

Liturgy of the Hours
LITURGY OF THE HOURS

OFFICE OF READINGS

June 21, 2025

{ Memorial – Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious }



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

With joy we praise your servants, Lord,
who worshipped you with all their heart,
and, gladly breaking forth in song,
we honor you with grateful love.

These faithful ones, who followed Christ,
abandoned freely all the joys
this world could offer and display,
all luring gain and fleeting wealth.

With vows they gave themselves to you,
obedient in humility;
they looked to Christ, the virgins' Spouse,
to imitate him in their flesh.

Inflamed with love's consuming fire,
with mind and heart, in word and deed,
they longed to please and do your will
and strove to cling to you alone.

Thus, consecrated to your love
with bonds of charity on earth,
in lasting freedom they went forth
to triumph with you in the stars.

Grant us, like them, to hasten, Lord,
spurred on to imitate their lives,
that we may praise with hymns on high
the Father, Son, and Spirit blest. Amen.

Metrical hymn, melody: WAREHAM, 8 8 8 8; William Knapp, 1698-1768

Plainsong, mode IV, melody 76; Liber Hymnarius, Solesmes, 1983, Text: Læti colentes famulum, Anselmo Lentini, O.S.B., 1901-1989*

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Sit or stand

PSALMODY

Antiphon 1

Let us praise the Lord for his mercy and for the wonderful things he has done for men.

Psalm 107

Thanksgiving for deliverance

This is God's message to the sons of Israel; the good news of peace proclaimed through Jesus Christ (Acts 10:36).

I

“O give thanks to the Lórd for he is góod; *
for his lóve endúres for éver.”

Let them sáy this, the Lórd's redéemed, *
whom he redéemed from the hánd of the fóc
and gáthered from fár-off lánds, *
from éast and wést, north and sóuth.

Some wándered in the désert, in the wílderness, *
finding no wáy to a cíty they could dwéll in.
Húngry they wére and thírsty; *
their sóul was fáinting wíthín them.

Then they críed to the Lórd in their néed *
and he rescúed thém from their distréss
and he léd them alóng the right páth *
to reach a cíty théy could dwéll in.

Let them thánk the Lórd for his lóve, *

for the wónders he dóes for mén.
For he sátisfies the thírsty sóul; *
he fílls the húngry with good thínigs.

Sóme lay in dárkness and in glóom, *
prisoners in mísery and cháins,
Having defied the wórds of Gód *
and spúrned the cóunsels of the Most Hígh.
He crúshed their spírit with tóil; *
they stúmbled; there was nó one to hélp.

Then they críed to the Lórd in their néed *
and he réscued thém from their distréss.
He led them fóρθ from dárkness and glóom *
and bróke their cháins to píeces.

Let them thánk the Lórd for his góodness, *
for the wónders he dóes for mén:
for he búrst the gátes of brónze *
and shátters the íron bárs.

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

Let us praise the Lord for his mercy and for the wonderful things he has done for men.

Antiphon 2

Men have seen the works of God, the marvels he has done.

II

Some were síck on accóunt of their síns *
and afflícted on accóunt of their guílt.
They had a lóathing for évery fód; *
they came clóse to the gátes of déath.

Then they críed to the Lórd in their néed *
and he réscued thém from their distréss.

He sént forth his wórd to héal them *
and sáved their lífe from the gráve.

Let them thánk the Lórd for his lóve, *
for the wónders he dóes for mén.

Let them óffer a sácrifice of thánks *
and téll of his déeds with rejóicing.

Some sáiled to the séa in shíps *
to tráde on the míghty wáters.
Thése men have séen the Lord's déeds, *
the wónders he dóes in the déep.

For he spóke; he súmmoned the gále, *
ráising up the wáves of the séa.
Tóssed up to héaven, then into the déep; *
their sóul melted awáy in their distréss.

They stággered, réeled like drunken mén, *
for áll their skíll was góne.
Then they cried to the Lórd in their néed *
and he réscued thém from their distréss.

He stilled the stórm to a whísper: *
all the wáves of the séa were húshed.
They rejóiced becáuse of the cálm *
and he léd them to the háven they desired.

Let them thánk the Lórd for his lóve, *
the wónders he dóes for mén.
Let them exált him in the gáthering of the péople *
and práise him in the méeting of the élders.

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

Men have seen the works of God, the marvels he has done.

Antiphon 3

Those who love the Lord will see and rejoice; they will understand his loving kindness.

III

He changes streams into a desert, *
springs of water into thirsty ground,
fruitful land into a salty waste, *
for the wickedness of those who live there.

But he changes desert into streams, *
thirsty ground into springs of water.
There he settles the hungry *
and they build a city to dwell in.

They sow fields and plant their vines; *
these yield crops for the harvest.
He blesses them; they grow in numbers. *
He does not let their herds decrease.

He pours contempt upon princes, *
makes them wander in trackless wastes.
They diminish, are reduced to nothing *
by oppression, evil and sorrow.

But he raises the needy from distress; *
makes families numerous as a flock.
The upright see it and rejoice *
but all who do wrong are silenced.

Whoever is wise, let him heed these things *
and consider the love of the Lord.

