Liturgy of the Hours

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Evening Prayer II

December 25, 2026

{ Solemnity – Christmas }



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

O Christ, Redeemer of us all,
the Father's Sole begotten Son,
in myst'ry born alone from him,
so wondrously before all time,

The Father's splendor and true Light,
O everlasting hope for all,
bend low to hear your servants' prayers
poured forth to you throughout the earth.

O Author of all saving grace,
recall that once you took our flesh
and from the Virgin pure and chaste
assumed by birth our human form.

This feast today now testifies,
within the cycle of the year,
that you as Savior of the world
alone came from the Father's throne.

The sky above, the earth, the sea,
and all creation held therein
extol with joyous hymns of praise
the Author of your advent here.

We also, whom you came to save
and by your holy blood redeem,
all sing a new and joyful hymn
to celebrate your day of birth.

To you, Lord Jesus, glory be,

the Virgin Mother's newborn Son,
with God the Father, ever blest,
and loving Spirit, ever one. Amen.

Metrical hymn, melody: Puer nobis nascitur, 8 8 8 8; adapted by Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621, in Musae Sionae, VI, 1809

Plainsong, mode I, melody 7; Liber Hymnarius, Solesmes, 1983, Text: Christe, redemptor omnium, ex Patre, Patris Unice, 6th c.*

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Sit or stand

Psalmody

Antiphon 1

You have been endowed from your birth with princely gifts; in eternal splendor, before the dawn of light on earth, I have begotten you.

Psalm 110:1–5, 7

The Messiah, king and priest

Christ's reign will last until all his enemies are made subject to him (1 Corinthians 15:25).

The Lórd's revelátion to my Máster: †
"Sít on my ríght: *
your fóes I will pút beneath your féet."

The Lórd will wíeld from Zíon †
your scépter of pówer: *
rúle in the mídst of all your fóes.

A prínce from the dáy of your bírth †
on the hóly móuntains; *
from the wómb before the dáwn I begót you.

The Lórd has sworn an óath he will not chánge. †

"You are a príest for éver, *
a príest like Melchízedek of óld."

The Máster stánding at your ríght hand *
will shatter kíngs in the dáy of his wráth.

He shall drínk from the stréam by the wáyside *
and thérefore he shall líft up his héad.

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

You have been endowed from your birth with princely gifts; in eternal splendor, before the dawn of light on earth, I have begotten you.

Antiphon 2

With the Lord is unfailing love; great is his power to save.

Psalm 130

A cry from the depths

He himself will save his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21).

Out of the dépths I crý to you, O Lórd, *
Lórd, hear my vóice!
O lét your éars be atténtive *
to the vóice of my pléading.

If you, O Lórd, should márk our guílt, *
Lórd, who would survíve?
But with yóu is fóund forgíveness: *
for thís we revére you.

My sóul is wáiting for the Lórd, *
I cóunt on his wórd.
My sóul is lónging for the Lórd *
more than wátchman for dáybreak.
Let the wátchman cóunt on dáybreak *
and Ísrael on the Lórd.

Becáuse with the Lórd there is mércy *
and fúllness of redémption,
Ísrael indéed he will redéem *
from áll its iníquity.

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

With the Lord is unfailing love; great is his power to save.

Antiphon 3

In the beginning, before time began, the Word was God; today he is born, the Savior of the world.

Canticle – Colossians 1:12-20

Christ the first-born of all creation and the first-born from the dead

Let us give thanks to the Father *
for having made you worthy
to share the lot of the saints *
in light.

He rescued us *
from the power of darkness
and brought us *
into the kingdom of his beloved Son.
Through him we have redemption, *
the forgiveness of our sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, *
the first-born of all creatures.
In him everything in heaven and on earth was created, *
things visible and invisible.

All were created through him; *
all were created for him.
He is before all else that is. *
In him everything continues in being.

It is he who is head of the body, the church! *
he who is the beginning,
the first-born of the dead, *
so that primacy may be his in everything.

It pleased God to make absolute fulness reside in him *
and, by means of him, to reconcile everything in his person,
both on earth and in the heavens, *
making peace through the blood of his cross.

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

In the beginning, before time began, the Word was God; today he is born, the Savior of the world.

Sit

Reading

1 John 1:1–3

This is what we proclaim to you:
what was from the beginning,
what we have heard,
what we have seen with our eyes,
what we have looked upon
and our hands have touched—
we speak of the word of life.
(This life became visible;
we have seen and bear witness to it,
and we proclaim to you the eternal life
that was present to the Father
and became visible to us.)
What we have seen and heard
we proclaim in turn to you
so that you may share life with us.
This fellowship of ours is with the Father
and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

Responsory

The Word was made man, alleluia, alleluia.

— The Word was made man, alleluia, alleluia.

He lived among us.

— Alleluia, alleluia.

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

— The Word was made man, alleluia, alleluia.

Stand

Gospel Canticle

Antiphon

Christ the Lord is born today; today, the Savior has appeared. Earth echoes songs of angel choirs, archangels' joyful praise. Today on earth his friends exult: Glory to God in the highest, alleluia.

Luke 1:46-55

The soul rejoices in the Lord

Make sign of cross

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, *
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. *

From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me, *
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

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

Christ the Lord is born today; today, the Savior has appeared. Earth echoes songs of angel choirs, archangels' joyful praise. Today on earth his friends exult: Glory to God in the highest, alleluia.

Intercessions

At the birth of Jesus, angels proclaimed peace to the world. We worship him now with joy, and we pray with hearts full of faith:

— May your birth bring peace to all.

Lord, fill your holy people with whatever good they need,
let the mystery of your birth be the source of our peace.

— May your birth bring peace to all.

You came as chief shepherd and guardian of our lives,
let the pope and bishops be faithful channels of your many gifts of grace.

— May your birth bring peace to all.

King from all eternity, you desired to be born within time and to experience the day-to-day life of men and women,
share your gift of unending life with us, weak people, doomed to death.

— May your birth bring peace to all.

Awaited from the beginning of the world, you came only in the fullness of time,
now reveal your presence to those who are still expecting you.

— May your birth bring peace to all.

You became man and gave new life to our human condition in the grip of death,
now give the fullness of life to all who have died.

— May your birth bring peace to all.

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 God,
we praise you for creating man,
and still more for restoring him in Christ.
Your Son shared our weakness:
may we share his glory,
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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