

Liturgy of the Hours

Liturgical Ministries

Distributing roles manifests the nature of the Church as the Body of Christ.

Presider ~ one who leads community in prayer. This may be a bishop, priest or deacon, or, in the absence of an ordained minister, a layperson.

Readers ~ for Scriptures & Petitions of the Intercessions.

Leader of Song

Cantor ~ to lead sung psalmody

Psalmist ~ person(s) who lead(s) psalmody which is spoken

Choir

Acolytes ~ to assist bishop, priest or deacon

Core group of participants ~ to serve as a nucleus within the larger assembly, especially in parish groups. This will enable entire congregation to become acquainted and comfortable with the Liturgy of the Hours.

Minimum Roles

* **Leader**

Reader

* **Psalmist**

* These roles may be combined when only two people are present for a celebration

Chart of Roles

Please note: This chart of roles is intended only as a suggestion of some appropriate distributions of roles. Other options may also be used and can be found in books which discuss the communal celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours. A primary source is the *General Instruction on the Liturgy of the Hours*.

Roles in Celebrations of the Liturgy of the Hours			
Posture	Ritual Part	Small Celebrations	Large, Formal Celebrations
Stand	<i>Introductory Verses</i>	Leader with congregational response	Leader with congregational response
	<i>Hymn</i>	Entire Assembly	Entire Assembly
Sit (seated until Gospel Cantic)	<i>Psalmody Antiphon</i>	Psalmist begins; congregation joins	Psalmist or Cantor with congregation (depending on the musical setting)

	<i>Verses</i>	Alternating sides (groups or individuals)	Alternating sides or alternation between congregation and choir (depending on the musical setting)
	<i>Doxologies (bow at the names of three Persons of the Trinity)</i>	Continue as above	Continue as above
	<i>Psalm Prayer (optional)</i>	Read by Leader	Read by Leader
	<i>Antiphon Repetition</i>	All	All, depending on musical setting.
	<i>Reading</i>	Reader	Reader
	<i>Responsory</i>	Leader with congregational response	Dependent on musical setting.
Stand	<i>Gospel Canticle (each person makes sign of cross at beginning)</i>	As in psalmody Incense may be used	As in psalmody Incensation of altar, priest and assembly
	<i>Antiphon/verses</i>	As in psalmody	As in psalmody
	<i>Intercessions</i>		
	Introduction	Leader	Presiding priest or leader
	Petitions	Reader or Reader and Congregation	Cantor, Reader or Reader and congregation
	Response	Sung or recited by congregation	Sung or recited by congregation
	<i>Our Father</i>	Introduced by Leader; prayed by entire assembly	Introduced by Presiding Priest, deacon, or leader; prayed by entire assembly.
	<i>Concluding Prayer</i>	Leader	Presiding priest, deacon or leader.
<i>Dismissal or Closing Prayer</i>	Leader with congregation responding	Presiding priest, deacon or leader with congregation responding.	