

Liturgy of the Hours
LITURGY OF THE HOURS

OFFICE OF READINGS

September 29, 2026

{ Feast – Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels }



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

We honor you with hymns of praise,
O great Archangels, on this feast,
whose glorious light in vast array
reveals your rank in heaven's court.

O Michael, Prince of heaven's host,
whose flashing sword no foe can foil,
by your right hand give strength and pow'r,
that grace from God may do its work.

O Gabriel, whom God once chose
to herald myst'ries from on high,
help us to love and choose the paths
that ever shine with holy light.

O Raphael, draw near to us
and all who seek their heav'nly home;
drive from the body all disease
and bring true health to mind and soul.

And you, O dazzling angel hosts,
draw near and bring your heav'nly aid,
that we may find eternal joy
and blessing in your company.

All honor to the most high God,
the Father, Son, and Paraclete,
whom angel choirs with one accord
extol in song for evermore. Amen.

Metrical hymn, melody: St Venantius, 8 8 8 8; Rouen church melody, 1728

Plainsong, mode III, melody 60; Liber Hymnarius, Solesmes, 1983, Text: Festiva vos, archangeli, Anselmo Lentini, O.S.B., 1901–1989*

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Sit or stand

PSALMODY

Antiphon 1

The sea grew turbulent and the earth trembled when Michael the archangel came down from heaven.

Psalm 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 rejoyce, *
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 wóorthless 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 hígh 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

The sea grew turbulent and the earth trembled when Michael the archangel came down from heaven.

Antiphon 2

The angel Gabriel appeared to Zechariah and said: Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall name him John.

Psalm 103

Praise for God's tender compassion

In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us (see Luke 1:78).

I

My sóul, give thánks to the Lórd, *
all my béing, bléss his holy náme.
My sóul, give thánks to the Lórd *
and néver forgét all his bléssings.

It is hé who forgíves all your guílt, *
who héals every óne of your ílls,

who redéems your life from the gráve, *
who crówns you with lóve and compásson,
who fills your life with good thínghs, *
renéwing your yóuth like an éagle's.

The Lórd does déeds of jústice, *
gives júdgmént for áll who are oppréssed.
He made knówn his wáys to Móses *
and his déeds to Ísrael's sóns.

The Lórd is compásson and lóve, *
slow to ánger and rích in mércy.
His wráth will cóme to an énd; *
he will nót be ángry for éver.
He does not tréat us accórding to our síns *
nor repáy us accórding to our fáults.

For as the héavens are hích above the éarth *
so stróng is his lóve for those who féar him.
As fár as the éast is from the wést *
so fár does he remóve our síns.

As a fátther has compásson on his sóns, *
the Lord has pity on those who fear him.

Glory to the Fátther, and to the Son, *
and to the Holy Spírit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, *
and will be for éver. Amen.

Antiphon

The ángel Gabríel áppeared to Zecharíah and said: Your wífe
Elizábeth will béar you a són, and you sháll náme him John.

Antiphon 3

I am the ángel Raphaél, I stánd in the présence of the Lórd; as for
you, bless the Lórd, and próclaim his wonderfúl déeds.

II

For he knóws of what we are máde, *
he remémbers that we are dúst.

As for mán, his dáy is like gráss; *
he flówers like the flówer of the field;
the wind blóws and hé is góne *
and his pláce never sées him agáin.

But the lóve of the Lórd is everlásting *
upon thóse who hólđ him in féar;
his jústice reaches óut to children's children †
when they kéepe his cóvenant in trúth, *
when they kéepe his wíll in their mínd.

The Lórd has set his swáy in héaven *
and his kíngdom is rúling over áll.
Give thánks to the Lórd, all his ángels, †
mighty in pówer, fulfilling his wórd, *
who héed the vóice of his wórd.

Give thánks to the Lórd, all his hóst, *
his sérvants who dó his wíll.
Give thánks to the Lórd, all his wórks, †
in évery pláce where he rúles. *
My sóul, give thánks to the Lórd!

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

I am the angel Raphael, I stand in the presence of the Lord; as for
you, bless the Lord, and proclaim his wonderful deeds.

VERSE

Bless the Lord, all his angels.

— Mighty in power and obedient to his word.

READINGS

First reading

From the book of Revelation

12:1–17a

Michael's battle with the dragon

A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. Because she was with child, she wailed aloud in pain as she labored to give birth. Then another sign appeared in the sky: it was a huge dragon, flaming red, with seven heads and ten horns; on his heads were seven diadems. His tail swept a third of the stars from the sky and hurled them down to the earth.

