

SPECIAL DEVOTIONS FOR LENT AND FOR ROGATIONTIDE



A standard monastic devotion is to recite after Matins and Lauds of the day the Seven Penitential Psalms followed by the Litany of the Saints and Psalm 69 and closing invocations and collect as provided for at the Greater Litanies and for the Lesser Litanies of Rogationtide. This practice is particularly recommended to the faithful for use in Lent, especially as a morning devotion. The present text is taken from the secular Liturgy rather than that proper to any religious order (as the latter will include mention of saints proper to the same order). Versicles said only by a priest (or at least a deacon) in communal prayer, and their respective responses, are enclosed in squared brackets.

For a good devotion for Rogationtide, do not pray the following Seven Penitential Psalms. Omit them and go to page 9 to say the Antiphon and Psalm Verse of Rogationtide (it is the Introit for the Rogation Mass), and then simply continue from there. During Rogationtide but not during Lent, end the devotion as directed by reading the propers of the day from the Rogationtide Mass, but omitting the Offertory and Secret and the Postcommunion Verse, as those are directed exclusively to the celebration of Mass *per se*. Just read the Collect, Epistle, two Alleluias and Gospel as provided hereunder.



**The 7 Penitential Psalms:
Psalms 6, 31, 37, 50, 101, 129 and 142**

By order of Pope Innocent III (1198-1216), these Psalms are to be prayed during the days of Lent. If they cannot be recited on each day of the Season, they can at least be prayed on Lenten Fridays (or one could pray one Psalm on each of the seven Fridays of Lent). One kneels when praying these Psalms and closes each with a Glory. The words of intonation for an antiphon open the initial Psalm and the whole antiphon closes the last Psalm.

Antiphon. Remember not.

Psalm VI: *Domine, ne in furore.*

O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine indignation,
nor chastise me in Thy wrath.
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am weak; heal me, O Lord,
for my bones are troubled.
And my soul is afflicted exceedingly:
but Thou, O Lord, how long?
Turn to me, O Lord, and deliver my soul;
O save me for Thy mercy's sake.
For there is no one in death that is mindful of Thee,
and who shall confess to Thee in hell?
I have laboured in my groanings: every night I will bathe my bed;
I will drench my couch with my tears.
My eye is dimmed with grief.
I have grown old because of all mine enemies.
Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity:
for the Lord hath heard my tearful cry.
The Lord hath heard my supplication;
the Lord hath received my prayer.
Let my enemies be put to shame and sorely frightened;
let them be turned back, and flee in haste. *Glory.*

Psalm XXXI: *Beati quorum.*

Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven,
and whose sins are pardoned.
Blessed is the man to whom the Lord hath not imputed sin,
and in whose spirit there is no guile.
Because I was silent, my bones grew frail,
whilst I cried out all the day long.
For day and night, Thy hand lay heavy upon me:
I am afflicted in my anguish, whilst the thorn is fastened.
Then I acknowledged my sin to Thee,
and my injustice I did not conceal.
I said: I will confess against myself my injustice to the Lord:
and Thou hast forgiven the guilt of my sin.
Wherefore the pious one shall pray to Thee
in a seasonable time:

Then the flood of many waters shall not come nigh unto him.
Thou art my refuge from the trouble which hath encompassed me:
 Thou, my joy, deliver me from them that oppress me.
I will give thee understanding, and I will instruct thee in the way
 in which thou shalt go: I will fix Mine eyes upon thee.
Do not become like the horse and the mule,
 who have no understanding.
With bit and bridle, their jaws must be checked,
 or they will not follow thee.
Many are the scourges of the sinner,
 but mercy shall encompass him that hopeth in the Lord.
Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye just,
 and exult, all ye upright of heart. *Glory.*

