

Liturgy of the Hours
LITURGY OF THE HOURS

OFFICE OF READINGS

March 19, 2025

{ Solemnity – Joseph, Husband of Mary }



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.

HYMN

Singing with gladness,
we the faithful honor
Joseph, resplendent
in exalted triumphs:
he was found worthy
on this day to enter
joys everlasting.

O Blessed Joseph!
O how greatly favored!
Christ and the Virgin
cared for him together;
as he lay dying,
they kept loving vigil,
gazing serenely.

Righteous and noble,
freed from earthly bondage,
in peaceful slumber,
he traversed the threshold
of heaven's dwellings,
where he wears for ever
bright, golden laurels.

So let us beg him,
reigning in the Kingdom:
May he draw near us
seeking God's forgiveness
for all our failings,

gaining from his bounty
peace everlasting.

Honor, rejoicing,
praise to you, and glory,
God, One and Triune,
reigning through all ages,
who grant your servant,
good and faithful Joseph,
crowns fair and golden. Amen.

Metrical hymn, melody: CHRISTE SANCTORUM, 11 11 11 5; from François de La Feillée's Methode de plain-chant, 1782

Plainsong, mode VIII, melody 94; Liber Hymnarius, Solesmes, 1983, Text: Iste, quem leti colimus, fideles, Girolamo Casante, 1620-1700*

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Sit or stand

PSALMODY

Antiphon 1

The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph and said: Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; she will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus.

Psalm 21:2-8, 14

Thanksgiving for the king's victory

He accepted life that he might rise and live for ever (Saint Hilary).

O Lórd, your stréngth gives jóy to the kíng; *
hów your sáving hélp makes him glád!
You have gránted hím his héart's desíre; *
you háve not refúsed the práyer of his líps.

You cáme to méet him with the bléssings of succéss, *

you have sét on his héad a crówn of pure góld.
He ásked you for life and thís you have gíven,*
dáys that will lást from áge to áge.

Your sáving hélp has gíven him glóry.*
You have láid upón him májesty and spléndor,
you have gránted your bléssings to hím for éver.*
You have máde him rejóice with the jóy of your présence.

The kíng has pút his trúst in the Lórd:*
through the mércy of the Most Hígh hé shall stand firm.
O Lórd, aríse in your stréngth,*
we shall síng and práise your pówer.

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 of the Lord appeared to Joseph and said: Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; she will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus.

Antiphon 2

When he awoke Joseph did as the angel of the Lord had directed him, and took Mary as his wife.

Psalm 92

Praise of God the Creator

Sing in praise of Christ's redeeming work (Saint Athanasius).

I

It is góod to give thánks to the Lórd,*
to make músic to your náme, O Most Hígh,
to procláim your lóve in the mórning*
and your trúth in the wátches of the níght,
on the tén-stringed lýre and the lúte,*
with the múrmuring sóund of the hárp.

Your déeds, O Lórd, have made me glád;*

for the wórk of your hánds I shout with jóy.
O Lórd, how gréat are your wórks! *
How déep are yóur desígns!
The fóolish man cánnót knów this *
and the fóol cánnót understánd.

Though the wícked spring úp like gráss *
and áll who do évil thríve:
they are dóomed to be etérnally destróyed. *
But yóu, Lord, are etérnally on hígh.

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

When he awoke Joseph did as the angel of the Lord had directed him, and took Mary as his wife.

Antiphon 3

Joseph left Nazareth and set out for the town of David called Bethlehem to register with Mary.

II

Sée how your énemies pérish; *
all dóers of évil are scátted.

To mé you give the wíld-ox's stréngth; *
you anóint me with the púrest óil.
My éyes looked in tríumph on my fóes; *
my éars heard gládly of their fáll.
The júst will flóurish like the pálm-tree *
and grów like a Lébanon cédar.

Plánted in the hóuse of the Lórd *
they will flóurish in the cóurts of our Gód,
stíll bearing frúit when they are óld, *
stíll full of sáp, stíll gréen,
to procláim that the Lórd is júst; *
in híim, my róck, there is no wróng.

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

Joseph left Nazareth and set out for the town of David called Bethlehem to register with Mary.

VERSE

The just man shall blossom like the lily.

— He shall flourish for ever in the courts of our God.

