

COMMON OF SAINTS AND BLESSED OF OUR ORDER

For celebrating the office of the saints and blessed of our Order, parts which, on the basis of the rank of the office, are taken from the common, can be taken either from the appropriate common in the Liturgy of the Hours of the Roman Rite, or from the particular common in the Servite Liturgy of the Hours given here.

Invitatory

Ant. Come, let us worship the Lord, wondrous in the servants of holy Mary.
Invitatory PSALM, as in the Ordinary.

Office of Readings

HYMN

An appropriate hymn may be sung.

PSALMODY

One of the series of antiphons (A, B, C) may be chosen.

Antiphon 1

Ser. A Whatever you do, work at it with your whole heart, serving Christ the Lord.

Ser. B Blessed is the servant who, looking always toward Our Lady, strives after the one thing which is necessary.

Ser. C Your servants will feast on the abundant food you provide, O Lord; from your delightful spring you give them to drink.

Psalm 36:6-13

With the Lord there is mercy and the fountain of life

Christ came to you in the flesh that he might quench your thirst; he who quenched your thirst has satisfied you hope (Saint Augustine).

Your love, Lord, reaches to heaven;
your truth to the skies.

Your justice is like God's mountain,
your judgments like the deep.

To both man and beast you give protection.

O Lord, how precious is your love.

My God, the sons of men
find refuge in the shelter of your wings.

They feast on the riches of your house;
they drink from the stream of your delight.

In you is the source of life
and in your light we see light.

Keep on loving those who know you,
doing justice for upright hearts.

Let the foot of the proud not crush me

nor the hand of the wicked cast me out.

See how the evil-doers fall!
Flung down, they shall never arise.

Psalm-prayer

Lord, have pity on us, your servants, over whom your goodness flows in living streams. Your Holy Spirit is poured out on us, your saving word teaches us wisdom, your sacraments give us new life, the support of our brothers and sisters brings us your consolation. Warm our hearts with love, so that as a community we may draw life-giving water from your Son, and walk together in the light of his glory,

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Antiphon 2

Ser. A Serve the Lord in truth and strive to do what is pleasing to him.

Ser. B Blessed is the servant whose wisdom from above was peaceful, humble, and full of compassion.

Ser. C Lord, save your servants who hope in you.

Psalm 86

Prayer of the poor person seeking the way and the truth

Your way, O Lord, your truth, and your life is Christ: I am the way, the truth, and the life (Saint Augustine).

Turn your ear, O Lord, and give answer
for I am poor and needy.

Preserve my life, for I am faithful:
save the servant who trusts in you.

You are my God, have mercy on me, Lord,
for I cry to you all the day long.

Give joy to your servant, O Lord,
for to you I lift up my soul.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of love to all who call.

Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer
and attend to the sound of my voice.

In the day of distress I will call
and surely you will reply.
Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord;
nor work to compare with yours.

All the nations shall come to adore you
and glorify your name, O Lord:
for you are great and do marvellous deeds,

you who alone are God.

Show me, Lord, your way
so that I may walk in your truth.
Guide my heart to fear your name.

I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart
and glorify your name forever;
for your love to me has been great:
you have saved me from the depths of the grave.

The proud have risen against me;
ruthless men seek my life:
to you they pay no heed.

But you, God of mercy and compassion,
slow to anger, O Lord,
abounding in love and truth,
turn and take pity on me.

O give your strength to your servant
and save your handmaid's son.
Show me a sign of your favour
that my foes may see to their shame
that you console me and give me your help.

Psalm-prayer

God of grace and gentleness, the Servants of Mary look up for inspiration to your lowly handmaid, their pattern of dedicated love and wholehearted service. Give us the strength to bear each other's burdens, so that our unity as brothers and sisters may mark us out as disciples of your Son.

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Ser. C Lord, save your servants who hope in you.

Antiphon 3

Ser. A Love each other as true brothers and sisters; serve the Lord and never grow tired.

Ser. B Blessed is the servant whom the Lord has found watching and looking after the good of his brothers and sisters.

Ser. C The help of his servants comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 121

The Lord, the help of his holy ones

Father, I serve them in your name; I guard those you have given me (John 17:12).

I lift up my eyes to the mountains:
from where shall come my help?
My help shall come from the Lord
who made heaven and earth.

May he never allow you to stumble!
Let him sleep not, your guard.
No, he sleeps not nor slumbers,
Israel's guard.

The Lord is your guard and your shade;
at your right side he stands.
By day the sun shall not smite you
nor the moon in the night.

The Lord will guard you from evil,
he will guard your soul.
The Lord will guard your going and coming
both now and forever.

