**

***Liturgy of the Hours***

**Cathedral (Short) Version – Evening Prayer**

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**Outline and Sample Template**

**Twenty Eighth Week of Ordinary Time**

***Thursday Week 4***

***Cathedral (or Short) Version***

The ‘Cathedral’ (or short) version of the *Liturgy of the Hours*, otherwise known as *The Prayer of the Church* has a more simple structure than the ‘Monastic’ version prayed by most clergy and Religious. The elements in blue form the foundation of this prayer and the shortest form it might take.

The ‘typical’ structure for the Cathedral version is outlined below. A sample template follows.

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| **Morning Prayer** | **Evening Prayer** |
| **Introductory Rite****Introduction****Introductory Verse****Hymn** (appropriate to the hour and with copyright acknowledgement) |
| **Psalmody****Psalm****Silent Prayer****Collect/Psalm Prayer** |
| **Word of God****Scripture Reading****Silent Reflection** |
| **Praise and Intercession** |
| **Gospel Canticle: Benedictus** | **Gospel Canticle: Magnifiat** |
| **Intercessions****Lord’s Prayer** |
| **Concluding Rite****Blessing****Dismissal** |

Like all liturgy, the Liturgy of the Hours involves various liturgical ministries including the Leader and a person to proclaim the scripture. Instructions to stand and sit may be used depending on the setting. They are most appropriate for a more formal celebration in the Church.

**INTRODUCTORY RITE**

*For Evening Prayer it is appropriate to use at least one candle as a sign of the light of Christ that never fades. This may sit beside the scripture.*

**Introduction**

*The Leader may briefly introduce the prayer. Allow a brief silence after this before beginning.*

**Introductory Verse** *Please Stand*

**Leader:** O God, come to our aid.

*All make the sign of the cross.*

**All:** God, make haste to help us.

 Glory be to the Father, and the Son,

and the Holy Spirit,

 as it was in the beginning

is now and ever shall be,

world without end. Amen.

**Evening Hymn:**

*Choose an appropriate Evening hymn.*

**PSALMODY**

*One appropriate psalm is used, normally taken from the ‘Liturgy of the Hours’ for the day.*

**Psalm: 143 (144)**  *Please be seated*

**Side 1:** Bless the Lord my rock

 who trains my arms for battle,

 who prepares my hands for war.

**Side 2:** He is my love, my fortress;

 He is my stronghold, my saviour,

 My shield, my place of refuge.

 He brings peoples under my rule.

**Side 1:** Lord what is man that you care for him,

 mortal man that you keep him in mind;

 man who is merely a breath

 whose life fades like a shadow?

**Side 2:** Lower your heavens and come down;

 touch the mountains; wreathe them in smoke.

 Flash your lightnings; route the foe.

 Shoot your arrows and put them to flight.

**Side 1:** Reach down from heaven and save me;

 draw me out from the mighty waters,

 from the hands of alien foes

 whose mouths are filled with lies,

 whose hands are raised in perjury.

**Side 2:** Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,

world without end. Amen.

*Allow a brief pause for personal reflection.*

**Psalm Prayer** *Please stand*

**Leader:**Let us pray.

 *Pause for silent prayer*

 May your grace, O Lord, we pray,

 At all times go before us and follow after

 And make us always determined

to carry out good works.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God forever and ever.

**All:** Amen

*Please be seated. Allow a brief period of silence before the Reading begins.*

**WORD OF GOD**

*Depending on the setting, the reading may be proclaimed from the Ambo, or from the reader’s place. Choose a brief reading which may come from the Liturgy of the Hours for the day and hour.*

**Scripture Reading: Col 1:23**

Continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven.

*Allow a time of silence for personal reflection. If appropriate people could share their reflections.*

**PRAISE AND INTERCESSION**

**Canticle of Mary (Magnificat)** *Please Stand*

*All make the sign of the cross as the first line of the Canticle is prayed.*

**Side 1:** I acclaim the greatness of the Lord,

I delight in God, my Saviour

who regarded my humble state.

Truly from this day on

all ages will call me blest.

**Side 2:** For God, wonderful in power

has used that strength for me.

Holy the name of the Lord!

whose mercy embraces the faithful

one generation to the next.

**Side 1:** The mighty arm of God

scatters the proud in their conceit,

pulls tyrants from their thrones

and raises up the humble.

The Lord fills the starving

and lets the rich go hungry.

**Side 2:** God rescues lowly Israel,

recalling the promise of mercy,

the promise made to our ancestors,

to Abraham’s heirs for ever.

**Side 1:** Glory be to the Father …

**Intercessions**

*The following Intercessions are an example. Depending on the setting, all intercessions might arise spontaneously from the community or could be taken from any suitable resource, including ‘The Liturgy of the Hours’; they may be read by one person as at Mass, or shared amongst the community.*

**Leader:** The light shines out in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it. Let us thank our Lord for bringing God’s light to our lives.

**All:** Lord Jesus Christ, you are our light.

Word of God, you have brought the light of eternity to the darkened world: may it open the minds and hearts of all baptised. R.

Show your care for all who dedicate their lives to the service of others: may your grace inspire their actions and sustain them to the end. R.

Lord, you healed the paralytic and forgave him his sins: pardon all our guilt, and heal the wounds of our sins. R.

People follow the light to new knowledge and discovery: may they use your gifts to serve the whole human family, and so give glory to you. R.

Lead the dead from darkness into your own wonderful light; in your mercy show them the radiance of your glory. R.

*Pause for spontaneous prayers.*

**Lord's Prayer**

**Leader:** As sons and daughters of a loving God, we pray in the confident words of his Son:

**All:** Our Father …

**CONCLUDING RITE**

**Concluding Prayer**

**Leader**:Listen favourably to our evening prayer, Lord,

 and grant that as we follow your Son’s example,

 we may, by perseverance,

 yield a harvest of good works.

 We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

**Blessing**

*A blessing may conclude the liturgy. The flowing is from the ‘Liturgy of the Hours’.*

**Leader:** May the Lord bless us

 protect us from evil

and bring us to everlasting life.

**All:** Amen.

**Acknowledgements**

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