

Liturgy of the Hours
LITURGY OF THE HOURS

OFFICE OF READINGS

Season of Lent

{ Common of the Dedication of a 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.

HYMN

I saw the new city, Jerusalem, descending from God,
the source of all love.
Comely, clothed like a bride who waits, adorned, as for her spouse.

I saw the city of God, the new holy Jerusalem,
Descending from God, who dwells on high.

I saw the new city, Jerusalem, descending from God,
the source of all love.
Comely, clothed like a bride who waits, adorned, as for her spouse.

She was adorned as would be a bride who was waiting for her
spouse.

Then I heard a voice from the throne which proclaimed:

I saw the new city, Jerusalem, descending from God,
the source of all love.
Comely, clothed like a bride who waits, adorned, as for her spouse.

“Behold the dwelling of God among this people,
for among them he shall make his abode.”

I saw the new city, Jerusalem, descending from God,
the source of all love.
Comely, clothed like a bride who waits, adorned, as for her spouse.

“They shall be his people. And he shall be their Lord and God.
He shall have mercy and wipe the tears from their eyes.”

I saw the new city, Jerusalem, descending from God,
the source of all love.
Comely, clothed like a bride who waits, adorned, as for her spouse.

“No more sorrow or tears, no more death or pain shall there be:
for the old order has passed away.”

I saw the new city, Jerusalem, descending from God,
the source of all love.

Comely, clothed like a bride who waits, adorned, as for her spouse.

*Melody: I Saw the New Jerusalem; Music: Lucien Deiss, C.S.Sp., 1965; Text: Lucien
Deiss, C.S.Sp., 1965*

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Sit or stand

PSALMODY

Antiphon 1

Open wide the doors and gates. Lift high the ancient portals.

Psalm 24

The Lord's entry into his temple

Christ opened heaven for us in the manhood he assumed (Saint Irenaeus).

The Lórd's is the éarth and its fúllness, *
the wórld and áll its péoples.

It is hé who sét it on the séas; *
on the wáters he máde it firm.

Who shall clímb the móuntain of the Lórd? *

Who shall stánd in his hóly pláce?

The mán with clean hánds and pure héart, †
who desíres not wórtless thínghs, *

who has not swórn so as to decéive his néighbor.

He shall recéive bléssings from the Lórd *
and rewárd from the Gód who sáves him.

Súch are the mén who séek him, *
seek the fáce of the Gód of Jácob.

O gátes, lift hígh your héads; †
grow hígher, áncient dóors. *

Let him énter, the kíng of glóry!

Whó is the kíng of glóry? †
The Lórd, the míghty, the váliant, *
the Lórd, the váliant in wár.

O gátes, lift hígh your héads; †
grow hígher, áncient dóors. *
Let him énter, the kíng of glóry!

Who is hé, the kíng of glóry? †
Hé, the Lórd of ármies, *
hé is the kíng of glóry.

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

Open wide the doors and gates. Lift high the ancient portals.

Antiphon 2

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of power and might.

Psalms 84

Longing for God's Temple

Here we do not have a lasting city; we seek a home that is yet to come (Hebrews 13:14).

How lóvely is your dwélling pláce, *
Lórd, Gód of hósts.

My sóul is lónging and yéarning, *
is yéarning for the cóurts of the Lórd.
My héart and my sóul ring out their jóy *
to Gód, the líving Gód.

The spárraw hersélf finds a hóme *
and the swállow a nést for her bróod;
she láys her yóung by your áltars, *
Lord of hósts, my kíng and my Gód.

They are háppy, who dwéll in your hóuse, *
for éver sínging your práise.

They are háppy, whose stréngth is in yóu, *
in whose héarts are the róads to Zíon.

As they gó through the Bítter Váley †
they máke it a pláce of springs, *
the áutumn rain cóvers it with bléssings.
They wálk with éver growing stréngth, *
they will sée the God of góds in Zíon.

O Lórd God of hósts, hear my práyer, *
give éar, O Gód of Jácob.
Turn your éyes, O Gód, our shíeld, *
lóok on the fáce of your anóinted.

Óne day withín your cóurts *
is bétter than a thóusand elsewhére.
The thréshold of the hóuse of Gód *
I préfér to the dwéllings of the wícked.

For the Lord Gód is a rámpart, a shíeld; *
he will gíve us his fávor and glóry.
The Lórd will not refúse any góod *
to thóse who wálk without bláme.

Lórd, Gód of hósts, *
háppy the mán who trusts in yóu!

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 lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of power and might.

Antiphon 3

Glorious things are said of you, O city of God.

Psalm 87

Jerusalem is mother of us all

The heavenly Jerusalem is a free woman; she is our mother (Galatians 4:26).

On the hóly móuntain is his cíty *
chérişhed by the Lórd.
The Lórd prefers the gátes of Zíon *
to áll Jacob's dwéllings.
Of yóu are told glórious thínghs, *
O cíty of Gód!

“Bábylon and Égypt I will cóunt *
among thóse who knów me;
Philístia, Týre, Ethiópia, *
thése will be her chíldren
and Zíon shall be cálléd ‘Móther’ *
for áll shall be her chíldren.”

It is hé, the Lórd Most Hígh, *
who gives éach his pláce.
In his régister of péoples he wrítes: *
“Thése are her chíldren,”
and whíle they dánce they will síng: *
“In yóu all find their hóme.”

