



Top-of-the-Line Typesetting Serves the Rhythm of Prayer

Ascension has partnered with the master artisans and designers at 2K/DENMARK, widely respected for their work in typeface design and the typesetting of sacred texts, to develop a layout that supports both individual and communal prayer.

Every detail has been carefully considered: how the eye moves across the page, how quickly a section can be located, and how comfortably the text can be read over extended periods. The result is a layout that minimizes distraction, allows the structure and beauty of *The Liturgy of the Hours* to come forward, and respects the uniqueness of each element of the Church's daily prayer.

Heading hierarchy in different weights and sizes simplifies navigation at a glance.

Subtle navigational tabs support navigation without distracting from prayer.

Optimized spacing creates an even distribution of letters and white space.

Font size for high readability across age groups and lighting settings.

The diagram illustrates the design features of the prayer page layout. It shows a sample page on the right with four callout lines pointing to specific elements, which are then detailed in four red circular callout boxes on the left. The callout boxes contain text explaining the design choices for heading hierarchy, navigational tabs, spacing, and font size.

OFFICE OF READINGS

Invitatory
The Invitatory has its own sequence of daily prayer in the Office of Readings or Lauds, and may begin with either Hour.

O Lord, ✠ open my lips.

OFFICE OF READINGS

Invitatory
The Invitatory has its own place at the beginning of the entire sequence of daily prayer. In other words, it precedes either the Office of Readings or Lauds, since the liturgical day may begin with either Hour.

O Lord, ✠ open my lips.
— And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Afterwards, Psalm 95 is said with its antiphon, usually responsorially. The antiphon is said, then immediately repeated, and repeated again after each strophe of the Psalm.

In individual recitation, the antiphon may be said only at the beginning of the Psalm, and it need not be repeated after each strophe.

During the Paschal Triduum, and on Solemnities and Feasts, the antiphon for the Invitatory is found in the Proper or in a Common.

On Memorials of Saints, the antiphon, unless it is proper, may be freely taken either from a Common or from the weekday.

In the Office for Sundays and weekdays during Lent, from Ash Wednesday to the Saturday of the Fifth Week of Lent inclusive:

ANT. Christ the Lord was tempted and suffered for us; come, let us adore.

OR: O that today you would listen to the voice of the Lord: harden not your hearts.

1139



ASCENSION SERIF

A Custom Typeface Designed for Clarity and Crafted for Beauty

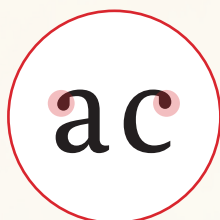
Developed in collaboration with 2K/DENMARK, Ascension Serif is a custom typeface created specifically for extended reading of Scriptural and liturgical texts.

Its design draws inspiration from a rich tradition of 19th, 20th, and 21st century classic book typography while incorporating subtle refinements that improve readability over long periods of prayer. Every letter has been shaped with intention—not only to be clear and legible, but also to reflect the dignity and beauty of the sacred texts it communicates.

Thicker weights at the base of letters anchor each line for easier reading.



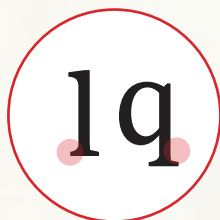
Subtle flourishes add beauty without distracting from the text.



Large x-height of each letter maximizes readability while reducing page count.



Letterforms guide the eye smoothly from one character and word to the next.



ASCENSION SERIF

a b c d
e f g h i
j k l m
n o p q
r s t u v
w x y z

What is x-height?

X-height is the distance between the baseline and the top of the main body of lowercase letters (specifically the letter 'x'). It determines the perceived size and readability of a font, as a larger x-height generally increases legibility at smaller sizes.



Original Artwork That Elevates Prayer Without Distraction

Growing up under the Alaskan skies, artist Ruth Stricklin first encountered God through beauty. Watching Mount McKinley from her window and the Northern Lights from a bus stop, she came to know a Creator who delights in sharing his splendor. Years later, that same love of beauty, shaped by Scripture and the liturgy, would guide her from Protestant evangelical roots into the Catholic Church and into a vocation as a sacred artist.

“Prayer and beauty work together like a perfect dovetail.”

– Ruth Stricklin,
New Jerusalem Studios



Ruth’s artistry is marked by a gentle blend of the Eastern and Western traditions of the Church, drawing from both Byzantine iconography and the work of masters like Fra Angelico. Her creative process can be summed up in one word: prayer. She offers her work to the Lord before she begins and views the entire process as a continuous, nonverbal prayer, much like the process of writing icons in the Eastern Churches.

Rooted in Scripture and the symbolism of Catholic iconography, every line, form, and symbol is placed with intention—offered not as decoration, but as a quiet invitation into the sacramental beauty of the Church’s daily prayer. Each piece was first sketched by hand and then carefully transferred to a digital format for printing.





