Liturgy of the Hours

Liturgy of the Hours

Morning Prayer

December 24, 2026

{ Thursday of the Fourth Week of Advent }



Invitatory

Stand and make sign of cross on lips with thumb

Lord, open my lips.

— And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

Psalm 95

A call to praise God

Encourage each other daily while it is still today (Hebrews 3:13).

Today you will know the Lord is coming, and in the morning you will see his glory.

— Today you will know the Lord is coming, and in the morning you will see his glory.

Come, let us sing to the Lord
and shout with joy to the Rock who saves us.
Let us approach him with praise and thanksgiving
and sing joyful songs to the Lord.

— Today you will know the Lord is coming, and in the morning you will see his glory.

The Lord is God, the mighty God,
the great king over all the gods.
He holds in his hands the depths of the earth
and the highest mountains as well.
He made the sea; it belongs to him,
the dry land, too, for it was formed by his hands.

— Today you will know the Lord is coming, and in the morning you will see his glory.

Come, then, let us bow down and worship,
bending the knee before the Lord, our maker.
For he is our God and we are his people,
the flock he shepherds.

— Today you will know the Lord is coming, and in the morning you will see his glory.

Today, listen to the voice of the Lord:
Do not grow stubborn, as your fathers did
in the wilderness,
when at Meriba and Massah
they challenged me and provoked me,
Although they had seen all of my works.

— Today you will know the Lord is coming, and in the morning you will see his glory.

Forty years I endured that generation.
I said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray
and they do not know my ways."
So I swore in my anger,
"They shall not enter into my rest."

— Today you will know the Lord is coming, and in the morning you will see his glory.

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.

— Today you will know the Lord is coming, and in the morning you will see his glory.

Morning Prayer

Hymn

With mighty voice the prophets cry
that Christ the Lord is drawing near;
rejoicing, they foresee the grace
by which he saves us and redeems.

And so our morning sun shines forth,
our hearts ablaze with radiant joy;
we hear the faithful voice resound,
precursor of God's glorious gift.

At that first Advent Christ our God

came forth not to condemn the world,
but came to cleanse our gaping wound,
to seek and save what had been lost.

Christ's Second Coming warns us all
that he is standing at the gates
to give to saints their glorious crowns
and open wide the heav'nly realm.

Eternal light is now foretold,
the saving star is shining forth,
its radiant splendor summons us
and calls us to the heav'nly court.

Christ Jesus, you alone we seek
to see you face to face as God;
may this unending vision be
an everlasting hymn of praise. Amen.

Metrical hymn, melody: Winchester New, 8 8 8 8; adapted from a chorale in Musicalisches Hand-Buch, Hamburg, 1690

Plainsong, mode D, melody 127; Liber Hymnarius, Solesmes, 1983, Text: Magnis prophetæ vocibus, unknown author*

The English translation of Hymns and chants from The Liturgy of the Hours © 2023 International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation (ICEL).

Reproduced from The Divine Office Hymnal (hymns #21/22). Copyright © 2023 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC (USCCB). Published and distributed exclusively by GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL. To acquire the Pew Edition or Accompaniment Edition of the hymnal with metrical hymn tunes and plainsong melodies, visit www.giamusic.com.

Sit or stand

Psalmody

Antiphon 1

Bethlehem in Judah's land, how glorious your future! The king who will rule my people comes from you.

Psalm 143:1-11

Prayer in distress

A man is not justified by observance of the law but only through faith in Jesus Christ

(Galatians 2:16).

Lórd, lísten to my práyer; †
túrn your éar to my appéal. *
You are fáithful, you are júst; give ánswer.
Do not cáll your sérvant to júdgment *
for nó one is júst in your síght.

The énemy pursúes my sóul; *
he has crúshed my lífe to the gróund;
he has máde me dwéll in dárkness *
like the déad, lóng forgótten.
Thérefore my spírit fáils; *
my héart is númb withín me.

I remémber the dáys that are pást: *
I pónder áll your wórks.
I múse on what your hánd has wróught †
and to yóu I strétch out my hánds. *
Like a párched land my sóul thirsts for yóu.

Lórd, make háste and ánswer; *
for my spírit fáils withín me.
Dó not híde your fáce *
lest I becóme like thóse in the gráve.

In the mórning let me knów your lóve *
for I pút my trúst in yóu.
Make me knów the wáy I should wálk: *
to yóu I líft up my sóul.

Réscue me, Lórd, from my énemies; *
I have fléd to yóu for réfuge.
Téach me to dó your wíll *
for yóu, O Lórd, are my Gód.
Let yóur good spírit guíde me *
in wáys that are lével and smóoth.

For your náme's sake, Lórd, save my lífe; *
in your jústice save my sóul from distréss.

