

THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY • STAR OF THE SEA

# Evening Prayer Service

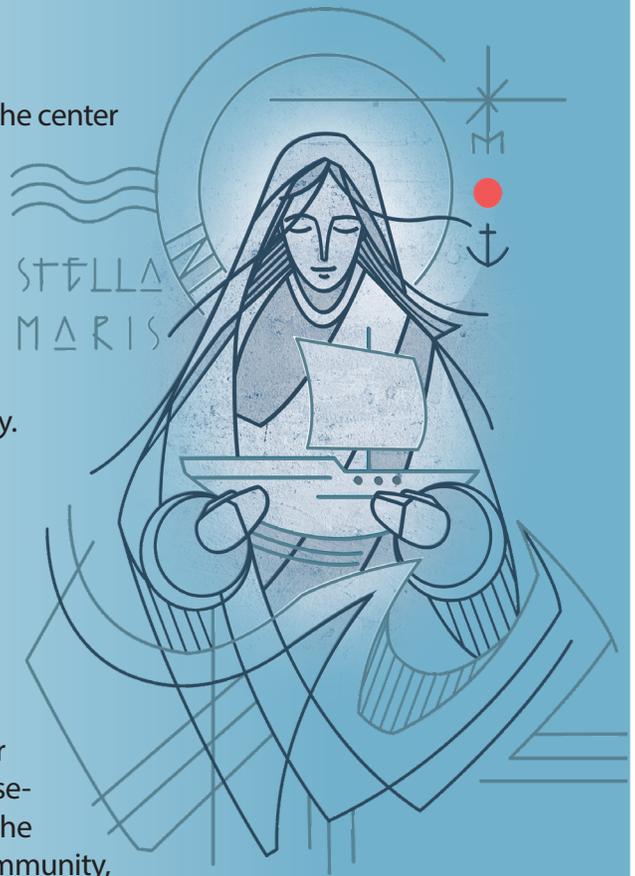
STELLA  
MARIS



## Liturgy of the Hours

As Catholic laity, we are encouraged to keep God at the center of our lives. One way we can give thanks to the Lord regularly is through the Liturgy of the Hours - the daily prayer of the Church. The Liturgy of the Hours helps us to view both ourselves and our neighbors throughout the world as God sees us. These neighbors include our fellow brothers and sisters who work at sea for months at a time, far from the comforts of home for the benefit of the human family.

This evening prayer service, modeled on the Liturgy of the Hours, is in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Star of the Sea, who is the protector of seafarers and fishers. Let us thank Our Lady for being the light and guide for seafarers. Let us ask for her intercession so we may deepen our solidarity with those who travel our world's waterways to transport cargo essential to our survival. These prayers are more vital than ever as hundreds of thousands of seafarers suffer the consequences of the crew change crisis brought upon by the global pandemic. We encourage you to gather in community, joining in prayer.



## Our Lady, Star of The Sea

"Stella Maris ('Star of the Sea') has long been the favorite title by which seafaring people have called on her for protection they have always trusted: the Blessed Virgin Mary. Jesus Christ, her son, accompanied his disciples in their boat, helped them in their labors and calmed the storms. Thus, the Church also accompanies seafarers, taking care of the specific spiritual needs of those who for various reasons live and work in the maritime world." (From the Apostolic Letter *Motu Proprio 'On the Apostleship of the Sea'*, Pope John Paul II, 31 January 1997.)

### Prepared by:

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Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America  
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*Stand and make sign of cross*

God, come to my assistance  
— Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit:  
—as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be for ever. Amen.

## Hymn

Queen of the Waves, look forth across the ocean  
From north to south, from east to stormy west,  
See how the waters with tumultuous motion  
Rise up and foam without a pause or rest.

But fear we not, tho' storm clouds round us gather,  
Thou art our Mother and thy little Child  
Is the All Merciful, our loving Brother  
God of the sea and of the tempest wild.

Help, then sweet Queen, in our exceeding danger,  
By thy seven griefs, in pity Lady save;  
Think of the Babe that slept within the manger  
And help us now, dear Lady of the Wave.

Up to thy shrine we look and see the glimmer  
Thy votive lamp sheds down on us afar;  
Light of our eyes, oh let it ne'er grow dimmer,  
Till in the sky we hail the morning star.

Then joyful hearts shall kneel around thine altar  
And grateful psalms re-echo down the nave;  
Never our faith in thy sweet power can falter,  
Mother of God, our Lady of the Wave.

*Queen of the Waves* (Public domain)  
*Sung by French fishermen seeking protection from storms*

*Sit or stand*

# Psalmody

## ANTIPHON 1

The star is like a blazing fire, which shows the Kings of kings as God (alleluia).

### Psalm 107:23-31

Some went down to the sea in ships,  
to trade on the mighty waters.  
These have seen the deeds of the LORD,  
the wonders he does in the deep.

For he spoke and raised up the storm-wind,  
tossing high the waves of the sea  
that surged to heaven and dropped to the depths.  
Their souls melted away in their distress.

They staggered and reeled like drunkards,  
for all their skill was gone.  
Then they cried to the LORD in their need,  
and he rescued them from their distress.

He stilled the storm to a whisper,  
and the waves of the sea were hushed.  
They rejoiced because of the calm,  
and he led them to the haven they desired.

Let them thank the LORD for his mercy,  
his wonders for the whole human race.

Glory to Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.

### Antiphon

The star is like a blazing fire, which shows the Kings of kings as God (alleluia).

## ANTIPHON 2

Mary and running streams, O bless the Lord: springs of water, O sing to the Lord (alleluia).

