

†
J.M.J.

LITTLE OFFICE OF SAINT JOSEPH

*This Office is very ancient, and great
graces have been obtained by its recital.*



MATINS.

Hail, glory of Patriarchs, steward of
God's holy Church!

Thou, who didst preserve and cherish
the living Bread, the Corn of the elect.

Lord, open Thou my lips,

And my mouth shall show forth Thy
praise.

O God, come to my assistance;

O Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

Hymn.

Just man, of David's royal line,

God did thee predestinate

Foster-father of our Lord,

Spouse of maid inviolate.

Thou, the servant true and faithful,

Head of Nazareth's blest home,

May thy sweet paternal pity

On our prayers in blessing come!

Antiphon.

God has established him in His
dwelling-place, and has given him
dominion over His kingdom.

Pray for us, blessed Joseph, that we
may be made worthy of the promises of
Jesus Christ.

Prayer.

Grant, O Lord, that we may find in the
blessed Spouse of Thy holy Mother, all the
help of which we stand in need, so that
through his powerful intercession we may
receive what we could not by ourselves
obtain. We beg this of Thee, O Lord Jesus
Christ, who livest and reignest with the
Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and
ever. Amen.

PRIME.

Hail, glory of Patriarchs, &c.

O God, come to my assistance, &c.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

Hymn.

When thy righteous heart was troubled

By the mystery divine

Of the Godhead lying hidden

In the holy virgin shrine,

In a dream the heavenly angel

Hush'd thy anxious care to rest;

Let our sorrows turn to gladness,

At God's merciful behest.

Antiphon.

Joseph, son of David, fear not to take
unto thee Mary, thy wife, for that which is
conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

Pray for us, blessed Joseph, &c.

And the Prayer, as at Matins.

TIERCE.

Hail, glory of Patriarchs, &c.

O God, come to my assistance, &c.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

Hymn.

Soon shall Bethlehem hail the birthday

Of the Word for us made flesh;

Joseph, thou shalt taste the fountain

Which shall soon the world refresh.

Humbly worshipp'd in the manger,

Cradled with the undefiled,

Now in highest heaven exalted

Let us seek the holy Child.

Antiphon.

Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, to be enrolled with Mary, his espoused wife, who was with child.

Pray for us, &c. (as at Matins).

SEXT.

Hail, glory of Patriarchs, &c.

O God, come to my assistance.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

Hymn.

Vainly shall the cruel Herod

Seek on Him to lay his hand,

Jesu's angel safe shall guide thee

Into Egypt's sheltering land;

Thither tremblingly thou fliest

With the Babe on Mary's breast;

In my hour of fear and peril

Let my weakness on Him rest.

Antiphon.

Arise, take the Child and His Mother, and fly into Egypt, and be there until I shall tell thee. For it will come to pass that Herod will seek the Child to destroy Him.

Pray for us, &c. (as at Matins).

NONE.

Hail, glory of Patriarchs, &c.

O God, come to my assistance.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

Hymn.

Thou didst worship in the manger

Him who gently on thee smiled;

He is now in heaven exalted—

Pray for us to thine own Child.

Antiphon.

Joseph arose, and took the Child and His Mother, and came into the land of Israel, and coming he dwelt in a city called Nazareth.

Pray for us, &c. (as at Matins).

VESPERS.

Hail, glory of Patriarchs, &c.

O God, come to my assistance, &c.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

Hymn.

Herod dies ; the angel calls thee,

For his death brings thee release;

Past the days of weary exile,

Find in Nazareth thy peace.

There thy fostering tender care

Jesu's soft caress returns;

Make thy virtues in us flourish,

Faith and hope within us burns.

Antiphon.

My Son, why hast Thou done so to us?

Behold, Thy father and I have sought Thee sorrowing.

Pray for us, &c. (as at Matins).

COMPLINE.

Hail, glory of Patriarchs, &c.

Convert us, O God our Saviour,

And turn away Thine anger from us.

O God, come to my assistance;

O Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

Hymn.

O, how bitter was the anguish

When three days ye sought around,

Till, His Father's business heeding,

In the Temple He was found!

Sweet was sorrow's soft remonstrance,

Sweet His words to Mary's heart;

For us, Joseph, interceding,

May we ne'er from Jesu part.

Antiphon.

I will sleep in peace and I will rest; for Thou, O Lord, alone hast established me in hope.

Pray for us, blessed Joseph, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Jesus Christ.

Prayer.

Grant, O Lord, that in the blessed Spouse of Thy holy Mother we may find all the help of which we stand in need, so that through his powerful intercession we may receive what we could not by ourselves obtain. We beg this of Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

Commendation.

Joseph, thus the charge fulfilling

Given thee by the Holy One,

Hear a heart that loves thee telling

What for Jesus thou hast done.

Saint and Patron of the dying,

Thee I invoke on bended knee,

That God at last my soul requiring,

May grant me then a place by thee.