Psalm XXXVII: *Domine, ne in furore.*

Rebuke me not, O Lord, in Thine indignation;
 nor chastise me in Thy wrath.
For Thy arrows are fastened in me;
 and Thy hand hath been strong upon me.
There is no soundness in my flesh because of Thy wrath;
 there is no peace for my bones, because of my sins.
For my iniquities reach over my head;
 and, as a heavy burden, are become too onerous for me.
My sores are putrefied and corrupted because of my foolishness.
I am become miserable, and am bowed down exceedingly;
 I go about sorrowful all the day long.
For my loins are filled with infection,
 and there is no health in my flesh.
I am afflicted and humbled exceedingly:
 I cry aloud with the groaning of my heart.
Lord, all my desire is before Thee,
 and my groaning is not hidden from Thee.
My heart is troubled; my strength hath left me;
 even the light of my eyes hath failed me.
My friends and my neighbours were near me before,
 but they now stand against me.
All they that were near me now stand afar off;
 and they that sought my soul have used violence.

And they that wished me evil spoke falsehoods,
and studied deceits all the day long.
But I, as a deaf man, heard not; and as a dumb man,
I did not open my mouth.
And I became as a man that heareth not;
and that hath no reproofs in his mouth.
For in Thee, O Lord, have I hoped:
Thou wilt hear me, O Lord my God.
For I said: When my feet falter,
my enemies shall never rejoice over me;
and they shall not speak great things against me.
For I am ready for scourges;
and my sorrow is continually before me.
For I will declare my iniquity; and I will think upon my sin.
But my enemies live, and are stronger than I;
and they that hate me wrongfully are multiplied.
They that render evil for good have fought against me
because I sought goodness.
Forsake me not, O Lord my God; do not Thou depart from me.
Incline unto mine aid, O Lord, the God of my salvation. *Glory.*

Psalm L: *Miserere.*

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy.
And according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies,
blot out my iniquity.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity;
and cleanse me from my sin.
For I acknowledge my guilt, and my sin is always before me.
To Thee only have I sinned, and have done evil before Thee:
so Thou art justified in Thy sentence,
and are just in Thy judgement.
For behold, I was conceived in iniquities,
and in sins did my mother conceive me.
For behold, Thou hast loved uprightness;
the secret and hidden things of Thy wisdom
Thou hast made manifest to me.
Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be cleansed;
Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow.

To mine ear Thou shalt give joy and gladness;
and my bones that have been humbled shall rejoice.
Turn away Thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
Create a clean heart in me, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy face;
and take not Thy holy spirit away from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,
and strengthen me with a generous spirit.
I will teach the unjust Thy ways;
and the wicked shall be converted unto Thee.
Deliver me from the guilt of blood, O God,
Thou God of my salvation:
and my tongue shall extol Thy justice.
O Lord, Thou wilt open my lips:
and my mouth shall declare Thy praise.
For, if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I would indeed have given it:
with burnt offerings, Thou wilt not be delighted.
A sacrifice to God is an afflicted spirit;
a contrite and humbled heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.
Deal favourably, O Lord, in Thy good will with Sion
that the walls of Jerusalem may be rebuilt.
Then shalt Thou accept the sacrifice of justice:
oblations and whole burnt offerings.
Then shall they lay calves upon Thine altar. *Glory.*

Psalm CI: *Domine, exaudi.*

Hear, O Lord, my prayer: and let my cry come unto Thee.
Turn not away Thy face from me;
in the day when I am in trouble, incline Thine ear to me.
In what day soever I shall call upon Thee, hear me speedily.
For my days are vanished like smoke;
and my bones are grown dry like fuel for the fire.
I am smitten as grass, and my heart is withered:
because I have even forgotten to eat my bread.
Through the voice of my groaning,
my bones hath cleaved to my flesh.

