*Liturgy of the Hours*

# Liturgy of the Hours

## Daytime Prayer

December 26, 2026

{ Feast – Stephen, First Martyr }

Liturgy of the Hours
EBREVIARY

*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 mighty Ruler, God of truth,
for days and seasons setting bounds,
you clothe with splendor morning light
and midday skies with brilliant heat.

Extinguish flames of bitter strife,
all harmful passion take away,
grant health unto our mortal frame,
and on our hearts bestow true peace.

Most loving Father, hear our prayer,
and you, O Christ coequal Son,
who with the Spirit Paraclete
now reign for all eternity. Amen.

*Metrical hymn, melody: A la venue de Noël, 8 8 8 8; Fleurs des noëls, Lyons, 1535*

*Plainsong, mode II, melody 46; Liber Hymnarius, Solesmes, 1983, Text: Rector potens, verax Deus, unknown author, very ancient; traditionally attributed to St. Ambrose, 340–397*

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*Sit or stand*

## Psalmody

*Antiphon*

Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

*Psalm 119:169-176*

*XXII (Tau)*

Lórd, let my crý come befóre you: *
téach me by your wórd.
Let my pléading cóme befóre you; *
sáve me by your prómise.

Let my líps procláim your práise *
because you téach me your commánds.
Let my tóngue síng your prómise *
for your commánds are júst.

Let your hánd be réady to hélp me, *
since I have chósen your précepts.
Lord, I lóng for your sáving hélp *
and your láw is my delíght.

Give lífe to my sóul that I may práise you. *
Let your decrées give me hélp.
I am lóst like a shéep; seek your sérvant *
for I remémber your commánds.

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.

*Psalm 45*

*The marriage of the king*

*The Bridegroom is here; go out and welcome him (Matthew 25:6).*

*I*

My héart overflóws with nóble wórds. †
To the kíng I must spéak the sóng I have máde; *

my tóngue as nímble as the pén of a scríbe.

Yóu are the fáirest of the chíldren of mén †
and gráciousness is póured upón your líps: *
because Gód has bléssed you for évermóre.

O míghty one, gírd your swórd upon your thígh; †
in spléndor and státe, ríde on in tríumph *
for the cáuse of trúth and góodness and ríght.

Take áim with your bów in your dréad right hánd. †
Your árrows are shárp: péoples fall benéath you. *
The fóes of the kíng fall dówn and lose héart.

Your thróne, O Gód, shall endúre for éver. †
A scépter of jústice is the scépter of your kíngdom. *
Your lóve is for jústice; your hátred for évil.

Therefore Gód, your Gód, has anóinted yóu †
with the óil of gládness abóve other kíngs: *
your róbes are frágrant with áloes and mýrrh.

From the ívory pálace you are gréeted with músic. †
The dáughters of kíngs are amóng your lóved ones. *
On your ríght stands the quéen in góld of Óphir.

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.

*II*

Lísten, O dáughter, give éar to my wórds: *
forgét your own péople and your fáther's hóuse.
Só will the kíng desíre your béauty: *
hé is your lórd, pay hómage to hím.

And the péople of Týre shall cóme with gífts, *
the ríchest of the péople shall séek your fávor.
The dáughter of the kíng is clóthed with spléndor, *
her róbes embróidered with péarls set in góld.

She is léd to the kíng with her maíden compánions. †

Théy are escórted amid gládness and jóy; *
they páss withín the pálace of the kíng.

Sóns shall be yóurs in pláce of your fáthers: *
you will máke them prínces over áll the éarth.
May this sóng make your náme for éver remémbered. *
May the péoples práise you from áge to áge.

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*

Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

*Sit*

## Reading

*James 1:12*

Happy the man who holds out to the end through trial! Once he has been proved, he will receive the crown of life the Lord has promised to those who love him.

*Verse*

I have put my hope in God.

— I have no fear of man.

*Stand*

## Concluding Prayer

Let us pray.

Lord,
today we celebrate the entrance of Saint Stephen
into eternal glory.
He died praying for those who killed him.
Help us to imitate his goodness
and to love our enemies.

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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