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

Those who love the Lord will see and rejoice; they will understand his loving kindness.

VERSE

Your truth, O God, is high as the clouds.

— Lord, your goodness is deep as the ocean.

Sit

READINGS

First reading

From the book of Judges

16:4-6, 16-31

The treachery of Delilah and the death of Samson

Samson fell in love with a woman in the Wadi Sorek whose name was Delilah. The lords of the Philistines came to her and said, "Beguile him and find out the secret of his great strength, and how we may overcome and bind him so as to keep him helpless. We will each give you eleven hundred shekels of silver."

So Delilah said to Samson, "Tell me the secret of your great strength and how you may be bound so as to be kept helpless." She importuned him continually and vexed him with her complaints till he was deathly weary of them. So he took her completely into his confidence and told her, "No razor has touched my head, for I have been consecrated to God from my mother's womb. If I am shaved, my strength will leave me, and I shall be as weak as any other man." When Delilah saw that he had taken her completely into his confidence, she summoned the lords of the Philistines, saying, "Come up this time, for he has opened his heart to me."

So the lords of the Philistines came and brought up the money with them. She had him sleep on her lap, and called for a man who shaved off his seven locks of hair. Then she began to mistreat him, for his strength had left him. When she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!", and he woke from his sleep, he thought he could make good his escape as he had done time and again, for he did not realize that the Lord had left him. But the Philistines seized him and gouged out his eyes. Then they brought him down to Gaza and bound him with bronze fetters, and he was put to grinding in the prison. But the hair of his head began to grow as soon as it was

shaved off.

The lords of the Philistines assembled to offer a great sacrifice to their god Dagon and to make merry. They said,

“Our god has delivered into our power
Samson our enemy.”

When their spirits were high, they said, “Call Samson that he may amuse us.” So they called Samson from the prison, and he played the buffoon before them. When the people saw him, they praised their god. For they said,

“Our god has delivered into our power
our enemy, the ravager of our land,
the one who has multiplied our slain.”

Then they stationed him between the columns. Samson said to the attendant who was holding his hand, “Put me where I may touch the columns that support the temple and may rest against them.” The temple was full of men and women: all the lords of the Philistines were there, and from the roof about three thousand men and women looked on as Samson provided amusement.

Samson cried out to the Lord and said, “O Lord God, remember me! Strengthen me, O God, this last time that for my two eyes I may avenge myself once and for all on the Philistines.” Samson grasped the two middle columns on which the temple rested and braced himself against them, one at his right hand, the other at his left. And Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines!” He pushed hard, and the temple fell upon the lords and all the people who were in it. Those he killed at his death were more than those he had killed during his lifetime.

All his family and kinsmen went down and bore him up for burial in the grave of his father Manoah between Zorah and Eshtaol. He had judged Israel for twenty years.

Responsory

Psalm 43:1; 31:4, Judges 16:28

Defend me, God; take up my cause against a faithless people.

— For you are my rock and my fortress.

Remember me and give me strength just once again.

— For you are my rock and my fortress.

Second reading

From a letter to his mother by Saint Aloysius

(Acta Sanctorum, Iunii 5, 878)

God's mercies shall be my song for ever

May the comfort and grace of the Holy Spirit be yours for ever, most honored lady. Your letter found me lingering still in this region of the dead, but now I must rouse myself to make my way on to heaven at last and to praise God for ever in the land of the living; indeed I had hoped that before this time my journey there would have been over. If charity, as Saint Paul says, means *to weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who are glad*, then, dearest mother, you shall rejoice exceedingly that God in his grace and his love for you is showing me the path to true happiness, and assuring me that I shall never lose him.

The divine goodness, most honored lady, is a fathomless and shoreless ocean, and I confess that when I plunge my mind into thought of this it is carried away by the immensity and feels quite lost and bewildered there. In return for my short and feeble labors, God is calling me to eternal rest; his voice from heaven invites me to the infinite bliss I have sought so languidly, and promises me this reward for the tears I have so seldom shed.

Take care above all things, most honored lady, not to insult God's boundless loving kindness; you would certainly do this if you mourned as dead one living face to face with God, one whose prayers can bring you in your troubles more powerful aid than they ever could on earth. And our parting will not be for long; we shall see each other again in heaven; we shall be united with our Savior; there we shall praise him with heart and soul, sing of his mercies for ever, and enjoy eternal happiness. When he takes away what he once lent us, his purpose is to store our treasure elsewhere more safely and bestow on us those very blessings that we ourselves would most

choose to have.

I write all this with the one desire that you and all my family may consider my departure a joy and favor and that you especially may speed with a mother's blessing my passage across the waters till I reach the shore to which all hopes belong. I write the more willingly because I have no clearer way of expressing the love and respect I owe you as your son.

Responsory

Psalm 41:13; 84:11

You upheld me because of my innocence;

— you let me stand in your sight for ever.

I would rather lie at the threshold of the house of my God than live in the tents of the wicked.

— You let me stand in your sight for ever.

Stand

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Father of love,
giver of all good things,
in Saint Aloysius you combined remarkable innocence
with the spirit of penance.
By the help of his prayers
may we who have not followed his innocence
follow his example of penance.

Grant 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.

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