I am become like to a pelican of the wilderness;
I am like an owl in a ruined house.
I have watched long in loneliness;
I have become like a sparrow all alone on the housetop.
All the day long, my enemies reproached me;
and they that once praised me did swear against me.
For I did eat ashes for my food,
and mingled my drink with weeping,
Because of Thine anger and indignation:
for having lifted me up, Thou hast thrown me down.
My days have declined like a shadow, and I am withered like grass.
But Thou, O Lord, endurest for ever;
and Thy memory abideth for all generations.
Thou shalt arise and have mercy on Sion:
for it is time to have mercy on it; the time is come.
For its very stones have pleased Thy servants;
its ruins move them to pity.
And the Gentiles shall fear Thy name, O Lord,
and all the kings of the earth, Thy glory.
For the Lord hath built up Sion; and He shall be seen in His glory.
He hath regard to the prayer of the humble;
and He hath not despised their petition.
Let these things be written unto another generation;
and the people that shall be created then shall praise the Lord
Because He hath looked forth from His high sanctuary;
from Heaven, the Lord hath looked upon the earth
That He might hear the groans of them that are in fetters,
that He might release the children of the slain,
That they may declare the name of the Lord in Sion,
and His praise in Jerusalem
When the people assemble together, and kings, to serve the Lord.
He hath broken my strength: He hath declared unto me
the fewness of my days. Hence I said:
Call me not away in the midst of my days:
Thy years are unto generation and generation.
In the beginning, O Lord, Thou foundest the earth;
and the heavens are the works of Thy hands.

They shall perish but Thou remainest,
and all of them shall fade like a garment;
And as a vesture, Thou shalt change them,
and they shall be replaced.
But Thou art always the selfsame, and Thy years shall not fail.
The children of Thy servants shall live on:
and their seed shall be established for ever.

Psalm CXXIX: *De profundis.*

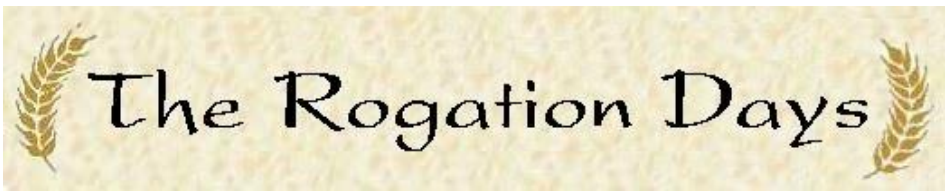
Out of the depths have I cried to Thee, O Lord:
Lord, hear my voice. Let Thy ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplication.
If Thou, O Lord, wilt mark iniquities: Lord, who shall abide it?
For, with Thee, there is merciful forgiveness;
and by reason of Thy law, I have trusted Thee, O Lord.
My soul hath relied on His word; my soul hath hoped in the Lord.
From the morning watch even until night,
let Israel hope in the Lord
Because, with the Lord, there is mercy;
and with Him, plentiful redemption.
And He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities. *Glory.*

Psalm CXLII: *Domine, exaudi.*

Hear, O Lord, my prayer: give ear to my supplication in Thy truth;
hear me in Thy justice.
And enter not into judgement with Thy servant,
for, in Thy sight, no man living shall be justified.
For the enemy hath persecuted my soul;
he hath brought down my life to the earth.
He hath made me to dwell in darkness
as those that have been long dead;
and my spirit is in anguish within me;
my heart within me is disconsolate.
I remembered the days of old; I hath pondered all Thy works;
I meditated upon the works of Thy hands.
I stretched forth my hands to Thee;
my soul, like parched soil, thirsteth after Thee.

Hear me speedily, O Lord: my spirit hath fainted away.
Turn not away Thy face from me,
 lest I be like unto them that descend into the grave.
Cause me to hear Thy mercy in the morning:
 for in Thee have I hoped.
Make the way known to me, wherein I should walk:
 for I have lifted up my soul to Thee.
Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord. To Thee have I fled.
 Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God.
Thy good spirit shall lead me into the right land.
 For Thy Name's sake, O Lord,
 Thou wilt preserve me in Thy justice.
Thou wilt bring my soul out of trouble;
 and in Thy mercy, Thou wilt overcome mine enemies.
And Thou wilt defeat all them that afflict my soul:
 for I am Thy servant. *Glory.*

Antiphon. Remember not our offences, O Lord, nor those of
our forefathers, neither take vengeance on our sins.



