Liturgy of the Hours

Liturgy of the Hours

Office of Readings

December 20, 2026

{ Fourth Sunday in Advent }

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

Redeemer of the nations, come;
reveal yourself by virgin birth.
Let ev'ry age with wonder know
that such a birth befits our God.

Conceived not from the seed of man
but by the Spirit's wondrous breath,
the Word of God is now made flesh,
as Mary's womb brings forth its fruit.

The Virgin's womb grows great with child,
this cloister is for ever pure;
the banners of her virtues gleam,
for in this temple God resides.

From bridal chamber let him come,
from royal Virgin, palace chaste,
with twofold nature God and man,
a champion swift to run his course.

The_eternal Father's Equal, come,
bind on the trophy of our flesh,
and strengthen with your lasting pow'r
the weakness of our mortal frame.

Your manger now with splendor shines
and night breathes forth new radiant light,
which no night may corrupt or dim:
so let it shine through constant faith.

To you, O Christ, most loving King,

and to the Father, glory be,
one with the Spirit Paraclete,
from age to age for evermore. Amen.

Metrical hymn, melody: Breslau, 8 8 8 8; first appeared in As Hymnodus Sacer, Leipzig, 1625, adapted by Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, 1809–1847

Plainsong, mode II, melody 46; Liber Hymnarius, Solesmes, 1983; Text: Veni, redemptor gentium, St. Ambrose, 340–397

The English translation of Hymns and chants from The Liturgy of the Hours © 2023 International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation (ICEL).

Reproduced from The Divine Office Hymnal (hymns #19/20). Copyright © 2023 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC (USCCB). Published and distributed exclusively by GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL. To acquire the Pew Edition or Accompaniment Edition of the hymnal with metrical hymn tunes and plainsong melodies, visit www.giamusic.com.

Sit or stand

Psalmody

Antiphon 1

This is our heavenly King, he comes with power and might to save the nations, alleluia.

Psalm 24

The Lord's entry into his temple

Christ opened heaven for us in the manhood he assumed (St. 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 fírm.

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 wórthless thíngs, *
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

This is our heavenly King, he comes with power and might to save the nations, alleluia.

Antiphon 2

Daughter of Jerusalem, rejoice and be glad; your King will come to you. Zion, do not fear; your Savior hastens on his way.

Psalm 66

Eucharistic hymn

The Lord is risen and all people have been brought by him to the Father (Hesychius).

I

Cry out with jóy to Gód, all the éarth, *
O síng to the glóry of his náme.
O rénder him glórious práise. *
Say to Gód: "How treméndous your déeds!

Becáuse of the gréatness of your stréngth *

your énemies crínge befóre you.
Befóre you all the éarth shall bów; *
shall síng to you, síng to your náme!"

Come and sée the wórks of Gód, *
treméndous his déeds among mén.
He túrned the séa into dry lánd, *
they pássed through the ríver dry-shód.

Let our jóy then bé in hím; *
he rúles for éver by his míght.
His éyes keep wátch over the nátions; *
let rébels not ríse agáinst him.

O péoples, bléss our Gód, *
let the vóice of his práise resóund,
of the Gód who gave lífe to our sóuls *
and képt our féet from stúmbling.

For yóu, O Gód, have tésted us, *
you have tríed us as sílver is tríed:
you léd us, Gód, into the snáre; *
you láid a heavy búrden on our bácks.

You lét men ríde over our héads; †
we wént through fíre and through wáter *
but thén you bróught us relíef.

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

Daughter of Jerusalem, rejoice and be glad; your King will come to you. Zion, do not fear; your Savior hastens on his way.

Antiphon 3

Let us cleanse our hearts for the coming of our great King, that we may be ready to welcome him; he is coming and will not delay.

II

Burnt óffering I bríng to your hóuse; *
to yóu I will páy my vóws,
the vóws which my líps have úttered, *
which my móuth spóke in my distréss.

I will óffer burnt ófferings of fátlings †
with the smóke of búrning ráms.*
I will óffer búllocks and góats.

Come and héar, áll who fear Gód. *
I will téll what he díd for my sóul:
to hím I críed alóud, *
with high práise réady on my tóngue.

If there had béen évil in my héart, *
the Lórd would nót have lístened.
But trúly Gód has lístened; *
he has héeded the vóice of my práyer.

Blessed be Gód who did nót reject my práyer *
nor withhóld his lóve from mé.

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

Let us cleanse our hearts for the coming of our great King, that we may be ready to welcome him; he is coming and will not delay.

VERSE

A voice is heard, crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

— Make straight the path of our God.

Sit

Readings

First reading

From the book of the prophet Isaiah

48:1-11

God alone is Lord of the future

Hear this, O house of Jacob
  called by the name Israel,
  sprung from the stock of Judah,
You who swear by the name of the Lord
  and invoke the God of Israel
  without sincerity or justice,
Though you are named after the holy city
  and rely on the God of Israel,
  whose name is the Lord of hosts.

