

*Liturgy of the Hours*  
LITURGY OF THE HOURS

OFFICE OF READINGS

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May 18, 2025

{ Fifth Sunday of Easter }



*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

This is the day, true day of God,  
serene with clear and holy light,  
on which the sacred blood has washed  
both shame and guilt from all the world.

In this the lost regain their faith,  
the blind receive the gift of light;  
can one remain in anxious fear  
who sees forgiveness for the thief?

The angels wonder at this work,  
they see the body wracked with pain,  
they see the thief draw near to Christ  
to pluck the fruit of blessed life.

How wondrous is the mystery:  
that flesh should cleanse the sins of flesh,  
to take away the guilt of all  
and wash the world of foul decay.

What could be more sublime than this:  
that guilt should seek the gift of grace,  
that charity should cast out fear,  
and death should render life renewed?

O Jesus, be for mind and heart  
our everlasting paschal joy  
and gather us, reborn by grace,  
to share your triumphs evermore.

To you, Lord Jesus, glory be,

who shine in vict'ry over death,  
with God the Father, ever blest,  
and loving Spirit, ever one. Amen.

*Metrical hymn, melody: EISENACH, 8 8 8 8; Johann Hermann Schein, 1586–1630*

*Plainsong, mode III, melody 56; Liber Hymnarius, Solesmes, 1983\*, Text: Hic est dies  
verus Dei, St. Ambrose, 340–397*

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*Sit or stand*

## PSALMODY

### *Antiphon 1*

Alleluia, the stone was rolled back from the entrance to the tomb,  
alleluia.

### *Psalm 1*

*There are two ways a man may take*

*They are happy who, putting all their trust in the cross, have plunged into the water of of  
life (from an author of the second century).*

Háppy indéed is the mán \*  
who fóllows not the cóunsel of the wícked;  
nor língers in the wáy of sínners \*  
nor síts in the cómpany of scórners,  
but whose delíght is the láw of the Lórd \*  
and who pónders his láw day and níght.

Hé is like a trée that is plánted \*  
beside the flówing wáters,  
that yíelds its frúit in due séason †  
and whose léaves shall néver fáde; \*  
and áll that he dóes shall próspér.

Not só are the wícked, not só! †

For théy like wínnowed cháff\*  
shall be dríven awáy by the wínd.  
When the wícked are júdged they shall not stánd,\*  
nor find róom among thóse who are júst;  
for the Lórd guards the wáy of the júst\*  
but the wáy of the wícked leads to dóom.

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*

Alleluia, the stone was rolled back from the entrance to the tomb,  
alleluia.

### *Antiphon 2*

Alleluia, woman, who is it you are looking for? Why do you seek the  
living among the dead? alleluia.

### *Psalm 2*

#### *The Messiah, king and conqueror*

*The rulers of the earth joined forces to overthrow Jesus, your anointed Son (Acts 4:27).*

Whý this túmult among nátions,\*  
among péoples this úseless múrmuring?  
They aríse, the kíngs of the éarth,\*  
princes plót against the Lórd and his Anóinted.  
“Cóme let us bréak their fétters,\*  
cóme, let us cást off their yóke.”

He who síts in the héavens láughs;\*  
the Lórd is láughing them to scórn.  
Thén he will spéak in his ánger,\*  
his ráge will stríke them with térror.  
“It is Í who have sét up my kíng\*  
on Zíon, my hólý móuntain.”

I will annóunce the decrée of the Lórd: †  
The Lórd said to me: “Yóu are my Són.\*  
It is Í who have begóttén you this dáy.

Ásk and I shall bequéath you the nátions, \*  
put the énds of the éarth in your posséssion.  
With a ród of íron you will bréak them, \*  
shátter them like a pótter's jár.”

Nów, O kíngs, understánd, \*  
take wárning, rúlers of the éarth;  
sérve the Lórd with áwe \*  
and trémbling, páy him your hómage  
lést he be ángry and you pérish; \*  
for súddenly his ánger will bláze.

Blessed are théy \*  
who put their trúst in Gód.

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*

Alleluia, woman, who is it you are looking for? Why do you seek the living among the dead? alleluia.

### *Antiphon 3*

Alleluia, do not weep, Mary; the Lord has risen from the dead, alleluia.

### *Psalm 3*

#### *I am safe in the Lord's keeping*

*Christ fell asleep in death, but he rose from the dead, for God was his deliverer (Saint Irenaeus).*

How mány are my fóes, O Lórd! \*  
How mány are rísing up agáinst me!  
How mány are sáying abóut me: \*  
“There is no hélp for hím in Gód.”

But yóu, Lord, are a shíeld abóut me, \*  
my glóry, who líft up my héad.  
I crý alóud to the Lórd. \*

He ánsvers from his hólý móuntain.

I líe down to rést and I sléep. \*

I wáke, for the Lórd uphólds me.

I will not féar even thóusands of péople \*  
who are ránged on every síde agáinst me.

Aríse, Lord; sáve me, my Gód, \*

you who stríke all my fóes on the móuth,

you who bréak the téeth of the wícked! \*

O Lórd of salvátion, bless your péople!

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*

Alleluia, do not weep, Mary; the Lord has risen from the dead,  
alleluia.

### VERSE

My whole body rejoices, alleluia.

