



**Christian  
Community Bible**  
Catholic Pastoral  
Edition  
Revised Edition 2013

All references and  
text are taken from  
the above edition of  
the Holy Bible.

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*'I am the true  
vine and my  
Father is the  
vine grower...'*  
*John 15:1*

## Morning & Evening Prayer - Sundays in Lent

### Morning Prayer from the Divine Office

The Divine Office or the Liturgy of the Hours is the Prayer of the Church.

"The public and communal prayer of the people of God is rightly considered among the first duties of the Church. From the very beginning the baptised *'remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to prayers'* (Acts 2:42) Many times, the Acts of the Apostles testifies that the Christian community prayed together" (Gl1)

Again, and again we hear, throughout the Gospels and the Acts, of Jesus and his disciples or apostles going up to the Temple or to the synagogue at the third or the sixth or the ninth hour to pray. Christianity was originally a sect of Judaism and the followers abided by the Jewish tradition of sanctifying the day with prayer. When the branch of Judaism known as "the Way" or the Christianity separated the liturgy of prayer throughout the day developed to complement the main Christian celebration, the Eucharist, or Breaking of Bread which was only being celebrated on the first day of the week. The prayers continued the former tradition.

Before the most recent reform of the Liturgy of the Hours in 1971 the recitation of the Divine Office was in Latin and it was the duty of priests and religious to pray the Prayer of the Church daily on behalf of the whole Church. This was and is an obligation under Canon Law. Anyone who has spent some time visiting a monastery will have witnessed the monks singing or chanting the Office in choir in their chapel throughout the day beginning before dawn usually with the Office of readings and finishing with Night Prayer or Compline as it is called in Latin.

Pope Paul VI reform in 1971 made the Office more acceptable and more available to all the faithful and today more and more of the faithful are partaking in the complete or part of the Divine Office either in private or in public worship. In doing so we are continuing the tradition of praying the psalms and prayers of petition which have been passed down to us through the Old Testament, prayed by Jesus and continue in the apostolic tradition to today. Below is the basic outline of Morning Prayer.

- ❖ **Invitatory Psalm;** Come ring out our joy to the Lord (Ps94) (Antiphon before and after)
- ❖ **Hymn**
- ❖ **Psalm** (Antiphon before and after)
- ❖ **Canticle** (Antiphon before and after)
- ❖ **Psalm** (Antiphon before and after)
- ❖ **Scripture Passage**
- ❖ **Short Responsory**
- ❖ **Benedictus**
- ❖ The Canticle of Zechariah (Antiphon before and after)
- ❖ **Intercessions**
- ❖ **The Lord's Prayer**
- ❖ **Concluding Prayer**

Finishing with a **Blessing...**

(written by Deacon James McAllister)