The Rogation Days

Rogation Days were traditionally celebrated during the fifty days of Easter on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before Ascension Day. The word *rogation* has its roots in the Latin word which means to ask or petition and it comes from the ancient introit for the Sunday preceding the Ascension. In some places, the celebrations of Rogation Days were quite elaborate and included processions from the church to and around fields while asking for God's blessing.

ROGATIONTIDE

For Rogationtide and for the Greater Litanies usually coinciding with St. Mark Day, begin the daily devotion with the following Antiphon (Psalm 43. 26) and Psalm Verse and then continue from there with the Litany of the Saints and following versicles, responses and prayers:

Arise, ✠ O Lord, help us, and deliver us for Thy Name's sake (*In Paschaltide: Alleluia*). *Verse 2.* We have heard, O God, with our ears; our fathers have told us. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Arise, O Lord, help us, and deliver us for Thy Name's sake (*In Paschaltide: Alleluia*).

Note that the Alleluias for Paschaltide will always be exclaimed at this devotion. They are put into brackets here only in case it should be prayed for some reason in another Season.

In both Lent and Rogationtide and also on 25th April:

THE LITANY OF THE SAINTS

Lord, have mercy on us. *Christ, have mercy on us.*

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father of Heaven, *have mercy on us.*

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, *have mercy on us.*

God the Holy Ghost, *have mercy on us.*

Holy Trinity, One God, *have mercy on us.*

Holy Mary, *pray for us.*

Holy Mother of God, *pray for us.*

Holy Virgin of Virgins, *pray for us.*

St. Michael, *pray for us.*

St. Gabriel, *&c.*

St. Raphael,

All ye holy angels and archangels,

All ye holy orders of blessed spirits,

St. John the Baptist,

St. Joseph,

All ye holy patriarchs and prophets,

St. Peter,

St. Paul,

St. Andrew,

St. James,

St. John,

St. Thomas,

St. James,

St. Philip,

St. Bartholomew,

St. Matthew,

St. Simon,
St. Thaddeus,
St. Matthias,
St. Barnabas,
St. Luke,
St. Mark,
All ye holy apostles and evangelists,
All ye holy disciples of our Lord,
All ye holy innocents,

St. Stephen,
St. Lawrence,
St. Vincent,
SS. Fabian and Sebastian,
SS. John and Paul,
SS. Cosmas and Damian,
SS. Gervase and Protase,
All ye holy martyrs,

St. Sylvester,
St. Gregory,
St. Ambrose,
St. Augustine,
St. Jerome,
St. Martin,
St. Nicholas,
All ye holy bishops and confessors,
All ye holy doctors,

St. Anthony,
St. Benedict,
St. Bernard,
St. Dominic,
St. Francis,
All ye holy priests and Levites,
All ye holy monks and hermits,

St. Mary Magdalene,
St. Agatha,
St. Lucy,
St. Agnes,
St. Cecilia,
St. Catherine,
St. Anastasia,
All ye holy virgins and widows,

All ye holy men and women, saints of God,
make intercession for us.

