

Liturgy of the Hours
LITURGY OF THE HOURS

OFFICE OF READINGS

May 23, 2026

{ Saturday of the Seventh Week of Easter }



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

Eternal King and God most high,
Redeemer of all faithful souls,
in you the pow'r of death is crushed,
and triumph shown in gifts of grace.

You mount the holy judgment seat,
established at the Father's right,
receiving pow'r to rule all things,
divine, not human, sov'reignty,

That all in heaven and on earth
and in the nether world below,
the threefold universe you made,
should bend the knee in tribute now.

The angels tremble as they watch
the mortal order overturned:
in flesh the sin, in flesh the cure,
in flesh the reign of God the Word.

O Christ, you are our lasting joy,
our sure, abiding recompense,
who rule the fabric of this world,
yet far surpass all earthly joys.

And so with humble prayer we ask
that you forgive us all our faults,
and by your heav'nly gift of grace
lift up our hearts to you on high,

That when the clouds grow red with dawn

and you, the Judge, appear in light,
you may remit the debt we owe
and so restore the crown we lost.

To you, Lord Jesus, glory be,
who now ascend to heaven's height,
with God the Father, ever blest,
and loving Spirit, ever one. Amen.

Metrical hymn, melody: EISENACH, 8 8 8 8; Johann Hermann Schein, 1586–1630

*Plainsong, mode VIII, melody 114; Antiphonale Sacrosanctae Ecclesiae Romanae,
Typis Polyglottis Vaticanis, 1912, Text: Æterne rex, altissime, ca. 10th c.*

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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, alleluia.

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 fóe
and gáthered from fár-off lánds, *
from éast and wést, north and sóuth.

Some wándered in the désert, in the wílderness, *

finding no way to a city they could dwell in.
Hungry they were and thirsty; *
their soul was fainting within them.

Then they cried to the Lord in their need *
and he rescued them from their distress
and he led them along the right path *
to reach a city they could dwell in.

Let them thank the Lord for his love, *
for the wonders he does for men.
For he satisfies the thirsty soul; *
he fills the hungry with good things.

Some lay in darkness and in gloom, *
prisoners in misery and chains,
Having defied the words of God *
and spurned the counsels of the Most High.
He crushed their spirit with toil; *
they stumbled; there was no one to help.

Then they cried to the Lord in their need *
and he rescued them from their distress.
He led them forth from darkness and gloom *
and broke their chains to pieces.

Let them thank the Lord for his goodness, *
for the wonders he does for men:
for he bursts the gates of bronze *
and shatters the iron bars.

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, alleluia.

Antiphon 2

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

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 dístréss.
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 sácrífice 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 dístréss.

They stággered, réeled like drunken mén, *
for áll their skíll was góne.

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

He stílléd 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 désired.

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

Glory to the Fátter, 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, alleluia.

Antiphon 3

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

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, alleluia.

VERSE

God has given us a new birth into a living hope, alleluia.

— By raising Jesus Christ from the dead, alleluia.

Sit

READINGS

First reading

The third letter of the apostle John

Let us live in the truth

The elder to the beloved Gaius, whom indeed I love.

Beloved, I hope you are in good health—may you thrive in all other ways as you do in the spirit. For it has given me great joy to have the brothers bear witness to how truly you walk in the path of truth. Nothing delights me more than to hear that my children are walking in this path.

Beloved, you demonstrate fidelity by all that you do for the brothers even though they are strangers; indeed, they have testified to your love before the church. And you will do a good thing if, in a way that pleases God, you help them to continue their journey. It was for the sake of the Name that they set out, and they are accepting nothing from the pagans. Therefore, we owe it to such men to support them and thus to have our share in the work of truth.

I did write to the church; but Diotrephes, who enjoys being their leader, ignores us. Therefore, if I come I will speak publicly of what he is doing in spreading evil nonsense about us. And that is not all. Not only does he refuse to welcome the brothers himself but he even hinders those who wish to do so and expels them from the church!

Beloved, do not imitate what is evil but what is good, Whoever does what is good belongs to God; whoever does what is evil has never seen God. Demetrius is one who gets a good testimonial from all, even from truth itself. We give our testimonial as well, and you know that our testimony is true.

There is much more that I had in mind to write you, but I do not wish to write it out with pen and ink. Rather, I hope to see you soon, when we can talk face to face.

Peace be with you. The beloved here send you their greetings; greet the beloved there, each by name.

Responsory

3 John 11; 1 Peter 2:19

Do not imitate an evil example but follow what is good.

— By doing good you will become a child of God, alleluia.

Grace is at work in the one who endures suffering for the sake of God.

— By doing good you will become a child of God, alleluia.

Second reading

From a sermon by a sixth century African author

(Sermo 8, 1-3: PL 65, 743-744)

The Church in its unity speaks in the language of every nation

The disciples spoke in the language of every nation. At Pentecost God chose this means to indicate the presence of the Holy Spirit: whoever had received the Spirit spoke in every kind of tongue. We must realize, dear brothers, that this is the same Holy Spirit by whom love is poured out in our hearts. It was love that was to bring the Church of God together all over the world. And as individual men who received the Holy Spirit in those days could speak in all kinds of tongues, so today the Church, united by the Holy Spirit, speaks in the language of every people.

Therefore if somebody should say to one of us, “You have received the Holy Spirit, why do you not speak in tongues?” his reply should

be, “I do indeed speak in the tongues of all men, because I belong to the body of Christ, that is, the Church, and she speaks all languages. What else did the presence of the Holy Spirit indicate at Pentecost, except that God’s Church was to speak in the language of every people?”

This was the way in which the Lord’s promise was fulfilled: *No one puts new wine into old wineskins. New wine is put into fresh skins, and so both are preserved.* So when the disciples were heard speaking in all kinds of languages, some people were not far wrong in saying: *They have been drinking too much new wine.* The truth is that the disciples had now become fresh wineskins, renewed and made holy by grace. The new wine of the Holy Spirit filled them, so that their fervor brimmed over and they spoke in manifold tongues. By this spectacular miracle they became a sign of the Catholic Church, which embraces the language of every nation.

Keep this feast, then, as members of the one body of Christ. It will be no empty festival for you if you really live what you are celebrating. For you are the members of that Church which the Lord acknowledges as his own, being himself acknowledged by her, that same Church which he fills with the Holy Spirit as she spreads throughout the world. He is like a bridegroom who never loses sight of his own bride; no one could ever deceive him by substituting some other woman.

To you men of all nations, then, who make up the Church of Christ, you, the members of Christ, you, the body of Christ, you, the bride of Christ—to all of you the Apostle addresses these words: *Bear with one another in love; do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.* Notice that when Paul urges us to bear with one another, he bases his argument on love, and when he speaks of our hope of unity, he emphasizes the bond of peace. This Church is the house of God. It is his delight to dwell here. Take care, then, that he never has the sorrow of seeing it undermined by schism and collapsing in ruins.

Responsory

Acts 15:8-9; 11: 18

God who can read the hearts of all sent his Spirit to the Gentiles just as he did to us.

- He made no distinction between them and us, and he cleansed their hearts by faith, alleluia.

God also gave life-giving repentance to the Gentiles.

- He made no distinction between them and us, and he cleansed their hearts by faith, alleluia.

Stand

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Almighty Father,
let the love we have celebrated in this Easter season
be put into practice in our daily lives.

We ask 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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