

Liturgy of the Hours
LITURGY OF THE HOURS

OFFICE OF READINGS

September 6, 2026

{ Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time }



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

This day, more sacred than the rest,
shines forth the first and eighth of days,
which you, firstfruits of those who rise,
have consecrated to yourself.

O Jesus, raise our souls to you;
first grant that we may share your life,
then make our bodies rise to you,
for ever free from second death,

That soon we may be carried up
to meet you, Christ, on heaven's clouds,
to live with you for evermore,
our Resurrection and our Life.

And as we gaze upon your face,
conform us to your glory, Lord,
that we may know you as you are,
true light and sweetness for our souls.

Filled with your joy and sev'nfold grace
and given to the Father's care,
then may we see the perfect reign
of God, the holy Three in One. Amen.

Metrical hymn, melody: Morning Hymn, 8 8 8 8; François Barthélémon, 1741–1808

Plainsong, mode IV, melody 67; Liber Hymnarius, Solesmes, 1983, Text: Dies ætasque
ceteris, unknown author, ca. 12th c.*

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Sit or stand

PSALMODY

Antiphon 1

Day by day I shall bless you, Lord, alleluia.

Psalm 145

Praise of God's majesty

Lord, you are the Just One, who was and who is (Revelation 16:5).

I

I will give you glóry, O Gód my Kíng, *
I will bléss your náme for éver.

I will bléss you dáy after dáy *
and praíse your náme for éver.
The Lord is gréat, híghly to be praísed, *
his gréatness cánnót be méasured.

Age to áge shall procláim your wórks, *
shall decláre your míghty déeds,
shall spéak of your spléndor and glóry, *
tell the tále of your wónderful wórks.

They will spéak of your térrible déeds, *
recóunt your gréatness and míght.
They will recáll your abúndant góodness; *
age to áge shall ríng out your jústice.

The Lord is kínd and fúll of compássion, *
slow to ánger, abóunding in lóve.
How góod is the Lórd to áll, *
compássionate to áll his créatures.

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

Day by day I shall bless you, Lord, alleluia.

Antiphon 2

Your kingdom, Lord, is an everlasting kingdom, alleluia.

II

All your créatures shall thánk you, O Lórd, *
and your fréinds shall repéat their bléssing.
They shall spéak of the glóry of your réign *
and decláre your míght, O Gód,

to make knówn to mén your mighty déeds *
and the glórious spléndor of your réign.
Yóurs is an éverlasting kíngdom; *
your rúle lasts 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 kingdom, Lord, is an everlasting kingdom, alleluia.

Antiphon 3

The Lord is faithful in all his words and loving in all his deeds, alleluia.

III

The Lord is fáithful in áll his wórds *
and lóving in áll his déeds.
The Lórd suppórts all who fáll *
and ráises áll who are bowed dówn.

The éyes of all créatures look to yóu *
and you gíve them their fóod in due tíme.
You ópen wíde your hánd, *

grant the desires of áll who live.

The Lord is júst in áll his wáys *
and lóving in áll his déeds.

He is clóse to áll who cáll him, *
who cáll on hím from their héarts.

He gránts the desires of those who féar him, *
he héars their cry and he sáves them.

The Lórd protécts all who lóve him; *
but the wicked he will útterly destróy.

Let me spéak the práise of the Lórd, †
let all mankind bléss his holy náme *
for éver, for áges unénding.

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 is faithful in all his words and loving in all his deeds, al-
leluia.

VERSE

Listen to my words.

— Give ear to my precepts.

Sit

READINGS

First reading

From the book of the prophet Jeremiah

37:21; 38:14–28

Jeremiah, while in prison, encourages Zedekiah to seek peace

King Zedekiah ordered that Jeremiah be confined in the quarters of the guard, and given a loaf of bread each day from the bakers' shop until all the bread in the city was eaten up. Thus Jeremiah

remained in the quarters of the guard.

Once King Zedekiah summoned the prophet Jeremiah to come to him at the third entrance to the house of the Lord. “I have a question to ask you,” the king said to Jeremiah; “hide nothing from me.” Jeremiah answered Zedekiah: If I tell you anything, you will have me killed, will you not? If I counsel you, you will not listen to me! But King Zedekiah swore to Jeremiah secretly: “As the Lord lives who gave us the breath of life, I will not kill you; nor will I hand you over to these men who seek your life.”

