

St. Monica Chapter – Liturgy of the Hours – Morning Prayer (Lauds) - Including the Invitatory

“Gatherings of the laity – for prayer, apostolic work, or any other reason – are encouraged to fulfill the Church’s office by celebrating part of the Liturgy of the Hours. The laity must learn, especially in liturgical actions, how to adore God the Father in spirit and in truth, and be reminded that through public worship and prayer they are in touch with all mankind and can contribute in no small degree to the salvation of the whole world.” (General Instruction No. 27)

A few guidelines:

- All punctuations are ignored when chanting.
- All of the antiphons, strophes, and prayers are chanted in monotone.
- The Gloria is chanted with our usual voice inflections: Glory to the Father and to ↑ the Son and to the Ho ↓ ly Spirit. As it was in the beginning ↑ is now, and will be forever. ↓ Amen.

All Stand (face each other)

Invitatory

Everyone makes the sign of the cross on their lips as the Leader chants the introductory verse: “Lord open my lips” the group chants in unison, “And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.” The leader then chants the Invitatory antiphon. Everyone repeats the antiphon chant. The leader continues by chanting Psalm 95. After each strophe, everyone repeats the antiphon. At the conclusion of Psalm 95 and the repetition of the antiphon, all bow at the waist as only the Leader chants, “Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, (All then stand erect as only the leader continues.) ...as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.” The membership then concludes the Invitatory by chanting the antiphon one last time.

Hymn

The purpose of the hymn is ...“to form a simple and pleasant introduction to prayer.” (General Instruction No.42)

The Leader chooses a hymn either from the week’s Psalter or from the Liturgical guide for Hymns on pages 1502-1506. The Leader begins singing the first line of the hymn and then everyone joins in together with the second line.

(A good choir is one where all members “listen” to other members while singing. No one voice should rise above the group – rather, one collective voice should rise sweetly together to heaven.)

Psalmody

Everyone sits as the room divides into two groups: Choir A and Choir B.

The Leader is in Choir A and begins by chanting the Antiphon for the first Psalm.

The Leader then chants the first line of the first strophe. Choir A joins the leader for the remainder of the strophe. Choir B then chants the second strophe - alternating strophes with Choir A until the Psalm is concluded. While remaining seated, all chapter members chant the “Glory to the Father...” (without bowing).

After a slight pause, the leader chants the Antiphon for the second Canticle.

As above, the Leader then chants the first line of the first strophe followed by the joining of Choir A. Choir B alternates with choir A and at the conclusion, everyone chants the “Glory to the Father...” (without bowing).

After a slight pause, the leader chants the Antiphon for the third Psalm.

As above, the Leader then chants the first line of the first strophe followed by the joining of Choir A. Choir B alternates with choir A and at the conclusion, everyone chants the “Glory to the Father...” (without bowing).

Reading

The Reader stands and immediately begins the reading **without** stating the Book and Verses of the reading. The reader then provides a short reflection of up to approximately 3 minutes.

Responsory

After the Reader sits down, the Leader chants the Responsory verse followed by the response of the entire chapter.

Gospel Canticle (The Canticle of Zechariah)

All stand facing each other. The Leader chants the Gospel antiphon.

The Leader then chants the first line of the Gospel canticle followed immediately by the participation of everyone chanting the rest of the Canticle.

At the conclusion of the Gospel Canticle, all bow at the waist as everyone chants, "Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit" – Everyone then stands erect with the continuation – "As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen."

The Leader then repeats the Gospel antiphon.

Intercessions

Everyone turns and faces the crucifix.

The Leader chants the beginning lines of the prayer and continues with the *italicized* response.

Everyone then repeats the *italicized* response.

The Leader then chants a petition including the sentence following the red-dashed line.

Everyone then repeats the *italicized* response.

The Leader continues each petition followed by the members' response.

At the conclusion of the petitions in the Breviary, the Leader and any other member may offer one personal petition followed by a simple "Amen."

Note: For practicality sake, please limit the petitions.

Our Father

At the conclusion of the intercessions, and with the Leader's invitation, everyone turns back to face each other.

The Leader then sings the first line of the "Our Father" joined by all at the second line. An "Amen" is not said at the end of the "Our Father" (as it is designated for the end of the concluding prayer).

Concluding Prayer

The Leader chants the final prayer. As the Leader is chanting, everyone bows until either:

A.) The invocation of the "Holy Spirit" on the last line.

or

B.) The conclusion of the next-to-last line of the prayer (when the Holy Spirit is not included).

Everyone then stands erect as the Leader concludes the prayer. The community all chants, "Amen."

Dismissal

The Leader (in the absence of a priest or deacon) chants the following: "May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life."

Everyone makes the sign of the cross and responds to the Leader by chanting, "Amen."