## Psalm 93

The LORD is king, with majesty enrobed.  
The LORD has robed himself with might;  
he has girded himself with power.

The world you made firm, not to be moved;  
your throne has stood firm from of old.  
From all eternity, O LORD, you are.

The floods have lifted up, O LORD,  
the floods have lifted up their voice;  
the floods have lifted up their thunder.

Greater than the roar of mighty waters,  
mightier than the surgings of the sea,  
the LORD is mighty on high.

Truly your decrees are to be trusted.  
Holiness is fitting to your house,  
O LORD, until the end of time.

Glory to Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.

## Antiphon

Mary and running streams, O bless the Lord: springs of water, O sing to the Lord (alleluia).

### **ANTIPHON 3**

The mother of Jesus said: Do whatever he asks of you (alleluia).

### **Psalm 106:2-9**

Who can tell the LORD's mighty deeds,  
or recount in full his praise?

Blessed are they who observe what is just,  
who at all times do what is right.

O LORD, remember me  
with the favor you show to your people.

Visit me with your saving power,  
that I may see the riches of your chosen ones,  
and may rejoice in the gladness of your nation,  
boasting in the glory of your heritage.

Like our fathers, we have sinned.  
We have done wrong; our deeds have been evil.  
Our forebears, when they were in Egypt,  
did not grasp the meaning of your wonders.

They forgot the great number of your mercies,  
at the Red Sea defied the Most High.  
Yet he saved them for the sake of his name,  
in order to make known his power.

He rebuked the Red Sea; it dried up,  
and he led them through the deep as through the desert.

Glory to Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.

### **Antiphon**

The mother of Jesus said: Do whatever he asks of you (alleluia).

## Reading—Wisdom 14:1-7

*You have established a steady path through the waves*

One preparing for a voyage and about to traverse the wild waves  
cries out to wood more unsound than the boat that bears him.  
For the urge for profits devised this latter,  
and Wisdom the artisan produced it.  
But your providence, O Father! guides it,  
for you have furnished even in the sea a road,  
and through the waves a steady path,  
Showing that you can save from any danger,  
so that even one without skill may embark.  
But you will that the products of your Wisdom be not idle;  
therefore people trust their lives even to most frail wood,  
and were safe crossing the waves on a raft.  
For of old, when the proud giants were being destroyed,  
the hope of the universe, who took refuge on a raft,  
left to the world a future for the human family, under the guidance of your hand.  
For blest is the wood through which righteousness comes about.

## Responsory

If temptation storms, or you fall upon the rocks of tribulation, look to the star:  
Call upon Mary!  
— If temptation storms, or you fall upon the rocks of tribulation, look to the star:  
Call upon Mary!

If you are tossed by the waves of pride,  
— look to the star: Call upon Mary!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.  
— If temptation storms, or you fall upon the rocks of tribulation, look to the star:  
Call upon Mary!

## ANTIPHON

As a star emits a ray without being dimmed, so the Virgin brought forth her Son.

## Canticle of Mary, the Magnificat

### Luke 1:46-55

*The soul rejoices in the Lord*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked upon his handmaid in her lowliness;  
for behold, from this day forward,  
all generations will call me blessed.

For the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
His mercy is from age to age  
for those who fear him.

He has made known the strength of his arm,  
and has scattered the proud in their conceit of heart.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones  
and has exalted those who are lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and has sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,  
mindful of his mercy,  
even as he promised to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his descendants forever.

Glory to Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.

## Antiphon

As a star emits a ray without being dimmed, so the Virgin brought forth her Son.

## Intercessions

*We thank God for seafarers and fishers who serve others on the waters of the world, for their gifts of labor and sacrifice to bring us the goods we use and consume every day for all people. Let us offer our prayers to God.*

Let us pray for the Church, our Holy Father Pope Francis, for our bishops, priests, and deacons, and for those who serve as chaplains or ship visitors for Stella Maris and the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America. Lord hear us:

— Lord graciously hear us.

Let us pray for the safety and wellbeing of all seafarers in their daily work at sea as they labor in dangerous and difficult conditions compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic and the crew change crisis. Lord hear us:

— Lord graciously hear us.

Let us pray for all people that we may have a greater awareness of the working conditions and injustices experienced by seafarers and commit to join their voices in solidarity. Lord hear us:

— Lord graciously hear us.

Let us pray for those who are sick or have been injured in accidents onboard ships, for protection from COVID-19 and other health issues, for adequate medical treatment and safe passage home to their countries and families. Lord hear us:

— Lord graciously hear us.

Let us pray for the family members and friends of the seafarers and fishers, during long periods of separation, loneliness, and anxiety that they may experience God's loving embrace and comfort while their loved ones are at sea. Lord hear us:

— Lord graciously hear us.

Let us pray for the work of the Church; for chaplains; for ship visitors, volunteers; for all involved with Stella Maris and the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America; for all Maritime Ministries; for those ministering to seafarers of different faiths, cultures and ideologies. Lord hear us:

— Lord graciously hear us.

Let us pray for those who are trapped in a situation of slavery at sea, that they may remain hopeful and be strengthened to seek help. Lord hear us:

— Lord graciously hear us.

Let us pray for all those who have died and for all lost at sea. Lord hear us:

— Lord graciously hear us.

## Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

## Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father: Frail is our vessel, and the ocean is wide; but as in your mercy you have set our course, so steer the vessel of our life towards the everlasting shore of peace and bring us at length to the quiet haven of our heart's desire, where you, O God, are blessed, and live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

May the Lord bless us,  
protect us from all evil  
and bring us to everlasting life.  
—Amen.

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