Things of the past I foretold long ago,
  they went forth from my mouth, I let you hear of them;
Because I know that you are stubborn
  and that your neck is an iron sinew
  and your forehead bronze,
I foretold them to you of old;
  before they took place I let you hear of them,
That you might not say, "My idol did them,
  my statue, my molten image commanded them."
Now that you have heard, look at all this;
  must you not admit it?

From now on I announce new things to you,
  hidden events of which you knew not.
Now, not long ago, they are brought into being,
  and beforetime you did not hear of them,
  so that you cannot claim to have known them;
You neither heard nor knew,
  they did not reach your ears beforehand.
Yes, I know you are utterly treacherous,
  a rebel you were called from birth.

For the sake of my name I restrain my anger,
for the sake of my renown I hold it back from you,
lest I should destroy you.
See, I have refined you like silver,
tested you in the furnace of affliction.
For my sake, for my own sake, I do this;
why should I suffer profanation?
My glory I will not give to another.

Responsory

Isaiah 48:10, 11; 54:8

I have tried you in the furnace of distress. For me, for my own sake, I do this, that I be not blasphemed.

— I will not give my glory to another.

In a moment of indignation I hid my face from you for a little while, then suddenly I took action and they came to be; but in my everlasting mercy I had compassion on you.

— I will not give my glory to another.

Second reading

From a homily In Praise of the Virgin Mother by Saint Bernard, abbot

(Hom. 4, 8-9: Opera omnia, Edit. Cisterc. 4 [1966], 53-54)

The whole world awaits Mary's reply

You have heard, O Virgin, that you will conceive and bear a son; you have heard that it will not be by man but by the Holy Spirit. The angel awaits an answer; it is time for him to return to God who sent him. We too are waiting, O Lady, for your word of compassion; the sentence of condemnation weighs heavily upon us.

The price of our salvation is offered to you. We shall be set free at once if you consent. In the eternal Word of God we all came to be, and behold, we die. In your brief response we are to be remade in order to be recalled to life.

Tearful Adam with his sorrowing family begs this of you, O loving Virgin, in their exile from Paradise. Abraham begs it, David begs it.

All the other holy patriarchs, your ancestors, ask it of you, as they dwell in the country of the shadow of death. This is what the whole earth waits for, prostrate at your feet. It is right in doing so, for on your word depends comfort for the wretched, ransom for the captive, freedom for the condemned, indeed, salvation for all the sons of Adam, the whole of your race.

Answer quickly, O Virgin. Reply in haste to the angel, or rather through the angel to the Lord. Answer with a word, receive the Word of God. Speak your own word, conceive the divine Word. Breathe a passing word, embrace the eternal Word.

Why do you delay, why are you afraid? Believe, give praise, and receive. Let humility be bold, let modesty be confident. This is no time for virginal simplicity to forget prudence. In this matter alone, O prudent Virgin, do not fear to be presumptuous. Though modest silence is pleasing, dutiful speech is now more necessary. Open your heart to faith, O blessed Virgin, your lips to praise, your womb to the Creator. See, the desired of all nations is at your door, knocking to enter. If he should pass by because of your delay, in sorrow you would begin to seek him afresh, the One whom your soul loves. Arise, hasten, open. Arise in faith, hasten in devotion, open in praise and thanksgiving. *Behold the handmaid of the Lord,* she says, *be it done to me according to your word.*

Responsory

See Luke 1:31, 42

Receive, O Virgin Mary, the word which the Lord has made known to you by the message of the angel: You will conceive and give birth to a son, both God and man,

— and you will be called blessed among women.

A virgin, you will indeed bear a son; ever chaste and holy, you will be the mother of our Savior.

— And you will be called blessed among women.

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,

fill our hearts with your love,
and as you revealed to us by an angel
the coming of your Son as man,
so lead us through his suffering and death
to the glory of his resurrection,
for he 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.

The English translation of Antiphons, Invitatories, Responsories, Intercessions, Psalm 95, the Canticle of the Lamb, Psalm Prayers, Non-Biblical Readings, Hagiographical Introductions from *The Liturgy of the Hours* © 1973, 1974, 1975, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation (ICEL); excerpts from the English translation of *The Roman Missal* © 2010, ICEL; the English translation of Hymns from *The Liturgy of the Hours* © 2023. All rights reserved.

English translation of *Gloria Patri, Te Deum Laudamus, Benedictus, Magnificat,* and *Nunc Dimittis* by the International Consultation on English Texts.

Readings and New Testament Canticles (except the Magnificat) from the *New American Bible* Copyright © 1970 by the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, D.C. Used with permission. All Rights Reserved. No part of the *New American Bible* may be reproduced in any form without permission in writing from the copyright owner.

Psalm texts except Psalm 95 Copyright © 1963, The Grail (England). Used with permission of A.P. Watt Ltd. All rights reserved.

Arrangement Copyright © 2006 by eBreviary, New York.



mobile prayers



United States of America
www.ebreviary.com