

Liturgy of the Hours
LITURGY OF THE HOURS

MORNING PRAYER

March 19, 2025

{ Solemnity – Joseph, Husband of Mary }



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).

Let us praise Christ the Lord as we celebrate the feast of Saint Joseph.

— Let us praise Christ the Lord as we celebrate the feast of Saint Joseph.

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.

— Let us praise Christ the Lord as we celebrate the feast of Saint Joseph.

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.

— Let us praise Christ the Lord as we celebrate the feast of Saint Joseph.

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.

— Let us praise Christ the Lord as we celebrate the feast of Saint Joseph.

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.

— Let us praise Christ the Lord as we celebrate the feast of
Saint Joseph.

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.”

— Let us praise Christ the Lord as we celebrate the feast of
Saint Joseph.

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.

— Let us praise Christ the Lord as we celebrate the feast of
Saint Joseph.

Morning Prayer

HYMN

Joseph, high honor
of the saints in heaven,
hope that sustains us,
for our world a pillar,
graciously listen
as we sing your praises,
greatly rejoicing.

God the creator
made you, Son of David,
Spouse of the Virgin,

and by his ordaining
you were called father
of the Word Incarnate,
for our salvation.

One with his Mother,
you were first to worship
the world's Redeemer
lying in a manger;
you gazed rejoicing
on the child whom prophets
sang and prefigured.

He rules creation,
King of kings and Master;
heavens before him
bow in adoration,
while demons tremble
at his gaze and judgment,
yet he obeys you.

Praise everlasting
to the Triune Godhead,
who grants you, Joseph,
great and glorious honors:
through your great merits,
may we find true gladness,
life with the blessed. Amen.

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

Plainsong, mode I, melody 4; Liber Hymnarius, Solesmes, 1983, Text: Caelitum, Ioseph, decus atque nostræ, Girolamo Casante, 1620-1700

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Sit or stand

PSALMODY

Antiphon 1

The shepherds went in haste and found Joseph and Mary, and the infant lying in the manger.

Psalm 63:2-9

A soul thirsting for God

Whoever has left the darkness of sin yearns for God.

O Gód, you are my Gód, for you I lóng; *
for yóu my sóul is thírsting.

My bódy pínes for yóu *
like a drý, weary lánd without wáter.
So I gáze on yóu in the sánctuary *
to sée your stréngth and your glóry.

For your lóve is bétter than lífe, *
my líps will spéak your práise.
So I will bléss you áll my lífe, *
in your náme I will líft up my hánds.
My sóul shall be filled as with a bánquet, *
my móuth shall práise you with jóy.

On my béd I remémber yóu. *
On yóu I múse through the níght
for yóu have béen my hélp; *
in the sháadow of your wíngs I rejóice.
My sóul clíngs to yóu; *
your ríght hand hólds me fást.

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 shepherds went in haste and found Joseph and Mary, and the infant lying in the manger.

Antiphon 2

Joseph and Mary, the mother of Jesus, marveled at what was said of their child, and Simeon blessed them.

Canticle – Daniel 3:57–88, 56

Let all creatures praise the Lord

All you servants of the Lord, sing praise to him (Revelation 19:5).

Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.*
Praise and exalt him above all forever.
Angels of the Lord, bless the Lord.*
You heavens, bless the Lord.
All you waters above the heavens, bless the Lord.*
All you hosts of the Lord, bless the Lord.
Sun and moon, bless the Lord.*
Stars of heaven, bless the Lord.

Every shower and dew, bless the Lord.*
All you winds, bless the Lord.
Fire and heat, bless the Lord.*
Cold and chill, bless the Lord.
Dew and rain, bless the Lord.*
Frost and chill, bless the Lord.
Ice and snow, bless the Lord.*
Nights and days, bless the Lord.
Light and darkness, bless the Lord.*
Lightnings and clouds, bless the Lord.

Let the earth bless the Lord.*
Praise and exalt him above all forever.
Mountains and hills, bless the Lord.*
Everything growing from the earth, bless the Lord.
You springs, bless the Lord.*
Seas and rivers, bless the Lord.
You dolphins and all water creatures, bless the Lord.*
All you birds of the air, bless the Lord.
All you beasts, wild and tame, bless the Lord.*
You sons of men, bless the Lord.
O Israel, bless the Lord.*

Praise and exalt him above all forever.
Priests of the Lord, bless the Lord. *
Servants of the Lord, bless the Lord.
Spirits and souls of the just, bless the Lord. *
Holy men of humble heart, bless the Lord.
Hananiah, Azariah, Mishael, bless the Lord. *
Praise and exalt him above all forever.

Let us bless the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *
Let us praise and exalt him above all forever.
Blessed are you, Lord, in the firmament of heaven. *
Praiseworthy and glorious and exalted above all forever.

Antiphon

Joseph and Mary, the mother of Jesus, marveled at what was said of their child, and Simeon blessed them.

Antiphon 3

Joseph rose in the night and took the child and his mother into Egypt. There they stayed until the death of Herod.

Psalm 149

The joy of God's holy people.

Let the sons of the Church, the children of the new people, rejoice in Christ, their King (Hesychius).

Síng a new sǒng to the Lórd, *
his práise in the assémbly of the fáithful.
Let Ísrael rejóice in its máker, *
let Zíon's sons exúlt in their kíng.
Let them práise his náme with dáncing *
and make músic with tímbrél and hárp.
For the Lórd takes delíght in his péople. *
He crówns the póor with salvátion.
Let the fáithful rejóice in their glóry, *
shout for jóy and táke their rést.
Let the práise of Gód be on their líps *
and a twó-edged swórd in their hánd,
to déál out véngéance to the nátions *

and punishment on all the peoples;
to bind their kings in chains *
and their nobles in fetters of iron;
to carry out the sentence pre-ordained; *
this honor is for all his faithful.

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 rose in the night and took the child and his mother into Egypt. There they stayed until the death of Herod.

Sit

READING

2 Samuel 7:28-29

Lord God, you are God and your words are truth; you have made this generous promise to your servant. Do, then, bless the house of your servant that it may be before you forever; for you, Lord God, have promised, and by your blessing the house of your servant shall be blessed forever.

RESPONSORY

God made him the master of his household.

— God made him the master of his household.

He gave him charge over all his possessions,

— and made him the master of his household.

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

— God made him the master of his household.

Stand

GOSPEL CANTICLE

Antiphon

Joseph lived in the town of Nazareth to fulfill what the prophets had

foretold of Christ: He will be called a Nazarean.

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

Joseph lived in the town of Nazareth to fulfill what the prophets had foretold of Christ: He will be called a Nazarean.

INTERCESSIONS

The Lord is the giver of holiness. Let us turn to him and pray:

— Holy God, raise us up to new life in holiness.

Lord our God, you called our fathers in faith to walk before you in holiness of heart,
may we follow in their footsteps, and obey your command to be perfect.

— Holy God, raise us up to new life in holiness.

You chose Joseph the righteous to care for your Son in childhood and youth,
teach us to care for Christ's body by caring for our brothers and sisters.

— Holy God, raise us up to new life in holiness.

You entrusted the earth to mankind, to people it and make it prosper,
inspire us to work wholeheartedly in this world, seeking always to give you glory.

— Holy God, raise us up to new life in holiness.

Father of all mankind, do not forget what your hands have made,
grant that all who work may have secure employment and a fitting standard of living.

— Holy God, raise us up to new life in holiness.

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

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.

Dismissal

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

— Amen.

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