

*Liturgy of the Hours*  
LITURGY OF THE HOURS

OFFICE OF READINGS

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August 24, 2026

{ Feast – Bartholomew, Apostle }



*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 Princes of the King of kings  
and first among the eternal court,  
whom Jesus Christ once taught and gave  
as his Apostles to the world,

You brightly gleam as sparkling gems,  
the beautiful foundation stones  
of heavenly Jerusalem,  
whose lamp and glory is the Lamb.

And now the Church, the Bride of Christ,  
with glad rejoicing sings your praise,  
for you have roused her by your word  
and sanctified her by your blood.

When all the ages fade away  
and our Redeemer sits as judge,  
then you will take your seats with praise,  
the glorious council throned on high.

So may your prayers bring constant aid  
and strengthen us in our resolve,  
that seeds which you have sown on earth  
be heaven's grain at harvest time.

To Christ be glory evermore,  
who filled you with the Spirit's pow'r  
and made you heralds to announce  
the loving Father, God most high. Amen.

*Metrical hymn, melody: ST VENANTIUS, 8 8 8 8; Rouen church melody, 1728*

*Plainsong, mode III, melody 54; Liber Hymnarius, Solesmes, 1983\*, Text: O  
sempiternæ curiæ, Anselmo Lentini, O.S.B., 1901-1989*

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*Sit or stand*

## PSALMODY

### *Antiphon 1*

Their voice has gone out to the limits of the earth, their words to  
the ends of the world.

### *Psalm 19A*

#### *Praise of the Lord, Creator of all*

*The dawn from on high shall break on us . . . to guide our feet into the way of peace  
(Luke 1:78, 79).*

The héavens procláim the glóry of Gód \*  
and the firmament shows fórth the wórk of his hánds.

Dáy unto dáy tákes up the stóry \*  
and níght unto níght makes knówn the méssage.

No spéech, no wórd, no vóice is héard †  
yet their spán exténds through áll the éarth, \*  
their wórds to the útmost bóunds of the wórld.

Thére he has pláced a tént for the sún; †  
it comes fórth like a brídegroom cóming from his tént, \*  
rejóices like a chámption to rún its cóurse.

At the énd of the ský is the rísing of the sún; †  
to the fúrthest énd of the ský is its cóurse. \*  
There is nóthing concéaled from its búrning héat.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, \*  
and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginnig, is now, \*

and will be for ever. Amen.

*Antiphon*

Their voice has gone out to the limits of the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

*Antiphon 2*

They proclaimed what God has done for us; they grasped the meaning of his deeds.

*Psalm 64*

*Prayer for help against enemies*

*This psalm commemorates most particularly our Lord's passion (Saint Augustine).*

Hear my voice, O Gód, as I compláin, \*  
guard my life from dréad of the fóe.  
Híde me from the bánd of the wícked, \*  
from the thróng of thóse who do évil.

They shárpen their tóngues like swórd; \*  
they áim bitter wórd; like árróws  
to shóot at the ínnocent from ámbush, \*  
shóoting súddenly and récklessly.

They schéme their évil cóurse; \*  
they conspíre to lay sécret snáres.  
They sáy: "Whó will sée us? \*  
Whó can séarch out our crímes?"

He will séarch who séarches the mínd \*  
and knóws the dépth of the héart.  
Gód has shót them with his árrów \*  
and déalt them súdden wóunds.  
Their ówn tongue has bróught them to rúin \*  
and áll who sée them móck.

Thén will áll men féar; †  
they will téll what Gód has dóne. \*  
They will únderstánd God's déeds.  
The júst will rejóice in the Lórd †  
and flý to hím for réfuge. \*

All the úpright héarts will 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*

They proclaimed what God has done for us; they grasped the meaning of his deeds.

*Antiphon 3*

God's holiness was revealed by them; all nations saw God's glory.

*Psalms 97*

*The glory of the Lord in his decrees for the world*

*This psalm foretells a world-wide salvation and that peoples of all nations will believe in Christ (St. Athanasius).*

The Lord is kíng, let éarth rejóice, \*  
let áll the cóastlands be glád.  
Clóud and dárkness are his ráiment; \*  
his thróne, jústice and ríght.

A fire prepáres his páth; \*  
it búrns up his fóes on every síde.  
His líghtnings líght up the wórld, \*  
the éarth trémbles at the síght.

The móuntains mélt like wáx \*  
before the Lórd of áll the éarth.  
The skíes procláim his jústice; \*  
all péoples sée his glóry.

Let thóse who serve ídols be ashámed, †  
those who bóast of their wóρθless góds. \*  
All you spírits, wórship hím.

Zíon héars and is glád; †  
the péople of Júdah rejóice \*  
becáuse of your júdgments, O Lórd.

For yóu indéed are the Lórd, †

most high above áll the éarth, \*  
exálted far abóve all spírits.

The Lórd loves thóse who hate évil: †  
he gúards the sóuls of his sáints; \*  
he sêts them frée from the wícked.

Líght shines fóρθ for the júst \*  
and jóy for the úpright of héart.  
Rejóice, you júst, in the Lórd; \*  
give glóry to his hólý náme.

