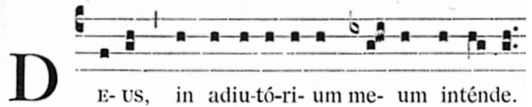
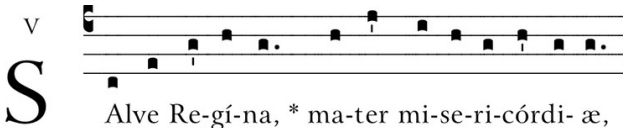


the divine offices

<p>matins (after midnight)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * One of most elaborate parts of the Divine Offices...sometimes referred to as vigils or nocturnes * The structure is totally different than all others...may be considerably shortened for lesser feasts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Opening Section: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Pater noster, Ave Maria, Credo * Versicle * Deus in adjutorium * Invitatory with Psalm 94 * Hymn * 3 Nocturnes (each containing) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 3 psalms with 3 antiphons and * 3 lessons with 3 Great Responsories * Te Deum laudamus (on Sundays and feasts) * Versicle * Prayer * Benedicamus Domino 
<p>lauds (at daybreak)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Also elaborate, identical in formal/musical structure to Vespers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Deus in adjutorium (opening prayer) * Five Psalms each with an antiphon (one is a canticle from OT) * Chapter (scripture reading) * Great Responsory (prayer) * Hymn (listed in the back of the Liber Usualis to coordinate with the day) * Versicle (little psalm verse) * Song of Zachariah (instead of Magnificat) * Prayer and Antiphons of Commemoration (Saints of the Day, or BVM) * Closing Versicles (and Benedicamus Domino)
<p>prime (6 am)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * One of The Lesser Hours * Hymn, 3 Psalms, Antiphon, Chapter, Responsory, Versicle
<p>terce (9 am)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * One of The Lesser Hours * Hymn, 3 Psalms, Antiphon, Chapter, Responsory, Versicle
<p>sext (noon)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * One of The Lesser Hours * Hymn, 3 Psalms, Antiphon, Chapter, Responsory, Versicle
<p>none (3 pm)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * One of The Lesser Hours * Hymn, 3 Psalms, Antiphon, Chapter, Responsory, Versicle
<p>vespers (early evening)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * One of most elaborate parts of the Divine Offices * "First Vespers" are celebrated on the preceding evening...two Vespers for feast days <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Deus in adjutorium (opening prayer) * Five Psalms each with an antiphon (one is a canticle from OT) * Chapter (scripture reading) * Great Responsory (prayer) * Hymn (listed in the back of the Liber Usualis to coordinate with the day) * Versicle (little psalm verse) * Song of Zachariah (instead of Magnificat) * Prayer and Antiphons of Commemoration (Saints of the Day, or BVM) * Closing Versicles (and Benedicamus Domino)
<p>compline (before retiring)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The closing prayers of the Divine Offices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 3 Psalms * Antiphon * Hymn * Chapter * Short Responsory * Versicle * Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon Canticle)...plus a Marian Antiphon, according to season (intoned): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Advent - Feb. 2: Alma Redemptoris Mater * Feb. 3 - Wed of Holy Week: Ave Regina Coelorum * Holy Thursday - Pentecost: Regina Coeli Laetare * Octave of Pentecost - Advent: Salve Regina 

context & perspective

✦ Early Middle Ages "DARK AGES" (450-800)

- ✦ After Christianity was established by Constantine (Edict of Milan, 313AD), converts to Christianity grew in great numbers...people looked to the Church for security.
- ✦ Time of societal decay and great religious growth.

✦ High Middle Ages "ROMANESQUE ERA" (800-1100)

- ✦ Charlemagne continued the work of his father, Pepin the Short (1st Carolingian King).
- ✦ He was the first to conceive the idea of a united Europe...united under the Roman Rite.
- ✦ Brought a renewed sense of culture to Medieval Europe, despite being illiterate himself.
- ✦ Created a cultural center which would eventually lead to the Renaissance.