Psalm-prayer

Almighty God, maker of heaven and earth, be our help, our only refuge. May the false god of pleasure never turn our eyes from you; may the favour of the great never lead us from the path of justice, nor weariness of spirit ever slow down our work for others. Keep us watchful in prayer, courageous in defence of the weak, and tireless in helping all in need.

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FIRST READING

On solemnities and feasts, this reading may be read in place of the reading which is in the Proper of Saints.

From the letter of the apostle Paul to the Colossians 3:1-4, 12-17 *Above all, have charity*

If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

RESPONSORY See Ephesians 5:8; Matthew 5:16

V. Once you were darkness but now you are light in the Lord.

R. Walk as children of the light.

V. Your light must shine before all so that they may see your good works and give praise to your Father in heaven. R. Walk as children of the light.

SECOND READING

is taken from the Proper of Saints. On solemnities and feasts, Te Deum. Prayer, as in the Proper of

Saints.

Morning Prayer

HYMN

An appropriate hymn may be sung.

Ant.1 The kingdom of God is justice, peace, and joy in the Spirit; those who serve Christ in this kingdom are pleasing to God and esteemed by all.

Psalms and canticle from Sunday, Week I,

Ant. 2 Brothers and sisters, you were called to freedom; serve one another in love.

Ant. 3 Obey the commandments of the fathers out of love, not as servants under the law, but as free persons confirmed in grace.

READING 1 Peter 4:7b-11

Be serious and sober for prayers. Above all, let your love for one another be intense, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace. Whoever preaches, let it be with the words of God; whoever serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

RESPONSORY

V. You are not in the flesh; you are in the spirit if the Spirit of God dwells within you.

R. You are not in the flesh; you are in the spirit if he Spirit of God dwells within you.

V. You are the body of Christ and each of you is a member,

R. if the Spirit of God dwells within you.

V. Glory to the Father ...

R. You are not ...

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Ant. O Blessed N. ..., lover of spiritual beauty, your fellow Servants praise you for you have given them the example of a good life and faithful service to the Virgin.

INTERCESSIONS

As the day on which we celebrate the memory of blessed N. ..., our brother (sister) begins, we call on him who is Father of us all:

Hear the voice of your servants, Lord.

Father of holiness, help us to manifest in our times the holy lives of those who have gone before us.

- May we, like them, bear witness to the gospel, living in mutual love and in the service of the Virgin.

Father of goodness, you have filled our hearts with an unshakable and holy purpose.

- Help us to observe our religious life faithfully and in this way perfect our baptismal consecration.

Father of the poor, the words of your Son inspire blessed N. ... to leave everything for the sake your kingdom.

- may we live as strangers in this world and fix our hearts on nothing but you.

Father, inspiration of the chaste life, you filled the blessed of our Order with extraordinary love for

you and their brothers and sisters.

- *May our celibacy for the sake of the Kingdom bring forth the gifts of love and service to the Church.*

Father lover of the gentle, you helped our blessed to hear your voice in their daily lives.

- *Dispose our hearts toward doing your will revealed to us in your word, in our brothers and sisters, and in the world around us.*

(Christ is the firstborn of the Father who prays for his brothers and sisters and the priest who intercedes for sinners; let us join in his prayer:)

Our Father ...

Prayer, as in the Proper of Saints.

Daytime Prayer

Antiphons and psalms from the weekday.

Midmorning

READING Galatians 5:13-14

For you were called for freedom, brothers. But do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh; rather serve one another through love. For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement, namely, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself."

V. For the sake of the Lord be subject to every human institution.

R. Live as free men and women, but as servants of God.

Midday

READING 2 Thessalonians 3:7-9

For you know how one must imitate us. For we did not act in a disorderly way among you, nor did we eat food received free from anyone. On the contrary, in toil and drudgery, night and day we worked, so as not to burden any of you. Not that we do not have the right. Rather, we wanted to present ourselves as a model for you, so that you might imitate us.

V. For the sake of equality, your abundance should supply the needs of your brothers and sisters.

R. It is written: Those who had gathered much had no excess and those who had gathered little lacked nothing.

Midafternoon

READING 1 Peter 4:13-14

Rejoice to the extent that you share in the sufferings of Christ, so that when his glory is revealed you may rejoice exultantly. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

V. Cast all your troubles before God.

R. For he cares for you.

Prayer, as in the Proper of Saints.

Evening Prayer

HYMN

An appropriate hymn may be sung.

PSALMODY

Ant. 1 The Lord makes known to his servants the ways of life and the paths of joy.

Psalm 16

The voice of the risen Christ and of his holy ones

I believe in Jesus Christ who on the third day rose from the an in the resurrection of the body
(Symbolum apostolicum).