— With all my strength I will praise my God, alleluia.

### *Sit*

### READINGS

#### *First reading*

From the book of Revelation

*18:21—19:10*

#### *The wedding feast of the Lamb*

A powerful angel picked up a stone like a huge millstone and hurled  
it into the sea and said:

“Babylon the great city

shall be cast down like this, with violence,

and nevermore be found!

No tunes of harpists and minstrels,

of flutists and trumpeters,  
shall ever again be heard in you!  
No craftsmen in any trade  
shall ever again be found in you!  
No sound of the millstone  
shall ever again be heard in you!  
No light from a burning lamp  
shall ever again shine out in you!  
No voices of bride and groom  
shall ever again be heard in you!  
Because your merchants were the world's nobility,  
you led all nations astray by your sorcery.

"In her was found the blood of prophets and saints and of all who were slain on the earth."

After this I heard what sounded like the loud song of a great assembly in heaven. They were singing:

"Alleluia!

Salvation, glory and might belong to our God,  
for his judgments are true and just!  
He has condemned the great harlot  
who corrupted the earth with her harlotry.  
He has avenged the blood of his servants  
which was shed by her hand."

Once more they sang "Alleluia!" And as the smoke began to rise from her forever and ever, the four and twenty elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God seated on the throne and sang, "Amen! Alleluia!"

A voice coming from the throne cried out:

"Praise our God, all you his servants,  
the small and the great, who revere him!"

Then I heard what sounded like the shouts of a great crowd, or the roaring of the deep, or mighty peals of thunder, as they cried:

"Alleluia!

The Lord is king,

our God, the Almighty!  
Let us rejoice and be glad,  
and give him glory!  
For this is the wedding day of the Lamb;  
his bride has prepared herself for the wedding.  
She has been given a dress to wear  
made of finest linen, brilliant white.”

(The linen dress is the virtuous deeds of God’s saints.)

The angel then said to me: “Write this down: Happy are they who have been invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.” The angel continued, “These words are true; they come from God.” I fell at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, “No, get up! I am merely a fellow servant with you and your brothers who give witness to Jesus. Worship God alone. The prophetic spirit proves itself by witnessing to Jesus.”

*Responsory*

*Revelation 14:2; 19:6; 12:10; 19:5*

I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of mighty thunder: The Lord our God reigns for ever;

— now the salvation and power and authority of Christ have come, alleluia.

A voice from the throne proclaimed: Praise God, all you saints; praise him, all you who revere him, both great and small.

— Now the salvation and power and authority of Christ have come, alleluia.

*Second reading*

From a sermon by Saint Maximus of Turin, bishop

*(Sermo 53, 1-2. 4: CCL 23, 214-216)*

*Christ is the day*

Christ is risen! He has burst open the gates of hell and let the dead go free; he has renewed the earth through the members of his Church now born again in baptism, and has made it blossom afresh with men brought back to life. His Holy Spirit has unlocked



the doors of heaven, which stand wide open to receive those who rise up from the earth. Because of Christ's resurrection the thief ascends to paradise, the bodies of the blessed enter the holy city, and the dead are restored to the company of the living. There is an upward movement in the whole of creation, each element raising itself to something higher. We see hell restoring its victims to the upper regions, earth sending its buried dead to heaven, and heaven presenting the new arrivals to the Lord. In one and the same movement, our Savior's passion raises men from the depths, lifts them up from the earth, and sets them in the heights.

Christ is risen. His rising brings life to the dead, forgiveness to sinners, and glory to the saints. And so David the prophet summons all creation to join in celebrating the Easter festival: *Rejoice and be glad*, he cries, *on this day which the Lord has made*.

The light of Christ is an endless day that knows no night. Christ is this day, says the Apostle; such is the meaning of his words: *Night is almost over; day is at hand*. He tells us that night is almost over, not that it is about to fall. By this we are meant to understand that the coming of Christ's light puts Satan's darkness to flight, leaving no place for any shadow of sin. His everlasting radiance dispels the dark clouds of the past and checks the hidden growth of vice. The Son is that day to whom the day, which is the Father, communicates the mystery of his divinity. He is the day who says through the mouth of Solomon: *I have caused an unfailing light to rise in heaven*. And as in heaven no night can follow day, so no sin can overshadow the justice of Christ. The celestial day is perpetually bright and shining with brilliant light; clouds can never darken its skies. In the same way, the light of Christ is eternally glowing with luminous radiance and can never be extinguished by the darkness of sin. This is why John the evangelist says: *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never been able to overpower it*.

And so, my brothers, each of us ought surely to rejoice on this holy day. Let no one, conscious of his sinfulness, withdraw from our common celebration, nor let anyone be kept away from our public prayer by the burden of his guilt. Sinner he may indeed be, but he must not despair of pardon on this day which is so highly privileged;

for if a thief could receive the grace of paradise, how could a Christian be refused forgiveness?

*Responsory*

The Lord in all his beauty has been raised above the stars, and his splendor shines forth among the clouds of heaven

— where his name shall be praised for ever, alleluia.

From the heights of heaven he goes forth and to those heights he returns.

— Where his name shall be praised for ever, alleluia.

*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,  
look upon us with love.  
You redeem us and make us your children in Christ.  
Give us true freedom  
and bring us to the inheritance you promised.

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.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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.

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