Then the dragon stood before the woman about to give birth, ready to devour her child when it should be born. She gave birth to a son—a boy destined to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod. Her child was caught up to God and to his throne. The woman herself fled into the desert, where a special place had been prepared for her by God; there she was taken care of for twelve hundred and sixty days.

Then war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels battled against the dragon. Although the dragon and his angels fought back, they were overpowered and lost their place in heaven. The huge dragon, the ancient serpent known as the devil or Satan, the seducer of the whole world, was driven out; he was hurled down to earth and his minions with him.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:

“Now have salvation and power come,
the reign of our God and the authority of his Anointed One.
For the accuser of our brothers is cast out,
who night and day accused them before our God.
They defeated him by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony;
love for life did not deter them from death.

So rejoice, you heavens,
and you that dwell therein!
But woe to you, earth and sea,
for the devil has come down upon you!
His fury knows no limits,
for he knows his time is short.”

When the dragon saw that he had been cast down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the boy. But the woman was given the wings of a gigantic eagle so that she could fly off to her place in the desert, where, far from the serpent, she could be taken care of for a year and for two and a half years more. The serpent, however, spewed a torrent of water out of his mouth to search out the woman and sweep her away. The earth then came to the woman’s rescue by opening its mouth and swallowing the flood which the dragon spewed out of his mouth.

Enraged at her escape, the dragon went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep God’s commandments and give witness to Jesus.

Responsory

See Revelation 12:7, 10; 19:1

There was silence in heaven when the dragon fought with Michael the archangel.

- Then I heard a loud voice crying out: Salvation, glory and power belong to the almighty God.

Now salvation and power have come; the reign of our God and the authority of Christ are at hand.

- Then I heard a loud voice crying out: Salvation, glory and power belong to the almighty God.

Second reading

From a homily on the Gospels by Saint Gregory the Great, pope

(Hom. 34, 8-9: PL 76, 1250-1251)

The word “angel” denotes a function rather than a nature

You should be aware that the word “angel” denotes a function

rather than a nature. Those holy spirits of heaven have indeed always been spirits. They can only be called angels when they deliver some message. Moreover, those who deliver messages of lesser importance are called angels; and those who proclaim messages of supreme importance are called archangels.

And so it was that not merely an angel but the archangel Gabriel was sent to the Virgin Mary. It was only fitting that the highest angel should come to announce the greatest of all messages.

Some angels are given proper names to denote the service they are empowered to perform. In that holy city, where perfect knowledge flows from the vision of almighty God, those who have no names may easily be known. But personal names are assigned to some, not because they could not be known without them, but rather to denote their ministry when they came among us. Thus, Michael means “Who is like God”; Gabriel is “The Strength of God”; and Raphael is “God’s Remedy.”

Whenever some act of wondrous power must be performed, Michael is sent, so that his action and his name may make it clear that no one can do what God does by his superior power. So also our ancient foe desired in his pride to be like God, saying: *I will ascend into heaven; I will exalt my throne above the stars of heaven; I will be like the Most High*. He will be allowed to remain in power until the end of the world when he will be destroyed in the final punishment. Then, he will fight with the archangel Michael, as we are told by John: *A battle was fought with Michael the archangel*.

So too Gabriel, who is called God’s strength, was sent to Mary. He came to announce the One who appeared as a humble man to quell the cosmic powers. Thus God’s strength announced the coming of the Lord of the heavenly powers, mighty in battle.

Raphael means, as I have said, God’s remedy, for when he touched Tobit’s eyes in order to cure him, he banished the darkness of his blindness. Thus, since he is to heal, he is rightly called God’s remedy.

Responsory

See Revelation 8:3, 4; Daniel 7:10

An angel stood by the altar, holding a golden censer; a large quantity of incense was given to him,

— and clouds of incense rose from the hand of the angel in the presence of the Lord.

Thousands upon thousands waited on him, and myriads upon myriads stood before him.

— And clouds of incense rose from the hand of the angel in the presence of the 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.

God our Father,

in a wonderful way you guide the work of angels and men.

May those who serve you constantly in heaven

keep our lives safe from all harm on earth.

Grant 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.

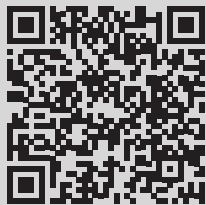
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