Preserve me, take refuge in you.
I say to the Lord: "You are my God.
My happiness lies in u alone.

He has put into my heart a marvellous love
for the faithful ones who dwell in his land.
Those who choose other gods increase their sorrows.
Never will I offer their offerings of blood.
Never will I take their name upon my lips.

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and my cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.
The lot marked out for me is my delight:
Welcome indeed the heritage that falls to me!

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,
who even at night directs my heart.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.

And so my soul rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay.

You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your rig it an happiness for ever.

Psalm-prayer

Lord, in your loving kindness you have given us your only Son as the portion of our inheritance. Look on us, your servants, and direct our footsteps along the way that leads to life, so that we may come at last to our everlasting home, and be filled with the joy of your presence.

Ant. The Lord makes known to his servants the ways of life and the paths of joy. Ant. 2 Happy the one who is just and merciful and trusts in the Lord.

Psalm 112

The life of the just; the lot of the blessed

Sell what you have and give to the poor, and come, follow me (Matthew 19-21).

Happy the man who fears the Lord,
who takes delight in all his commands.

His sons will be powerful on earth;
the children of the upright are blessed.

Riches and wealth are in his house;
his justice stands firm for ever.
He is a light in the darkness for the upright:
he is generous, merciful and just.

The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honour.
The just man will never waver:
he will be remembered for ever.

He has no fear of evil news;
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord.
With a steadfast heart he will not fear;
he will see the downfall of his foes.

Open-handed he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm for ever.
His head will be raised in glory.

The wicked man sees and is angry,
grinds his teeth and fades away;
the desire of the wicked leads to doom.

Psalm-prayer

Father, through the life of blessed N., you have made the sun of justice shine on the family of the Servants of Mary. As we bless and thank you we pray that we may be like him (her), wholehearted in our love for you.

Ant. Happy the one who is just and merciful and trusts in the Lord. Ant. 3 Whoever claims to abide in Christ should live as he lived.

Canticle Philippians 2:6-11 The Pascal mystery of Christ

Though he was in the form of God,
Jesus did not deem equality with God
something to be grasped at.

Rather, he emptied himself
and took the form of a slave,
being born in the likeness of men.

He was known to be of human estate,
and it was thus that he humbled himself,
obediently accepting even death,
death on a cross!

Because of this
God highly exalted him and
bestowed on him the name

above every other name,

So that at Jesus' name
every knee must bend
in the heavens, on the earth,
and under the earth,
and every tongue proclaim
to the glory of God the Father:
Jesus Christ is Lord!

Canticle-prayer

Father of all creation, in your wisdom you will that we should live our lives with the mystery of suffering, and be made perfect through patience. As we keep the memory of blessed N..., our brother (sister) we pray that we may stand by the cross of your Son in the company of his Virgin Mother, and so enter more deeply into the sacrament of our redemption.

Ant. Whoever claims to abide in Chris as he lived.

READING 1 Thessalonians 5:13b, 15b-24

Be at peace among yourselves. Always seek what is good [both] for each other and for all. Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain of evil. May the God of peace himself make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.

RESPONSORY

V. Serve the Lord in truth with all your heart, and strive to do what is pleasing to him.
R. Serve the Lord in truth with all your heart, and strive to do what is pleasing to him.
V. Joyfully serve the Lord.
R. And strive to do what is pleasing to him.
V. Glory to the Father ...
R. Serve the Lord ...

CANTICLE OF MARY

Ant. The holy Servant of the Mother of God, N..., now lives forever.

INTERCESSIONS

At the close of day we direct our petitions to our merciful Father through the intercession of blessed N. ..., our brother (sister) whose birth we celebrate.

Hear the petitions of your servants, Lord.

Father of the eternal Word, you gave our blessed the gift of contemplating the unsearchable treasure of your word.

-May our reading of Sacred Scripture excite in us an ardour and devotion equal to that of the great men and women of the Order.

Father of justice, your saints lived perfectly the commandment of love.

- Help us to express that same love in our daily lives.

Father of mercies, you willed that the Servants of example of your handmaid.

- Reconfirm our family in its desire to serve all men and women without distinction.

Father, who knows all things, you made our blessed brothers and sisters remarkable for the gifts of

counsel and prudence.

-Enrich the superiors of our Order with the gifts of your Spirit.

Father and Source of life, you glorified your Son and his Virgin Mother.

- Give eternal life to our departed brothers and sisters and strengthen our hope in the resurrection.

(Let us say the Lord's prayer which summarizes and supports our petitions:)

Our Father ...

Prayer, as in the Proper of Saints.

Note: Some biblical texts are taken from: The New American Bible <http://www.vatican.va/archives/>