Liturgy of the Hours

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Office of Readings

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

Loving, eternal
splendor of the Godhead,
Life, Light, and Mercy,
Christ you come among us,
Healer of illness
and all human weakness,
Gate of Salvation.

Angels in chorus
to the earth are singing
tidings from heaven,
telling of new ages:
praise to the Father,
to our human fam'ly
joy, peace, and gladness.

Infant so lowly,
Lord of all creation,
born of the Virgin,
holy, pure, and sinless,
rule all the world now,
Jesus Christ, our Master,
ever beloved.

Born to give heaven,
our eternal homeland,
our flesh assuming,
joined to us for ever;
draw hearts that seek you,

mind and soul renewing;
by your love bind us.

Lord, see us gathered,
filled with exultation,
joined to the angels,
singing hymns of gladness;
joyous we praise you,
one with God the Father,
and Love, your equal. Amen.

Metrical hymn, melody: Herr, Deinen Zorn, 11 11 11 5; later form of melody by Johann Crüger, 1599–1662

Plainsong, mode I, melody 22; Liber Hymnarius, Solesmes, 1983, Text: Candor æternæ Deitatis alme, Anselmo Lentini, O.S.B., 1901–1989*

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Sit or stand

Psalmody

Antiphon 1

The Lord said to me: You are my Son, today I have begotten you.

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 rágе will stríke them with térror.
"It is Í who have sét up my kíng *
on Zíon, my hóly móuntain."

I will annóunce the decrée of the Lórd: †
The Lórd said to me: "Yóu are my Són. *
It is Í who have begótten 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

The Lord said to me: You are my Son, today I have begotten you.

Antiphon 2

The Lord comes forth, the bridegroom from his bridal chamber.

Psalm 19A

Praise of the Lord, Creator of all

The dawn from on high shall break on us . . . to guide our feet into the way of peace (Luke 1:78,79).

The héavens procláim the glóry of Gód *

and the firmament shows forth the work of his hands.
Day unto day takes up the story *
and night unto night makes known the message.

No speech, no word, no voice is heard †
yet their span extends through all the earth, *
their words to the utmost bounds of the world.

There he has placed a tent for the sun; †
it comes forth like a bridegroom coming from his tent, *
rejoices like a champion to run its course.

At the end of the sky is the rising of the sun; †
to the furthest end of the sky is its course. *
There is nothing concealed from its burning heat.

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 comes forth, the bridegroom from his bridal chamber.

Antiphon 3

Your words are filled with grace, because God has blessed you for ever.

Psalm 45

The marriage of the king

The Bridegroom is here; go out and welcome him (Matthew 25:6).

My heart overflows with noble words. †
To the king I must speak the song I have made; *
my tongue as nimble as the pen of a scribe.

You are the fairest of the children of men †
and graciousness is poured upon your lips: *
because God has blessed you for evermore.

O mighty one, gird your sword upon your thigh; †
in splendor and state, ride on in triumph *

for the cáuse of trúth and góodness and ríght.

Take áim with your bów in your dréad right hánd. †
Your árrows are shárp: péoples fall benéath you. *
The fóes of the kíng fall dówn and lose héart.

Your thróne, O Gód, shall endúre for éver. †
A scépter of jústice is the scépter of your kíngdom. *
Your lóve is for jústice; your hátred for évil.

Therefore Gód, your Gód, has anóinted yóu †
with the óil of gládness abóve other kíngs: *
your róbes are frágrant with áloes and mýrrh.

From the ívory pálace you are gréeted with músic. †
The dáughters of kíngs are amóng your lóved ones. *
On your ríght stands the quéen in góld of Óphir.

Lísten, O dáughter, give éar to my wórds: *
forgét your own péople and your fáther's hóuse.
Só will the kíng desíre your béauty: *
hé is your lórd, pay hómage to hím.

And the péople of Týre shall cóme with gífts, *
the ríchest of the péople shall séek your fávor.
The dáughter of the kíng is clóthed with spléndor, *
her róbes embróidered with péarls set in góld.

