

**I. History of the Liturgy of the Hours**

NT / 1 <sup>st</sup> Century	2 <sup>nd</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> Centuries	4 <sup>th</sup> Century	Late 4 <sup>th</sup> Century
“pray always” ?Jewish Roots	3 <sup>rd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> hours morning/evening midnight	Cathedral Tradition Monastic Desert Tradition (Skete vs. Pachomius)	Urban Monastic tradition Hybrid Offices Benedictine (8 Hours)
<b>Roots</b>		<b>Benedictine</b>	<b>Modern</b>
Midnight	Vigils (nocturnes; later matins)	Office of Readings (divorced from hour)	
Morning (c. 6 am)	Lauds (matins): Pss 148-50 Prime: monastic AM prayer	Morning Prayer (Invitatory) Prime suppressed	
3 <sup>rd</sup> hour (9 am)	Terce	Mid-morning	
6 <sup>th</sup> hour (12 noon)	Sext	Mid-day	
9 <sup>th</sup> hour (3 pm)	None	Mid-afternoon	
Evening (c. 6 pm)	Vespers	Evening Prayer	
	Compline (bedtime)	Night Prayer	
	<b>Cathedral</b>	<b>Desert Monastic</b>	<b>Urban Monastic Hybrid (Benedict)</b>
<b>Cursus</b>	AM & PM; Occasional vigil	AM & PM Skete: weekly Pachomius: daily	7 day hours + 1 night hour
<b>Psalms/Canticles</b>	Few & selected (sung responsorially)	<i>Currente psalterio</i> (whole psalter in order)	Whole psalter used much in order; selection at some hrs.
<b>Prayers</b>	---	In pauses between psalms	Silent pauses still possible
<b>Readings</b>	Often none; if used = selective	<i>Lectio continua</i>	At every hour; night: longer <i>lectio continua</i>
<b>Hymns</b>	Used <i>Gloria in excelsis</i> <i>Phos hilaron</i>	None	Used
<b>Intercessions</b>	Important part (E>W)	None	AM & PM litanies
<b>Other components</b>	Light; incense; processions	None	Psalms sung in various ways (not just responsorially)
<b>Community</b>	The Church hierarchically assembled	Assembly w/o hierarchy: ministry rests on all in turn	Assembly of local community with its abbot, other officials, and monks – not hierarchically based on Orders.
<b>Shifts Over Time</b>			
Church as whole		Clerical	
Popular & simple		Complex; Latin; no or inaccessible music	
Cathedral		Monastic	
Public		Private	
Time-bound		Divorced from proper hour	
Christological		Saints / devotional	
Common school of prayer		Replaced by popular devotions	
Flexible and diverse		Rigid <i>officium</i>	

**II. Renewal of Vatican II**

A. *General Instruction of the Liturgy of the Hours*

1. LITURGY: Christological (§§ 1-4, 13); Ecclesiological (§§ 5-9);  
Dialogical (§ 14); Eschatological (§§ 15-16); Pneumatological (§ 8);
2. HOURS: Consecration of Time (§§ 10-11); Anamnesis (§ 12)

B. Morning Prayer & Evening Prayer

	<b>MORNING</b>	<b>EVENING</b>
<b>Verse/Response</b>	If invitatory: -“Lord, open my lips...” (Invitatory Psalm 95) Otherwise, like EP	“God, come to my assistance...” (omit Alleluia in Lent)
<b>Hymn</b>		
<b>Psalmody</b> (with optional silence, psalm prayers) Ways of praying: -Continuous -Responsorially -Antiphonally	First Psalm OT Canticle Second Psalm	First Psalm Second Psalm (if the 2 are parts of a single psalm, they can be combined; then use only 1 <sup>st</sup> antiphon) NT Canticle
<b>Scripture Reading</b> (short or long) ± Homily ± Responsory		
<b>Gospel Canticle</b>	<i>Benedictus</i>	<i>Magnificat</i>
<b>Litany</b> ( <i>preces</i> ) 2 ways of praying (§192): -responsorially -antiphonally (use 2 <sup>nd</sup> part as response)	Invocations (commending or consecrating the day to God)	Intercessions
<b>Lord’s Prayer</b> <i>Introduced in community</i>		
<b>Concluding Prayer</b>		
<b>Blessing &amp; Dismissal</b> <i>Lay and clerical forms</i>		
<b>Themes</b>	1. resurrection; Christ, risen light of the world, orient from on high; 2. Cosmic praise: for the light, for the new day, for creation; 3. purification 4. eschatological hope for the last day of the world 5. judgment 6. sanctify / consecrate the day to God / prepare for tasks ahead	1. Christ is the light who shines on in the darkness of sin and death 2. thanksgiving for the day 3. thanksgiving for approaching time of rest 4. penitence 5. forgiveness / reconciliation with others 6. protection through the night 7. expectation of the coming day: tomorrow and the final day 8. “evening sacrifice” of praise
<b>Rituals to consider for use in parish celebrations</b>	1. baptismal water / sprinkling rite 2. face East	1. light ( <i>lucernarium</i> ) 2. incense (Ps 141) (see §261)