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

Glorious things are said of you, O city of God.

VERSE

I will worship at your holy temple.

— And I will extol your name, O Lord.

READINGS

First reading

From the first book of Kings

8:1-4, 10-13, 22-23

The dedication of the temple

The elders of Israel and all the leaders of the tribes, the princes in the ancestral houses of the Israelites, came to King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the Lord's covenant from the City of David [which is Zion]. All the men of Israel assembled before King Solomon during the festival in the month of Ethanim (the seventh month). When all the elders of Israel had arrived, the priests took up the ark; they carried the ark of the Lord and the meeting tent with all the sacred vessels that were in the tent. (The priests and Levites carried them.)

When the priests left the holy place, the cloud filled the temple of the Lord so that the priests could no longer minister because of the cloud, since the Lord's glory had filled the temple of the Lord. Then Solomon said, "The Lord intends to dwell in the dark cloud; I have truly built you a princely house, a dwelling where you may abide forever."

Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of the whole community of Israel, and stretching forth his hands toward heaven, he said, "Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below; you keep your covenant of kindness with your servants who are faithful to you with their whole heart. You have kept the promise you made to my father David, your servant. You who spoke that promise, have this day, by your own power, brought it to fulfillment. Now, therefore, Lord, God of Israel, keep the further promise you made to my father David, your servant, saying, 'You shall always have someone from your line to sit before me on the throne of Israel, provided only that your descendants look to their conduct so that they live in my presence, as you have lived in my presence.' Now, Lord, God of Israel, may this promise which you

made to my father David, your servant, be confirmed.

“Can it indeed be that God dwells among men on earth? If the heavens and the highest heavens cannot contain you, how much less this temple which I have built! Look kindly on the prayer and petition of your servant, O Lord, my God, and listen to the cry of supplication which I, your servant, utter before you this day. May your eyes watch night and day over this temple, the place where you have decreed you shall be honored; may you heed the prayer which I, your servant, offer in this place. Listen to the petitions of your servant and of your people Israel which they offer in this place. Listen from your heavenly dwelling and grant pardon.”

Responsory

Matthew 18:19-20; 2 Chronicles 7:15

If two of you agree on earth to ask for anything whatever, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven.

— For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.

Now my eyes will be open and my ears will be attentive to the prayer that is prayed in this place.

— For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.

Second reading

From a homily on Joshua, son of Nun, by Origen, priest

(Homilia 9, 1-2: SC 71, 244-246)

As living stones we are built into the house and the altar of God

All of us who believe in Christ Jesus are said to be living stones, according to the words of Scripture: *But you are living stones, built as a spiritual house in a holy priesthood, that you may offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

When we look at an earthly building, we can see that the larger and stronger stones are the first to be set in place as the foundation, so that the weight of the whole structure may rest on them securely. In the same way understand that some of the living stones become

the foundation of the spiritual building. What are these living stones placed in the foundation? They are the apostles and prophets. That is what Paul says when he teaches: *We have been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with our Lord Jesus Christ himself as the cornerstone.*

You, my hearers, must learn that Christ himself is also the foundation of the building we are now describing, so that you may prepare yourselves more eagerly for the construction of this building and become stones that lie closer to the foundation. As the apostle Paul says: *No foundation can be laid other than the one that has been laid already: I mean Christ Jesus.* Blessed are those, therefore, who build a religious and holy structure upon such a noble foundation.

In this building of the Church, there must also be an altar. I think that if those of you, disposed and eager for prayer, offer petitions and prayers of supplication to God day and night, you will become the living stones for the altar which Jesus is building.

Consider what praise is ascribed to these stones which make up the altar. *The lawgiver Moses said that the altar was to be made of stones, uncovered by iron.* What are those stones? Perhaps those uncut and undefiled stones are the holy apostles, all making a single altar, because of their unity of mind and heart. For it was known that with one accord they all opened their lips to pray: *You, Lord, know the hearts of all.*

Therefore, these who were able to pray with one mind, one voice and one spirit, are perhaps worthy to form together one altar, where Jesus may offer his sacrifice to the Father.

Let us strive to agree among ourselves and to have one mind and voice. May we never quarrel or act from vainglory. But may we remain united in belief and purpose. Then even we may hope to become stones fit for the altar.

Responsory

See Isaiah 2:2, 3; Psalm 126:6

The Lord's house is built on the mountain summit; it is high above the hills.

— From the ends of the earth men come running to it, crying out: Glory to you, Lord.

They come, see, they come, laughing for joy, laden with sheaves.

— From the ends of the earth men come running to it, crying out: Glory to you, Lord.

Stand

TE DEUM

You are God: we praise you;
You are the Lord: we acclaim you;
You are the eternal Father:
All creation worships you.

To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,
Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:
Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

The glorious company of apostles praise you.
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.

Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you:
Father, of majesty unbounded,
your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,
and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

You, Christ, are the King of glory,
the eternal Son of the Father.

When you became man to set us free
you did not spurn the Virgin's womb.

You overcame the sting of death,
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

You are seated at God's right hand in glory.
We believe that you will come, and be our judge.

Come then, Lord, and help your people,
bought with the price of your own blood,

and bring us with your saints
to glory everlasting.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Father,
each year we recall the dedication of this church to your service.
Let our worship always be sincere
and help us to find your saving love in this church.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

— Amen.

Acclamation

Let us praise the Lord.

— And give him thanks.

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