

The Divine Office as Presented in Chapters 8-20 of the Rule of St. Benedict

VIGILS: (also known as Matins)

Begins at the eighth hour in winter (8:1)

From Easter to November it is later, just before Lauds (8:4)

The Service Order:

Begins with “Lord open my lips and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.” Said three times. (9:1)

Psalm 3 with *Gloria Patri* (9:2)

Psalm 95 with refrain (antiphon) (9:3)

Ambrosian hymn (9:4)

Six appointed Psalms with refrain (antiphon) (9:4)

A versicle and abbatial blessing (9:5)

Three lessons, with responsory. *Gloria Patri* is sung after third reading.

These readings are from the Old Testament, New Testament, and the Fathers. (9:5-8)

In the summer only one reading from the Old Testament with responsory. (10:2)

Six Psalms with “alleluia” refrain. (9:9)

Reading from “the Apostle recited by heart”. (9:10)

Kyrie eleison. (9:10)

“And so Vigils are concluded. (9:11)

On Sundays and Feast Days: (note chapter 14 re. Feast Days)

There are four readings with responsory and *Gloria Patri* after the fourth reading. (11:2-3)

Four readings after the second set of six psalms. (11:4-5)

Three canticles with “alleluia” refrain. (11:6)

After versicle and abbot’s blessing, four New Testament readings with responsories. (11:7)

Hymn: “We praise you, God” — the *te Deum*. (11:8)

Abbot reads from Gospels and all reply “Amen.” (11:9-10)

Abbatial blessing. (11:10)

Lauds begins. (11:10)

LAUDS:

On Sundays:

Opening versicle: “God, come to my assistance; Lord, make haste to help me” and *Gloria Patri* (18:1)

Psalm 67 without refrain. (12:1)

Psalm 51 with “alleluia” refrain. (12:2)

Psalms 118 and 63. (12:3)

Canticle of the Three Young Men. (12:4)

Psalms 148-150 and a reading from the Apocalypse recited by heart with responsory. (12:4)

Ambrosian hymn. (12:4)

Versicle. (12:4)

Gospel Canticle (Song of Zechariah). (12:4)

Litany. (12:4)

Conclusion. (12:4)

Lord’s Prayer recited by the superior. (13:12)

LAUDS on Ordinary Days:

Opening versicle: “God, come to my assistance; Lord, make haste to help me” and *Gloria Patri* (18:1)
Psalm 67 without refrain (13:2), and Psalm 51 with refrain. (13:2)
Two designated psalms on Monday through Friday. (13:3-8)
Saturday, Psalm 142 and Canticle from Deuteronomy (Song of Moses) with *Gloria Patri*. (13:9)
Psalms 148-150 and a reading from the Apocalypse recited by heart with responsory. (13:11)
Ambrosian hymn. (13:11)
Versicle. (13:11)
Gospel Canticle (Song of Zechariah). (13:11)
Litany. (13:11)
Conclusion (13:11)
Lord’s Prayer recited by the superior. (13:12)

PRIME, TERCE, SEXT, NONE:

Opening versicle: “God, come to my assistance; Lord, make haste to help me” and *Gloria Patri* (18:1)
Hymn for the hour. (17:3, 5)
On Sunday:
Four sections of Psalm 119 are said at Prime. (18:2)
Three sections of Psalm 119 are said at each of the other hours. (18:3)
On Monday:
Psalms 1, 2, and 6 are said at Prime. (18:4)
At Terce, Sext, and None, the remaining nine sections of Psalm 119, three sections at each hour. (18:7)
On Tuesday through Saturday:
At each hour, three appointed psalms with *Gloria Patri* after each. (17:2, 5)
One reading. (17:4-5)
Kyrie eleison. (17:4-5)
Dismissal. (17:4-5)

VESPERS:

Opening versicle: “God, come to my assistance; Lord, make haste to help me” and *Gloria Patri* (18:1)
Hymn for the hour. (18:1)
Four appointed psalms with refrain. (17:7)
One reading and responsory. (17:8)
Ambrosian hymn. (17:8)
Versicle. (17:8)
Gospel canticle (*Magnificat*). (17:8)
Litany (17:8)
Lord’s Prayer recited by the superior. (13:12; 17:8)
Dismissal. (17:8)

COMPLINE:

Opening versicle: “God, come to my assistance; Lord, make haste to help me” and *Gloria Patri* (18:1)
Three appointed psalms without refrain. (17:9)
Hymn for the hour. (17:10)
One reading. (17:10)
Versicle. (17:10)
Kyrie eleison. (17:10)
Blessing and Dismissal. (17:10)