



Worship at Holy Cross Monastery

Daily Worship Schedule

7:00 a.m.	Matins
9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
12:00 p.m.	Diurnum
5:00 p.m.	Vespers
8:00 p.m.	Compline

Worship is central to our life of faith, and we invite you to join our regularly scheduled services. We ring a bell ten minutes before each service to remind brothers and guests to gather in the church.

You're welcomed at all services, whatever your religious faith, and we encourage participation. Please stand as you are able when our monastic community stands. You're also invited to join our recitation and chanting. We ask, however, that you do so softly. Simply put, please let the monastic choir lead!

In addition to Matins, Holy Eucharist, Diurnum, Vespers, and Compline, we observe festivals of the liturgical calendar and commemorate saints according to the sanctoral cycle of the Episcopal Church (with a few adaptations). Our calendar of observances, the Ordo, is available for download on our website.

The Ordo

The Ordo of the Order of the Holy Cross, the official calendar of feasts and fasts we observe, will help you emulate—and support—our monastic communities. The Ordo is used in conjunction with *A Monastic Breviary*.

Matins

Matins (Morning Office) begins our day with an invitation to worship, usually the *Venite* from Psalm 95. Matins continues with psalms, a reading from the Old Testament, a scriptural canticle, and lesson from the New Testament. We sing a hymn that celebrates creation or marks the day's feast or church season. The daily recitation or chanting of the *Benedictus*, Zachariah's song of blessing (Luke 1:68-79) invites "the dawn from on high" to break upon us. We recite the Lord's Prayer. The officiant gathers our intentions in the Collect or shared prayer, after which we're dismissed to begin the day's work.

Holy Eucharist

The Holy Eucharist (Mass, Divine Liturgy, Holy Communion) draws us together in a service of Word and Sacrament. During this central act of Christian worship, we're fed by Christ, the Bread of Life, and strengthened to serve Christ in each other and in the world. Whether offered with glorious music, incense, and preaching or in the contemplative quiet of a simple weekday

celebration, we are nourished and renewed. As our Founder Fr. Huntington reminds us, “The whole love of the Passion burns in every Eucharist, and we...are to be kindled with that love.”

Diurnum

Diurnum (Midday Office) provides time to pause and reflect upon the unfolding day in the light of God’s eternal message. Diurnum includes a plainsong hymn, short selection of chanted psalms, time for silent prayer, a Collect, and ends with a prayer for those who have passed on: “May the souls of the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.”

Vespers

Vespers (Evening Prayer), structured like Matins, brings our work day to a close. Vespers begins with the *Phos Hilaron*, a late 3rd century hymn saluting Christ the Light. It continues with psalms, a Gospel lesson, and a seasonal or festal hymn. We sing the *Magnificat* – Mary’s hymn of praise for God’s mercies (Luke 1:46-55) and recite the Lord’s Prayer. A Collect and dismissal complete evening prayer.

Compline

Compline (Night Prayer) completes the monastic cycle of worship and ushers in the night’s silence. Compline begins with a review of the day, corporate confession of sin, and a brief hymn, usually the ancient plainsong hymn, “To you, before the close of day.” Psalms are followed by a brief verse from Scripture and its responsory, and then a Collect asking for protection through the coming night. Compline concludes with the third Gospel canticle, the *Nunc Dimittis*, Simeon’s song of dismissal (Luke 2:29-32) and its antiphon, “Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.”

While not strictly a part of Compline, monasteries traditionally sing a final antiphon to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary, the melody for which varies according to church season. The Prior blesses each brother and guests in attendance with holy water as a reminder and renewal of our baptismal vows. We depart the church in silence and observe Great Silence until 8:30 a.m. the next day.

What’s a Collect?

(CO • lekt): a brief prayer that includes an invocation, petition, and conclusion. Collects serve to gather our intentions and focus our worship.

Example

(Collect for James Otis Sargent Huntington, Priest and Monk)

O loving God, by your grace your servant James Huntington gathered a community dedicated to love and discipline and devotion to the Holy Cross of our Savior Jesus Christ: Send your blessing on all who proclaim Christ crucified, and move the hearts of many to look upon him and be saved; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*