Liturgy of the Hours

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Morning Prayer

December 20, 2026

{ Fourth Sunday in Advent }



Invitatory

Stand and make sign of cross on lips with thumb

Lord, open my lips.

— And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

Psalm 95

A call to praise God

Encourage each other daily while it is still today (Hebrews 3:13).

The Lord is close at hand; come, let us worship him.

— The Lord is close at hand; come, let us worship him.

Come, let us sing to the Lord
and shout with joy to the Rock who saves us.
Let us approach him with praise and thanksgiving
and sing joyful songs to the Lord.

— The Lord is close at hand; come, let us worship him.

The Lord is God, the mighty God,
the great king over all the gods.
He holds in his hands the depths of the earth
and the highest mountains as well.
He made the sea; it belongs to him,
the dry land, too, for it was formed by his hands.

— The Lord is close at hand; come, let us worship him.

Come, then, let us bow down and worship,
bending the knee before the Lord, our maker.
For he is our God and we are his people,
the flock he shepherds.

— The Lord is close at hand; come, let us worship him.

Today, listen to the voice of the Lord:
Do not grow stubborn, as your fathers did
in the wilderness,
when at Meriba and Massah
they challenged me and provoked me,

Although they had seen all of my works.

— The Lord is close at hand; come, let us worship him.

Forty years I endured that generation.
I said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray
and they do not know my ways."
So I swore in my anger,
"They shall not enter into my rest."

— The Lord is close at hand; come, let us worship him.

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.

— The Lord is close at hand; come, let us worship him.

Morning Prayer

Hymn

With mighty voice the prophets cry
that Christ the Lord is drawing near;
rejoicing, they foresee the grace
by which he saves us and redeems.

And so our morning sun shines forth,
our hearts ablaze with radiant joy;
we hear the faithful voice resound,
precursor of God's glorious gift.

At that first Advent Christ our God
came forth not to condemn the world,
but came to cleanse our gaping wound,
to seek and save what had been lost.

Christ's Second Coming warns us all
that he is standing at the gates
to give to saints their glorious crowns
and open wide the heav'nly realm.

Eternal light is now foretold,

the saving star is shining forth,
its radiant splendor summons us
and calls us to the heav'nly court.

Christ Jesus, you alone we seek
to see you face to face as God;
may this unending vision be
an everlasting hymn of praise. Amen.

Metrical hymn, melody: Winchester New, 8 8 8 8; adapted from a chorale in Musicalisches Hand-Buch, Hamburg, 1690

Plainsong, mode D, melody 127; Liber Hymnarius, Solesmes, 1983, Text: Magnis prophetæ vocibus, unknown author*

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Sit or stand

Psalmody

Antiphon 1

Sound the trumpet in Zion; the day of the Lord is near; he comes to save us, alleluia.

Psalm 118

Song of joy for salvation

This Jesus is the stone which, rejected by you builders, has become the chief stone supporting all the rest (Acts 4:11).

Give thánks to the Lórd for he is góod, *
for his lóve endures for éver.

Let the sóns of Ísrael sáy: *
"His lóve endures for éver."
Let the sóns of Áaron sáy: *
"His lóve endures for éver."
Let thóse who fear the Lórd sáy: *

“His lóve endures for éver.”

I cálled to the Lórd in my distréss; *
he ánswered and fréed me.
The Lórd is at my síde; I do not féar. *
What can mán do agáinst me?
The Lórd is at my síde as my hélper: *
I shall look dówn on my fóes.

It is bétter to take réfuge in the Lórd *
than to trúst in mén:
it is bétter to take réfuge in the Lórd *
than to trúst in prínces.

The nátions áll encómpassed me; *
in the Lórd’s name I crúshed them.
They cómpassed me, cómpassed me abóut; †
in the Lórd’s name I crúshed them. *
They cómpassed me abóut like bées;
they blázed like a fíre among thórns. *
In the Lórd’s name I crúshed them.

I was hárd-préssed and was fálling *
but the Lórd came to hélp me.
The Lórd is my stréngth and my sóng; *
hé is my sávior.
There are shóuts of jóy and víctory *
in the ténts of the júst.