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

Bethlehem in Judah's land, how glorious your future! The king who will rule my people comes from you.

Antiphon 2

Lift up your heads and see; your redemption is now at hand.

Canticle – Isaiah 66:10–14a

Joys of heaven

The heavenly Jerusalem is a free woman and our mother (Galatians 4:26).

Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad because of her, *
all you who love her;
exult, exult with her, *
all you who were mourning over her!

Oh, that you may suck fully *
of the milk of her comfort,
that you may nurse with delight *
at her abundant breasts!

For thus says the Lord: †
Lo, I will spread prosperity over her like a river, *
and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing torrent.

As nurslings, you shall be carried in her arms, *
and fondled in her lap;
as a mother comforts her son, †
so will I comfort you; *
in Jerusalem you shall find your comfort.

When you see this, your heart shall rejoice, *
and your bodies flourish like the grass.

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

Lift up your heads and see; your redemption is now at hand.

Antiphon 3

The day has come at last when Mary will bring forth her firstborn Son.

Psalm 147:1-11

The loving kindness of God who can do all he wills

You are God: we praise you; you are the Lord: we acclaim you.

Praise the Lórd for hé is góod; †
sing to our Gód for hé is lóving: *
to hím our práise is dúe.

The Lórd buílds up Jerúsalem *
and brings back Ísrael's éxiles,
he héals the bróken-héarted, *
he bínds up áll their wóunds.
He fíxes the número of the stárs; *
he cálls each óne by its náme.

Our Lórd is gréat and almíghty; *
his wísdom can néver be méasured.
The Lórd ráises the lówly; *
he húmbles the wícked to the dúst.
O síng to the Lórd, giving thánks; *
sing psálms to our Gód with the hárp.

He cóvers the héavens with clóuds; *
he prepáres the ráin for the éarth,
making móuntains spróut with grás *
and with pláants to sérve man's néeds.
He provídes the béasts with their fóod *
and young rávens that cáll upón him.

His delíght is nót in hórses *
nor his pléasure in wárriors' stréngth.
The Lórd delights in thóse who revére him, *
in thóse who wáit for his lóve.

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 day has come at last when Mary will bring forth her firstborn Son.

Sit

Reading

Isaiah 11:1–3a

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.

Responsory

Tomorrow will be the day of your salvation, the sinfulness of earth will be destroyed.

— Tomorrow will be the day of your salvation, the sinfulness of earth will be destroyed.

The Savior of the world will be our king;

— the sinfulness of earth will be destroyed.

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

— Tomorrow will be the day of your salvation, the sinfulness of earth will be destroyed.

Stand

Gospel Canticle

Antiphon

The time has come for Mary to give birth to her firstborn Son.

Luke 1:68-79

The Messiah and his forerunner

Make sign of cross

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old †
that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High; *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
to give his people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,*
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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 time has come for Mary to give birth to her firstborn Son.

Intercessions

To Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who will come again in glory with great power, let us make our humble prayer:

— Come, Lord Jesus!

Lord Jesus, you will come with great power,
look on our lowliness and make us worthy of your gifts.

— Come, Lord Jesus!

You came to be the good news for mankind,
may we always proclaim your saving work.

— Come, Lord Jesus!

You are worthy of praise, for you have life and rule all things,
help us to wait in joyful hope for the coming of your glory.

— Come, Lord Jesus!

We long for the grace of your coming,
console us with the gift of your own divine life.

— Come, Lord Jesus!

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

Come, Lord Jesus,
do not delay;
give new courage to your people who trust in your love.
By your coming, raise us to the joy of your kingdom,
where you live and reign with the Father 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.

The English translation of Antiphons, Invitatories, Responsories, Intercessions, Psalm 95, the Canticle of the Lamb, Psalm Prayers, Non-Biblical Readings, Hagiographical Introductions from *The Liturgy of the Hours* © 1973, 1974, 1975, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation (ICEL); excerpts from the English translation of *The Roman Missal* © 2010, ICEL; the English translation of Hymns from *The Liturgy of the Hours* © 2023. All rights reserved.

English translation of *Gloria Patri, Te Deum Laudamus, Benedictus, Magnificat,* and *Nunc Dimittis* by the International Consultation on English Texts.

Readings and New Testament Canticles (except the Magnificat) from the *New American Bible* Copyright © 1970 by the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, D.C. Used with permission. All Rights Reserved. No part of the *New American Bible* may be reproduced in any form without permission in writing from the copyright owner.

Psalm texts except Psalm 95 Copyright © 1963, The Grail (England). Used with permission of A.P. Watt Ltd. All rights reserved.

Arrangement Copyright © 2006 by eBreviary, New York.



mobile prayers



United States of America
www.ebreviary.com