Be merciful, *spare us, O Lord.*
Be merciful, *graciously hear us, O Lord.*

From all evil, *deliver us, O Lord.*
From all sin, *deliver us, O Lord.*
From Thy wrath, *deliver us, O Lord.*
From sudden and unprovided death, *&c.*
From the snares of the devil,
From anger and hatred and every evil will,
From the spirit of fornication,
From lightning and tempest,
From the scourge of earthquake,
From plague, famine and war,
From everlasting death,
Through the mystery of Thy holy Incarnation,
Through Thy coming,
Through Thy Nativity,
Through Thy Baptism and holy fasting,
Through Thy Cross and Passion,
Through Thy death and burial,
Through Thy holy Resurrection,
Through Thine admirable Ascension,
Through the coming of the Holy Ghost, the Paraclete,
In the day of Judgement,

We sinners, *beseech Thee, hear us.*

That Thou wouldst spare us, *we beseech Thee, hear us.*

That Thou wouldst pardon us, *we beseech Thee, hear us.*

That Thou wouldst bring us to true penance,

we beseech Thee, hear us.

That Thou wouldst govern and preserve Thy holy Church, *&c.*

That Thou wouldst vouchsafe to preserve our apostolic prelate
and all orders of the Church in holy religion,

That Thou wouldst vouchsafe to humble
the enemies of holy Church,

That Thou wouldst vouchsafe to give peace and true concord
to kings and all Christian princes,

That Thou wouldst vouchsafe to grant peace and unity
to all Christian people,

That Thou wouldst vouchsafe to restore to the unity
of the Church all who have strayed from the truth
and lead to the light of the Gospel all unbelievers,

That Thou wouldst vouchsafe to confirm and preserve us
in Thy holy service,

That Thou wouldst lift up our minds to Heavenly desires,

That Thou wouldst render eternal blessings
to all our benefactors,

That Thou wouldst deliver our souls
and the souls of our brethren, relations and benefactors
from eternal damnation,

That Thou wouldst vouchsafe to give and preserve
the goods of the earth,

That Thou wouldst vouchsafe to grant eternal rest
to all the faithful departed,

That Thou wouldst vouchsafe graciously to hear us,
Son of God,

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,
spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,
graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

Christ, hear us. *Christ, graciously hear us.*

Lord, have mercy on us. *Christ, have mercy on us.*

Lord, have mercy on us.

Our Father ... [silently to:]

✠. And lead us not into temptation.

℟. But deliver us from evil.

Psalm LXIX: *Deus in adiutorium.*

O God, ✠ come to my assistance;

O Lord, make haste to help me.

Let them be confounded and ashamed that seek my soul;

Let them be turned backward, and blush for shame
that desire evils to me.

Let them be presently turned away, blushing for shame,
that say to me: 'Tis well, 'tis well.

Let all that seek Thee rejoice and be glad in Thee;
and let such as love Thy salvation say always:
The Lord be magnified.

But I am needy and poor: O God, help me.

Thou art my helper and my deliverer:

O Lord, make no delay. *Glory.*

✠. Save Thy servants

℟. Who hope in Thee, O my God.

✠. Be unto us, O Lord, a tower of strength.

℟. From the face of the enemy.

✠. Let not the enemy prevail against us.

℞. Nor the son of iniquity have power to hurt us.

✠. O Lord, deal not with us according to our sins.

℞. Neither requite us according to our iniquities.

✠. Let us pray for our Sovereign Pontiff *N.*

℞. The Lord preserve him and give him life, and make him blessed upon the earth; and deliver him not up to the will of his enemies.

✠. Let us pray for our benefactors.

℞. Vouchsafe, O Lord, to reward with eternal life all those who do us good for Thy Name's sake. Amen.

✠. Let us pray for the faithful departed.

℞. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord; and let perpetual light shine upon them.

✠. May they rest in piece.

℞. For our absent brethren:

✠. Save Thy servants, who hope in Thee, O my God.

℞. Send them help, O Lord, from Thy holy place,

✠. And out of Sion, protect them.

℞. O Lord, hear my prayer,

✠. And let my cry come unto Thee.

[Priest or Deacon: The Lord be with you.

Response: And with thy spirit.]

Collect: Let us pray.

O God, Whose property is always to have mercy and to spare, graciously receive our petition, that we, and all Thy servants, whom the chain of sin doth bind, may, by Thy compassion, be mercifully absolved.