Sit

READINGS

First reading

From the letter to the Hebrews

11-1-6

The faith of the ancients

Faith is confident assurance concerning what we hope for, and conviction about things we do not see. Because of faith the men of old were approved by God. Through faith we perceive that the worlds were created by the word of God, and that what is visible came into being through the invisible.

By faith Abel offered God a sacrifice greater than Cain's. Because of this he was attested to be just, God himself having borne witness to him on account of his gifts; therefore, although Abel is dead, he still speaks.

By faith Enoch was taken away without dying, and "he was seen no more because God took him." Scripture testifies that, before he was taken up, he was pleasing to God—but without faith, it is impossible to please him. Anyone who comes to God must believe that he exists, and that he rewards those who seek him.

By faith Noah, warned about things not yet seen, revered God and built an ark that his household might be saved. He thereby

condemned the world and inherited the justice which comes through faith.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called, and went forth to the place he was to receive as a heritage; he went forth, moreover, not knowing where he was going. By faith he sojourned in the promised land as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs of the same promise; for he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose designer and maker is God.

By faith Sarah received power to conceive though she was past the age, for she thought that the One who had made the promise was worthy of trust. As a result of this faith, there came forth from one man, who was himself as good as dead, descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and the sands of the seashore.

All of these died in faith. They did not obtain what had been promised but saw and saluted it from afar. By acknowledging themselves to be strangers and foreigners on the earth, they showed that they were seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking back to the place from which they had come, they would have had the opportunity of returning there. But they were searching for a better, a heavenly home. Wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

Responsory

Romans 4:20, 22; James 2:22

He never doubted God's promise but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God.

— Therefore through faith he was counted as justified.

Faith was at work in his deeds, and by his deeds his faith became perfect.

— Therefore through faith he was counted as justified.

Second reading

From a sermon by Saint Bernadine of Siena, priest

(*Sermo 2, de S. Joseph: Opera 7, 16. 27-30*)

The faithful foster-father and guardian

There is a general rule concerning all special graces granted to any human being. Whenever the divine favor chooses someone to receive a special grace, or to accept a lofty vocation, God adorns the person chosen with all the gifts of the Spirit needed to fulfill the task at hand.

This general rule is especially verified in the case of Saint Joseph, the foster-father of our Lord and the husband of the Queen of our world, enthroned above the angels. He was chosen by the eternal Father as the trustworthy guardian and protector of his greatest treasures, namely, his divine Son and Mary, Joseph's wife. He carried out this vocation with complete fidelity until at last God called him, saying: *Good and faithful servant enter into the joy of your Lord.*

What then is Joseph's position in the whole Church of Christ? Is he not a man chosen and set apart? Through him and, yes, under him, Christ was fittingly and honorably introduced into the world. Holy Church in its entirety is indebted to the Virgin Mother because through her it was judged worthy to receive Christ. But after her we undoubtedly owe special gratitude and reverence to Saint Joseph.

In him the Old Testament finds its fitting close. He brought the noble line of patriarchs and prophets to its promised fulfillment. What the divine goodness had offered as a promise to them, he held in his arms.

Obviously, Christ does not now deny to Joseph that intimacy, reverence and very high honor which he gave him on earth, as a son to his father. Rather we must say that in heaven Christ completes and perfects all that he gave at Nazareth.

Now we can see how the last summoning words of the Lord appropriately apply to Saint Joseph: *Enter into the joy of your Lord.* In fact, although the joy of eternal happiness enters into the soul of a man, the Lord preferred to say to Joseph: *Enter into joy.* His intention was that the words should have a hidden spiritual meaning for us. They convey not only that this holy man possesses an inward joy, but also that it surrounds him and engulfs him like an infinite

abyss.

Remember us, Saint Joseph, and plead for us to your foster-child
Ask your most holy bride, the Virgin Mary, to look kindly upon us,
since she is the mother of him who with the Father and the Holy
Spirit lives and reigns eternally. Amen.

Responsory

See Genesis 45:8; 50:20; Sirach 51:2

God has made me a father to the king and master of all his
household.

— He has raised me up, that he might save many people.

The Lord is my helper and protector; he is my savior.

— He has raised me up, that he might save many people.

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 acclaim 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.

Father,
you entrusted our Savior to the care of Saint Joseph.
By the help of his prayers
may your Church continue to serve its Lord, Jesus Christ,
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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