She is léd to the kíng with her maíden compánions. †
Théy are escórted amid gládness and jóy; *
they páss withín the pálace of the kíng.

Sóns shall be yóurs in pláce of your fáthers: *
you will máke them prínces over áll the éarth.
May this sóng make your náme for éver remémbered. *
May the péoples práise you from áge to áge.

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 words are filled with grace, because God has blessed you for ever.

Verse

The Word was made man, alleluia.

— He lived among us, alleluia.

Sit

Readings

First reading

From the book of the prophet Isaiah

11:1-10

The root of Jesse

Thus says the Lord God:
A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse,
and from his roots a bud shall blossom.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him:
a spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
A spirit of counsel and of strength,
a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the Lord,
and his delight shall be the fear of the Lord.

Not by appearance shall he judge,
nor by hearsay shall he decide,
But he shall judge the poor with justice,
and decide aright for the land's afflicted.
He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked.
Justice shall be the band around his waist,
and faithfulness a belt upon his hips.

Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
The calf and the young lion shall browse together,
with a little child to guide them.
The cow and the bear shall be neighbors,

together their young shall rest;
the lion shall eat hay like the ox.
The baby shall play by the cobra's den,
and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair.

There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the Lord,
as water covers the sea.

On that day,
The root of Jesse,
set up as a signal for the nations,
The Gentiles shall seek out,
for his dwelling shall be glorious.

Responsory

Today, for our sake, the King of heaven chose to be born of his virgin mother, to reclaim lost men for the heavenly kingdom.

— All the angels cry aloud with joy, for God has come himself to save mankind.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

— All the angels cry aloud with joy, for God has come himself to save mankind.

Second reading

From a sermon by Saint Leo the Great, pope

(Sermo 1 in Nativitate Domini, 1-3: PL 54, 190-193)

Christian, remember your dignity

Dearly beloved, today our Savior is born; let us rejoice. Sadness should have no place on the birthday of life. The fear of death has been swallowed up; life brings us joy with the promise of eternal happiness.

No one is shut out from this joy; all share the same reason for rejoicing. Our Lord, victor over sin and death, finding no man free from sin, came to free us all. Let the saint rejoice as he sees the palm of victory at hand. Let the sinner be glad as he receives the offer of forgiveness. Let the pagan take courage as he is summoned

to life.

In the fullness of time, chosen in the unfathomable depths of God's wisdom, the Son of God took for himself our common humanity in order to reconcile it with its creator. He came to overthrow the devil, the origin of death, in that very nature by which he had overthrown mankind.

And so at the birth of our Lord the angels sing in joy: *Glory to God in the highest,* and they proclaim *peace to his people on earth* as they see the heavenly Jerusalem being built from all the nations of the world. When the angels on high are so exultant at this marvellous work of God's goodness, what joy should it not bring to the lowly hearts of men?

Beloved, let us give thanks to God the Father, through his Son, in the Holy Spirit, because in his great love for us he took pity on us, *and when we were dead in our sins he brought us to life with Christ,* so that in him we might be a new creation. Let us throw off our old nature and all its ways and, as we have come to birth in Christ, let us renounce the works of the flesh.

Christian, remember your dignity, and now that you share in God's own nature, do not return by sin to your former base condition. Bear in mind who is your head and of whose body you are a member. Do not forget that you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the light of God's kingdom.

Through the sacrament of baptism you have become a temple of the Holy Spirit. Do not drive away so great a guest by evil conduct and become again a slave to the devil, for your liberty was bought by the blood of Christ.

Responsory

Today true peace came down to us from heaven.

— Today the whole earth was filled with heaven's sweetness.

Today a new day dawns, the day of our redemption, prepared by God from ages past, the beginning of our never ending gladness.

— Today the whole earth was filled with heaven's sweetness.

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.

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.

Acclamation

Let us praise the Lord.

— And give him thanks.

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