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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.