The Lórd’s right hánd has tríumphed; *
his right hand ráised me.
The Lórd’s right hánd has tríumphed; †
I shall not díe, I shall líve *
and recóunt his déeds.
I was púnished, I was púnished by the Lórd, *
but nót doomed to díe.

Ópen to mé the gates of hóliness: *
I will énter and give thánks.
Thís is the Lórd’s own gáte *
where the júst may énter.

I will thánk you for yóu have ánswered *
and yóu are my sávior.

The stóne which the buílders rejécted *
has becóme the córner stone.
Thís is the wórk of the Lórd, *
a márvel in our éyes.
Thís day was máde by the Lórd; *
we rejóice and are glád.

O Lórd, gránt us salvátion; *
O Lórd, grant succéss.
Bléssed in the náme of the Lórd *
is hé who cómes.
We bléss you from the hóuse of the Lórd; *
the Lord Gód is our líght.

Go fórward in procéssion with bránches *
éven to the áltar.
Yóu are my Gód, I thánk you. *
My Gód, I práise you.
Give thánks to the Lórd for he is góod; *
for his lóve endures for éver.

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

Sound the trumpet in Zion; the day of the Lord is near; he comes to save us, alleluia.

Antiphon 2

The Lord is here; go out to meet him, saying: Great his birth, eternal his kingdom: Strong God, Ruler of all, Prince of Peace, alleluia.

Canticle – Daniel 3:52-57

Let all creatures praise the Lord

The Creator . . . is blessed for ever (Romans 1:25).

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers, *
praiseworthy and exalted above all forever.

And blessed is your holy and glorious name, *
praiseworthy and exalted above all for all ages.

Blessed are you in the temple of your holy glory, *
praiseworthy and glorious above all forever.

Blessed are you on the throne of your kingdom, *
praiseworthy and exalted above all forever.

Blessed are you who look into the depths †
from your throne upon the cherubim, *
praiseworthy and exalted above all forever.

Blessed are you in the firmament of heaven, *
praiseworthy and glorious forever.

Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, *
praise and exalt him above all forever.

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 Lord is here; go out to meet him, saying: Great his birth, eternal his kingdom: Strong God, Ruler of all, Prince of Peace, alleluia.

Antiphon 3

Your all-powerful Word, O Lord will come to earth from his throne of glory, alleluia.

Psalm 150

Praise the Lord

Let mind and heart be in your song: this is to glorify God with your whole self (Hesy-

chius).

Práise Gód in his hóly pláce, *
práise him in his míghty héavens.
Práise him for his pówerful déeds, *
práise his surpássing gréatness.

O práise him with sóund of trúmpet, *
práise him with lúte and hárp.
Práise him with tímbrel and dánce, *
práise him with stríngs and pípes.

O práise him with resóunding cýmbals, *
práise him with cláshing of cýmbals.
Let éverything that líves and that bréathes *
give práise 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

Your all-powerful Word, O Lord will come to earth from his throne of glory, alleluia.

Sit

Reading

Romans 13:11-12

It is now the hour for you to wake from sleep, for our salvation is closer than when we first accepted the faith. The night is far spent; the day draws near. Let us cast off deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

Responsory

Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on us.

— Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on us.

You are the one who is to come,

— have mercy on us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

— Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on us.

Stand

Gospel Canticle

Antiphon

The angel Gabriel was sent to the Virgin Mary, who was engaged to be married to Joseph.

Luke 1:68-79

The Messiah and his forerunner

Make sign of cross

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old †
that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High; *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
to give his people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,*
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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 angel Gabriel was sent to the Virgin Mary, who was engaged to be married to Joseph.

Intercessions

To the Lord Jesus Christ, judge of the living and the dead, let us pray:

— Come, Lord Jesus!

Lord Jesus, you came to save sinners,
protect us in times of temptation.

— Come, Lord Jesus!

You will come in glory to be our judge,
show in us your power to save.

— Come, Lord Jesus!

Help us to keep the precepts of your law with the strength of the Spirit,
and to look forward in love to your coming.

— Come, Lord Jesus!

You are praised throughout the ages; in your mercy help us to live devoutly and temperately in this life,
as we wait in joyful hope for the revelation of your glory.

— Come, Lord Jesus!

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Concluding Prayer

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.

Dismissal

May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life.

— Amen.

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