation of Mary }



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

Hail, O Mother,
gracious and merciful,
Mother of hope,
Mother of clemency,
Mother of God,
Mother of ev'ry grace,
Blessed Mother,
filled with all holy joy,

Vale of lilies,
virtues in fairest bloom,
fount of gladness,
joyous beyond delight:
Holy Mother,
help us and pray for us,
bend down gently,
look on our lowliness,

Unbegotten
Father created you,
Sole-begotten
Son overshadowed you,
by the Spirit,
Jesus took flesh in you:
hearts with wonder
praise them, the Three in One. Amen.

Metrical hymn, melody: TOTHILL, 10 10 10 10; ICEL, 2021; adapted

Plainsong, mode VIII, melody 122; Liber Hymnarius, Solesmes, 1983, Text: Salve,

Mater misericordiae, 13–14th c.

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Sit or stand

PSALMODY

Antiphon 1

Rise up, Lord, and come to my aid.

Psalm 35: 1–2, 3c, 9–19, 22–23, 27–28

The Lord as Savior in time of persecution

*They came together...and laid their plans to capture Jesus by treachery and put him to
death (Matthew 26:3–4).*

I

O Lórd, plead my cáuse against my fóes; *
fight thóse who fight mé.
Take up your búckler and shíeld; *
arise to hélp me.

O Lórd, sáy to my sóul: *
“Í am your salvátiún.”

But my sóul shall be jóyful in the Lórd *
and rejóice in his salvátiún.
My whóle béing will sáy: *
“Lord, whó is like yóu
who réscue the wéak from the stróng *
and the póor from the oppréssor?”

Lýing wítnesses arise *
and accúse me unjústly.
They repáy me évil for góod: *
my sóul is forlórn.

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

Rise up, Lord, and come to my aid.

Antiphon 2

All-powerful Lord, stand by me and defend me.

II

When they were síck I wént into móurning, *
afflicted with fásting.

My práyer was éver on my líps, *
as for a bróther, a friénd.

I wént as though móurning a móther, *
bówed down with gríef.

Now that Í am in tróuble they gáther, *
they gáther and móck me.

They táke me by surpríse and stríke me *
and téar me to píeces.

They provóke me with móckery on móckery *
and gnásh their téeth.

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

All-powerful Lord, stand by me and defend me.

Antiphon 3

My tongue will speak of your goodness all the day long.

III

O Lórd, how lóng will you look ón? *
Cóme to my réscue!

Save my lífe from these ráging béasts, *
my sóul from these líons.

I will thánk you in the gréat assémbly, *
amid the thróng I will práise you.

Do not lét my lýing fóes *
rejóice over mé.

Do not lét those who háte me unjústly *
wink éyes at each óther.

O Lórd, you have séen, do not be sílent, *
do not stánd afar óff!

Awáke, stír to my défense, *
to my cáuse, O Gód!

Let there be jóy for thóse who love my cáuse. *

Let them sáy without énd:

“Gréat is the Lórd who delíghts *
in the péace of his sérvant.”

Then my tóngue shall spéak of your jústice, *
all day lóng of your práise.

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

My tongue will speak of your goodness all the day long.

VERSE

My son, take my words to heart.

— Do as I say, and you will live.

Sit

READINGS

First reading

From the book of the prophet Zechariah

Salvation in Jerusalem

Thus says the Lord: On that day I will seek the destruction of all nations that come against Jerusalem.

I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and petition; and they shall look on him whom they have thrust through, and they shall mourn for him as one mourns for an only son, and they shall grieve over him as one grieves over a first-born.

On that day the mourning in Jerusalem shall be as great as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the plain of Megiddo. And the land shall mourn, each family apart.

On that day there shall be open to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, a fountain to purify from sin and uncleanness. On that day, says the Lord of hosts, I will destroy the names of the idols from the land, so that they shall be mentioned no more; I will also take away the prophets and the spirit of uncleanness from the land. If a man still prophesies, his parents, father and mother, shall say to him, "You shall not live, because you have spoken a lie in the name of the Lord." When he prophesies, his parents, father and mother, shall thrust him through.

On that day, every prophet shall be ashamed to prophesy his vision, neither shall he assume the hairy mantle to mislead, but he shall say, "I am no prophet, I am a tiller of the soil, for I have owned land since my youth." And if anyone asks him, "What are these wounds on your chest?" he shall answer, "With these I was wounded in the house of my dear ones."

Awake, O sword, against my shepherd,
against the man who is my associate,
says the Lord of hosts.

Strike the shepherd
that the sheep may be dispersed,
and I will turn my hand against the little ones.

In all the land, says the Lord,
two thirds of them shall be cut off and perish,

and one third shall be left.
I will bring the one third through fire,
and I will refine them as silver is refined,
and I will test them as gold is tested.
They shall call upon my name,
and I will hear them.
I will say, "They are my people,"
and they shall say, "The Lord is my God."

Responsory

Matthew 26:31; Zechariah 13:7

Tonight your faith in me will be shaken, for Scripture says:

- I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.

Awake, O sword, and strike my shepherd, the man who is my companion, says the Lord.

- I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.

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.

Eternal Father,
we honor the holiness and glory of the Virgin Mary.
May her prayers bring us
the fullness of your life and love.

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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