We beseech Thee, O Lord, graciously to hear the prayers of Thy suppliants, and to forgive the sins of those who confess to Thee, that, in Thy bounty, Thou mayest grant us both pardon and peace.

In Thy clemency, O Lord, show unto us Thine unspeakable pity: that Thou mayest both loose us from all our sins, and deliver us from the punishments which we deserve for them.

O God, Who by sin art offended, and by penance, pacified: mercifully regard the prayers of Thy people making supplication to Thee, and turn away the scourges of Thy wrath, which we deserve for our sins.

Almighty, everlasting God, have mercy upon Thy servant *N.*, our sovereign Pontiff, and direct him according to Thy mercy in the way of everlasting salvation, that, by Thy grace, he may both desire those things that are pleasing to Thee, and perform them with all his strength.

O God, from Whom are all holy desires, right counsels and just works, grant unto Thy servants that peace which the world cannot give, that, as our hearts are set to obey Thy commandments, and are freed from the fear of our enemies, our days may be peaceful under Thy protection.

Inflame, O Lord, our reins and our heart with the fire of the Holy Ghost, that we may serve Thee with a chaste body, and please Thee with a clean heart.

O God, the Creator and Redeemer of all the faithful, grant unto the souls of Thy servants departed the remission of all their sins, that, through our pious supplications, they may obtain the pardon which they have always desired.

We beseech Thee, O Lord, direct our actions by Thine inspiration, and further them with Thy continual help, that every word and work of ours may always begin from Thee, and through Thee, be brought to a happy end.

Almighty and everlasting God, Who hast dominion over the living and the dead, and showest mercy unto all whom Thou foreknowest shall be Thine by faith and good works: we humbly beseech Thee that they for whom we intend to pour forth our prayers, whether this present world still detain them in the flesh, or the world to come hath already received them out of their bodies, may, through the intercession of all Thy saints, and by the mercy of Thy goodness, obtain the remission of all their sins. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who is God, and liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, world without end. *Amen.*

Close:

[*Cleric:* The Lord be with you.

Response: And with thy spirit.]

✠. May the almighty and merciful Lord graciously hear us.

✠ Amen.

✠. And may the souls ✠ of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

✠ Amen.

On the Rogation days and on 25th April (but not in Lent), conclude by reading the Collect, Epistle, Two Alleluias and Gospel of the Rogation Mass.

Collect.

Grant, we beseech Thee, O almighty God, that we, who, in our affliction, put our trust in Thy mercy, may ever be defended by Thy protection against all adversity. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who is God, and liveth and reigneth with Thee, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, world without end. *Amen.*

Epistle (St. James 5. 16-20)

Dearly beloved, confess your sins one to another, that you may be saved: for the continual prayer of a just man availeth much. Elias was a man passible like unto us; and with prayer, he prayed that it might not rain upon the earth, and it rained not for three years and

