

Liturgy of the Hours
LITURGY OF THE HOURS

OFFICE OF READINGS

Seasons of Advent and Christmas

{ 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. Alleluia.

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 wórtlless 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 *
chérished by the Lórd.
The Lórd prefers the gátes of Zíon *
to áll Jacob's dwéllings.
Of yóu are told glórious thínings, *
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 book of Revelation of the apostle John

21:9-27

Vision of the Heavenly Jerusalem

One of the seven angels who held the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the woman who is the bride of the Lamb.”

He carried me away in spirit to the top of a very high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. It gleamed with the splendor of God. The city had the radiance of a precious jewel that sparkled like a diamond. Its wall, massive and high, had twelve gates at which twelve angels were stationed. Twelve names were written on the gates, the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. There were three gates facing east, three north, three south, and three west. The wall of the city had twelve courses of stones as its foundation, on which were written the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

The one who spoke to me held a rod of gold for measuring the city, its gates, and its wall. The city is perfectly square, its length and its width being the same. He measured the city with the rod and found it twelve thousand furlongs in length, in width, and in height.

Its wall measured a hundred and forty-four cubits in height by the unit of measurement the angel used. The wall was constructed of jasper; the city was of pure gold, crystal-clear.

The foundation of the city wall was ornate with precious stones of every sort: the first course of stones was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh hyacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.

The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each made of a single pearl; and

the streets of the city were of pure gold, transparent as glass.

I saw no temple in the city. The Lord, God the Almighty, is its temple—he and the Lamb. The city had no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God gave it light, and its lamp was the Lamb. The nations shall walk by its light; to it the kings of the earth shall bring their treasures. During the day its gates shall never be shut, and there shall be no night.

The treasures and wealth of the nations shall be brought there, but nothing profane shall enter it, nor anyone who is a liar or has done a detestable act. Only those shall enter whose names are inscribed in the book of the living kept by the Lamb.

Responsory

See Revelation 21:21; Tobit 13:21, 22, 13

Your streets of gold, Jerusalem, will ring with happy song,

— throughout your length and breadth one great cry from the lips of all: Alleluia.

You will shine in splendor like the sun; all men on earth will pay you homage.

— Throughout your length and breadth one great cry from the lips of all: Alleluia.

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 acclaims 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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