✦ Later Middle Ages "GOTHIC ERA" (1100-1400)

- ✦ After Charlemagne died, the empire then went into decline and formed smaller unions.
- ✦ There were military rulers as well as spiritual rulers.
- ✦ Money and labor went to support castles, troops, weapons and the Church.
- ✦ Feudalism made this possible (nobility—clergy—peasants).
- ✦ Religious devotion and pride demonstrated by the skill and devotion of the people who built the great cathedrals of Europe. These builders had no hope of seeing their completion. Imagine that...it was their contribution to eternity.
- ✦ The activity of LEARNING was much revered...medicine, law, art...everything was inspired by religion.



Subiaco, Italy

inspiration

- ✦ The early Christians practiced many Jewish religious traditions, including reciting prayers at certain hours of the day or night. The Psalms were a favorite source of prayer, offering phrases such as, "in the morning I offer you my prayer," "At midnight I will rise and thank you," "Evening, morning and at noon I will cry and lament," "Seven times a day I praise you." The Apostles observed the Jewish custom of praying at the third, sixth and ninth hour and at midnight (Acts 10:3, 9; 16:25). There was obvious scriptural basis for an organization of prayer throughout the day.
- ✦ The Jews (and eventually early Christians) began to follow the Roman system of conducting the business day in scheduling their times for prayer. In Roman cities, the bell in the forum rang the beginning of the business day at about six o'clock in the morning (Prime, the "first hour"), again at about nine o'clock in the morning (Terce, the "third hour"), at noon for the lunch break (Sext, the "sixth hour"), again at about three o'clock in the afternoon (None, the "ninth hour") to call people back to work, and finally at the close of the business day at about six o'clock in the evening (the time for evening prayer).
- ✦ The prayers of that time consisted of recited or chanting psalms, scripture readings and canticles. Other elements were added and/or developed later in the course of the centuries.
- ✦ By about the fourth century, the general contents of the prayer hours had developed.

st. benedict

- ✦ The particular arrangement and labeling of the "Liturgy of the Hours" or Divine Offices as a special unit of prayer is attributed to Saint Benedict (480-543) of Norcia. He is known as the patron saint of students.
- ✦ Much of what we know about St. Benedict comes from Pope Gregory (c. 540-604).
- ✦ Benedict left Rome as a young man, leaving behind his family and wealth along with the big city. He searched for a life of meditation and contemplation, choosing a quiet place in the mountains above Subiaco. There, he chose to dedicate his life to God, forsaking all riches, and to live by his own work...the foundation of Western Monasticism.
- ✦ He lived in seclusion in a cave for three years before writing "The Rule (of Benedict)," a guide for laymen to be able to live out the gospels. Most religious communities of the Middle Ages adopted it. Benedict founded twelve communities for monks at Subiaco, Italy before moving to Monte Cassino in the mountains of southern Italy. He died as Abbot of the monastery at Monte Cassino.
 - ✦ It was Benedict who adopted the concept in Christian prayer of the inseparability of the spiritual life from the physical life. The Benedictines believe in communal work to support themselves.
 - ✦ St. Benedict is famously quoted, "**Ora et labora, labora et ora,**" or "**To pray is to work, to work is to pray.**" Thus, the fixed-hour prayers that he codified came to be known as the "Divine Office" (office, from the Latin word for "work"). Benedictines call the prayers Opus Dei or "Work of God." Today, it's called "Liturgy of the Hours." Benedict arranged it as a work of (and for) God.
 - ✦ Inspired by the psalms: "7 times a day praise you o Lord, and in the night I rise to sing your praise"
 - ✦ All hours are praise to God...as well as pleas for mercy, forgiveness, and strength to be faithful.
 - ✦ Some scholars have referred to the early Middle Ages as "the Benedictine centuries." The influence St Benedict had on the development of European civilization and culture helped Europe to emerge from the "Dark Ages" that followed the fall of the Roman Empire
 - ✦ Throughout the ages, the Divine Offices have changed / edited by various religious leaders.
 - ✦ Various Christian denominations still celebrate various forms or portions of the Liturgy of the Hours: Catholic (Breviary), Eastern Orthodox (Horologion), Anglican (Book of Common Prayer), Lutheran (Lutheran Book of Worship).
 - ✦ After the Vatican II Council, Pope Paul VI issued a new Breviary. The structure of the offices, the psalms, and the prayers themselves were modified. Prime was eliminated. In short, the process was shortened. "Major" and "minor" hours were defined.



Montecassino, Italy