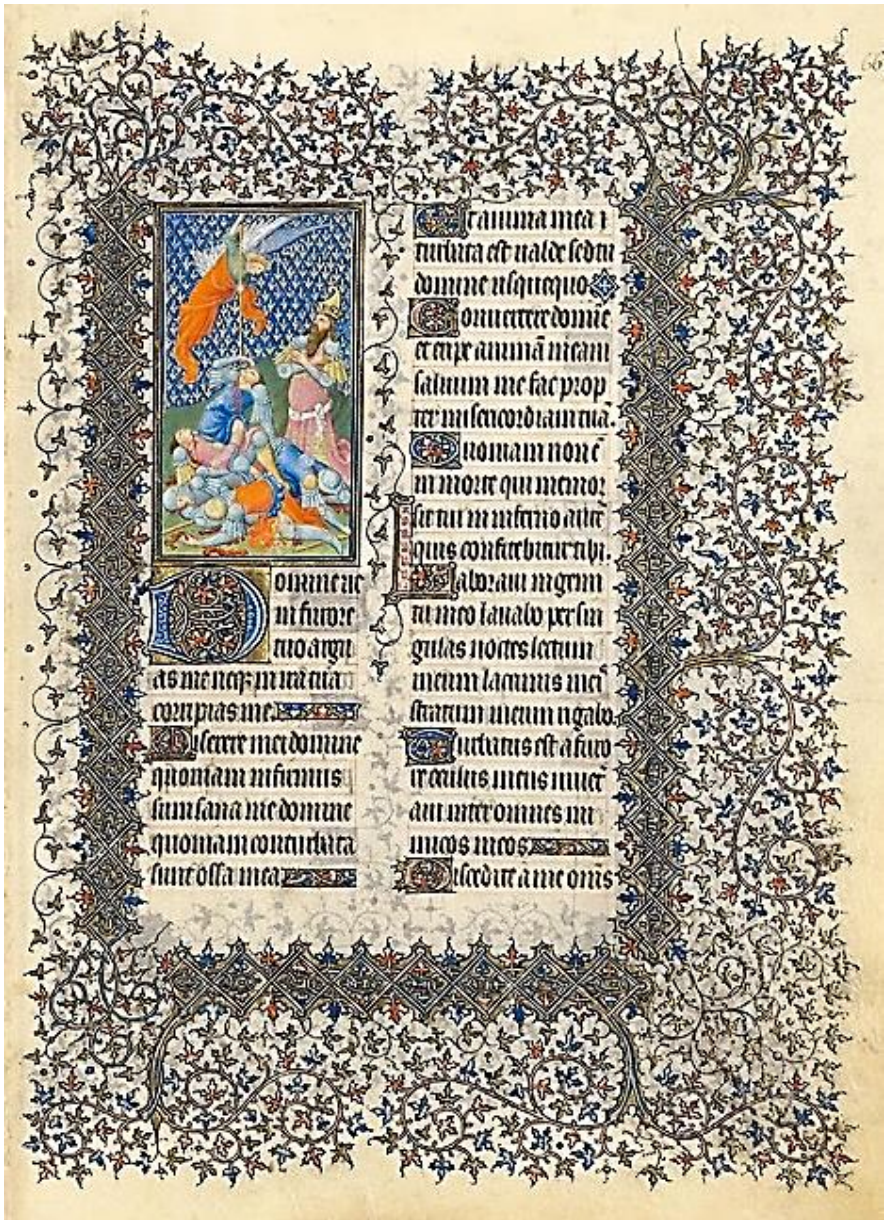
six months. And he prayed again: and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit. My brethren, if any of you err from the truth, and one convert him, he must know that he who causeth a sinner to be converted from the error of his way shall save his soul from death, and shall cover a multitude of sins. *Deo gratias.*

Two Alleluias in Eastertide (Psalm 78. 9-10; 30. 8)

Forgive us our sins, O Lord, lest the Gentiles should ever say: Where is their God? Alleluia. I will be glad, and rejoice in Thy mercy: for Thou hast regarded my humility; Thou hast saved my soul out of distress. Alleluia.

Gospel (St. Luke 11. 5-13)

At that time, Jesus said to His disciples: Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go to him at midnight and shall say to him: Friend, lend me three loaves, because a friend of mine has come off his journey to me, and I have not what to set before him; and he, from within, should answer and say: Trouble me not, the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed, so I cannot rise and give unto thee. Yet if he shall continue knocking, I say to you, although he will not rise and give him because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity, he will rise, and give him as many as he needeth. And I say to you: Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh, receiveth; and he that seeketh, findeth; and to him that knocketh, it shall be opened. And which of you, if he ask his father bread, will he give him a stone?; or a fish, will he, for a fish, give him a serpent?; or, if he shall ask an egg, will he reach him a scorpion? If you, then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father, Who art in Heaven, give the good Spirit to them that ask Him? *Laus tibi, Christe.*



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