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*

God's holiness was revealed by them; all nations saw God's glory.

### VERSE

They proclaimed the Lord's praises, told of his power to save.

— And of the wonders he had worked.

### *Sit*

### READINGS

#### *First reading*

From the first letter of the apostle Paul to the Corinthians

*4:1-16*

*Let us imitate the Apostle just as he imitates Christ*

Men should regard us as servants of Christ and administrators of the mysteries of God. The first requirement of an administrator is that he prove trustworthy. It matters little to me whether you or any human court pass judgment on me. I do not even pass judgment on myself. Mind you, I have nothing on my conscience. But that does not mean that I am declaring myself innocent. The Lord is the one to judge me, so stop passing judgment before the time of his return. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness

and manifest the intentions of hearts. At that time, everyone will receive his praise from God.

Brothers, I have applied all this to myself and Apollos by way of example for your benefit. May you learn from us not to go beyond what is set down, so that none of you will grow self-important by reason of his association with one person rather than another. Who confers any distinction on you? Name something you have that you have not received. If, then, you have received it, why are you boasting as if it were your own? At the moment you are completely satisfied. You have grown rich! You have launched upon your reign with no help from us. Would that you had really begun to reign, that we might be reigning with you!

As I see it, God has put us apostles at the end of the line, like men doomed to die in the arena. We have become a spectacle to the universe, to angels and men alike. We are fools on Christ's account. Ah, but in Christ you are wise! We are the weak ones, you the strong! They honor you, while they sneer at us! Up to this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, poorly clad, roughly treated, wandering about homeless. We work hard at manual labor. When we are insulted we respond with a blessing. Persecution comes our way; we bear it patiently. We are slandered, and we try conciliation. We have become the world's refuse, the scum of all; that is the present state of affairs.

I am writing you in this way not to shame you but to admonish you as my beloved children. Granted you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you have only one father. It was I who begot you in Christ Jesus through my preaching of the gospel. I beg you, then, be imitators of me.

*Responsory*

*John 15:15; Matthew 13:11, 16*

I no longer call you servants, but my friends,

— for I have shared with you everything I have heard from my Father.

The mysteries of the kingdom of heaven have been revealed to you;

blessed are your eyes because they see and your ears because they hear.

— For I have shared with you everything I have heard from my Father.

*Second reading*

From a homily on the first letter to the Corinthians by Saint John Chrysostom, bishop

*(Hom. 4, 3, 4: PG 61, 34-36)*

*The weakness of God is stronger than men*

It was clear through unlearned men that the cross was persuasive, in fact, it persuaded the whole world. Their discourse was not of unimportant matters but of God and true religion, of the Gospel way of life and future judgment, yet it turned plain, uneducated men into philosophers. How the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and his weakness stronger than men!

In what way is it stronger? It made its way throughout the world and overcame all men; countless men sought to eradicate the very name of the Crucified, but that name flourished and grew ever mightier. Its enemies lost out and perished; the living who waged a war on a dead man proved helpless. Therefore, when a Greek tells me I am dead, he shows only that he is foolish indeed, for I, whom he thinks a fool, turn out to be wiser than those reputed wise. So too, in calling me weak, he but shows that he is weaker still. For the good deeds which tax-collectors and fishermen were able to accomplish by God's grace, the philosophers, the rulers, the countless multitudes cannot even imagine.

Paul had this in mind when he said: *The weakness of God is stronger than men.* That the preaching of these men was indeed divine is brought home to us in the same way. For how otherwise could twelve uneducated men, who lived on lakes and rivers and wastelands, get the idea for such an immense enterprise? How could men who perhaps had never been in a city or a public square think of setting out to do battle with the whole world? That they were fearful, timid men, the evangelist makes clear; he did not reject the fact or try to hide their weaknesses. Indeed he turned these into

a proof of the truth. What did he say of them? That when Christ was arrested, the others fled, despite all the miracles they had seen, while he who was leader of the others denied him!

How then account for the fact that these men, who in Christ's lifetime did not stand up to the attacks by the Jews, set forth to do battle with the whole world once Christ was dead—if, as you claim, Christ did not rise and speak to them and rouse their courage? Did they perhaps say to themselves: "What is this? He could not save himself but he will protect us? He did not help himself when he was alive, but now that he is dead he will extend a helping hand to us? In his lifetime he brought no nation under his banner, but by uttering his name we will win over the whole world?" Would it not be wholly irrational even to think such thoughts, much less to act upon them?

It is evident, then, that if they had not seen him risen and had proof of his power, they would not have risked so much.

*Responsory*

*1 Corinthians 1:23-24; 2 Corinthians 4:8; Romans 8:37*

We preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and an absurdity to Gentiles, but to those who have heard his call,

— Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God.

We are afflicted in every way possible, but in all of these trials the victory is ours, because of Christ who loves us.

— Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God.

*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.

Lord,

sustain within us the faith

which made Saint Bartholomew ever loyal to Christ.

Let your Church be the sign of salvation

for all the nations of the world.

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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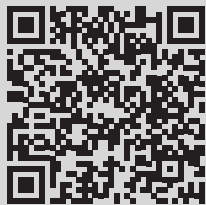
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