Thereupon Jeremiah said to Zedekiah: Thus says the Lord God of hosts, the God of Israel: If you surrender to the princes of Babylon’s king, you shall save your life; this city shall not be destroyed with fire, and you and your family shall live. But if you do not surrender to the princes of Babylon’s king, this city shall fall into the hands of the Chaldeans, who shall destroy it with fire, and you shall not escape their hands.

King Zedekiah, however, said to Jeremiah, “I am afraid of the men of Judah who have deserted to the Chaldeans; I may be handed over to them, and they will mistreat me.”

You will not be handed over, Jeremiah answered. Please obey the voice of the Lord and do as I tell you; then it shall go well with you, and your life will be spared. But if you refuse to surrender, this is what the Lord shows me: All the women left in the house of Judah’s king shall be brought out to the princes of Babylon’s king, and they shall taunt you thus:

“They betrayed you, outdid you,
your good friends!
Now that your feet are stuck in the mud,
they slink away.”

All your wives and sons shall be led forth to the Chaldeans, and you shall not escape their hands; you shall be handed over to the king of Babylon, and this city shall be destroyed with fire.

Then Zedekiah said to Jeremiah, “Let no one know about this conversation, or you shall die. If the princes hear I spoke to you, if they

come and ask you, ‘Tell us what you said to the king; do not hide it from us, or we will kill you,’ or, ‘What did the king say to you?’ give them this answer: ‘I petitioned the king not to send me back to Jonathan’s house to die there.’”

When all the princes came to Jeremiah, they questioned him, and he answered them in the very words the king had commanded. They said no more to him, for nothing had been heard of the earlier conversation. Thus Jeremiah stayed in the quarters of the guard till the day Jerusalem was taken.

Responsory

2 Corinthians 6:4–5; Judith 8:23

Let us prove that we are God’s ministers by patient endurance of trials,

- in times of difficulty and in distress and when flogged or imprisoned.

Those who remained faithful, no matter what they suffered, won God’s favor.

- In times of difficulty and in distress and when flogged or imprisoned.

Second reading

From a sermon on the beatitudes by Saint Leo the Great, pope

(Sermo 95, 6–8: PL 54, 464–465)

Christian wisdom

The Lord then goes on to say: *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.* This hunger is not for bodily food, this thirst is not for any earthly drink: it is a longing to be blessed with righteousness, and, by penetrating the secret of all mysteries, to be filled with the Lord himself.

Happy is the soul that longs for the food of righteousness and thirsts for this kind of drink; it would not seek such things if it had not already savored their delight. When the soul hears the voice of the Spirit saying to it through the prophet: *Taste and see that the Lord is good*, it has already received a portion of God’s goodness,

and is on fire with love, the love that gives joy of the utmost purity. It counts as nothing all that belongs to time; it is entirely consumed with desire to eat and drink the food of righteousness. The soul lays hold of the true meaning of the first and great commandment: *You shall love the Lord God with your whole heart, and your whole mind and your whole strength*, for to love God is nothing else than to love righteousness.

Finally, just as concern for one's neighbor is added to love of God, so the virtue of mercy is added to the desire for righteousness, as it is said: *Blessed are the merciful, for God will be merciful to them*.

Remember, Christian, the surpassing worth of the wisdom that is yours. Bear in mind the kind of school in which you are to learn your skills, the rewards to which you are called. Mercy itself wishes you to be merciful, righteousness itself wishes you to be righteous, so that the Creator may shine forth in his creature, and the image of God be reflected in the mirror of the human heart as it imitates his qualities. The faith of those who live their faith is a serene faith. What you long for will be given you; what you love will be yours for ever.

Since it is by giving alms that everything is pure for you, you will also receive that blessing which is promised next by the Lord: *Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God*. Dear friends, great is the happiness of those for whom such a reward is prepared. Who are the clean of heart if not those who strive for those virtues we have mentioned above? What mind can conceive, what words can express the great happiness of seeing God? Yet human nature will achieve this when it has been transformed so that it sees the Godhead *no longer in a mirror or obscurely but face to face*—the Godhead that no man has been able to see. In the inexpressible joy of this eternal vision, human nature will possess *what eye has not seen or ear heard, what man's heart has never conceived*.

Responsory

Psalm 31:20; 1 Corinthians 2:9

O Lord, how great is the goodness you have stored up for those who fear you.

— This goodness you lavish on all who hope in you.

No eye has seen, no ear heard, nor has the heart of man conceived.

— This goodness you lavish on all who hope in you.

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.

God our Father,
you redeem us
and make us your children in Christ.

Look upon us,
give us true freedom
and bring us to the inheritance you promised.

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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