A Symbol of the Sanctification of Time

Ascension's official emblem for *The Liturgy of the Hours, Second Edition* is rich in Scriptural symbolism:

- ❖ **Lyre:** Represents the Psalms and the musical nature of prayer.
- ❖ **Laurel leaves:** Symbolize Christ's victory over death.
- ❖ **Alpha and Omega:** Point to God as the beginning and end of time.





THE NEW TRANSLATION

What to Expect in the Second Edition

The Liturgy of the Hours, Second Edition introduces a new English translation of the Church's daily prayer for use in the United States—the first in more than fifty years.

While the structure and rhythm of the Hours remain the same, some of the texts themselves have been newly translated or revised to conform to the 1985 *editio typica altera*. These updates reflect a renewed effort toward accuracy and consistency.

For those who pray the Hours regularly, some texts will feel familiar, while others will invite fresh attention. What remains unchanged is the essential form of the prayer and the Church's call to sanctify each day through it.

Key Updates:

- ❖ Scripture – Psalms and Canticles now use *The Abbey Psalms and Canticles* translation, with readings from the forthcoming *Catholic American Bible*.
- ❖ Major Canticles – The *Benedictus*, *Magnificat*, and *Nunc Dimittis* now include their Latin texts alongside the English translation.
- ❖ Antiphons – Gospel Canticle antiphons are aligned with the three-year Lectionary, alongside revised psalm antiphons.
- ❖ Hymns – Nearly 300 Latin hymns are newly translated into English, with corresponding hymn tunes available in the *Divine Office Hymnal*.
- ❖ Intercessions & Orations – Newly revised translations for accuracy and consistency.
- ❖ Other Texts – Updated responsories, rubrics, versicles, introductions, and hagiographical introductions for the Proper of Saints.
- ❖ U.S. Propers – Updated adaptations for the United States, including a new appendix of optional Second Readings.





THE NEW TRANSLATION

FAQS

Why is there a new edition?

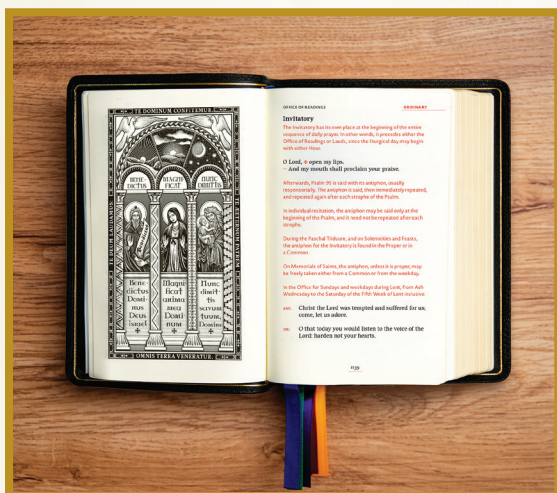
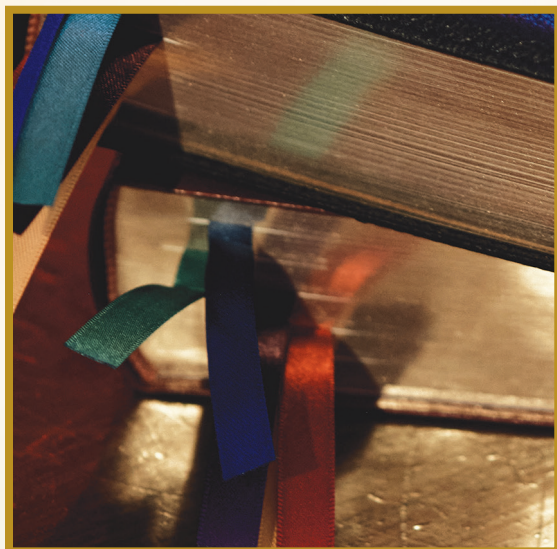
- ❖ The current English edition is based on the 1971 Latin text (*editio typica*). In 1985, the Vatican issued a revised Latin edition (*editio typica altera*). This new translation reflects that revision and follows updated translation guidelines.

When will the new edition be used?

- ❖ First use begins Ash Wednesday, February 10, 2027. Mandatory use begins the First Sunday of Advent, December 3, 2028.

Will the structure of the Hours change?

- ❖ No, the structure remains the same. The changes are primarily in the texts themselves.





What's Different Between Editions

All Ascension editions contain the same content. Your choice comes down to two considerations: cover material and font size.



Cover Materials

- ❖ **Standard Leather:** Durable and practical for everyday personal or communal prayer.
- ❖ **Premium Leather:** A noticeable step up in softness and flexibility, made from genuine top-grain goatskin.
**Comparable to The Great Adventure Catholic Bible, Second Edition (Premium)*
- ❖ **Premium Natural Grain Leather:** A true heirloom edition, crafted with full-grain goatskin and printed by one of the world's foremost Bible printers in the Netherlands.

Font Sizes

Standard Print (10pt):
Clear and comfortable for most readers.

Large Print (12.41pt):
An increased font size for prayer that's easier on the eyes.

risen Christ to
[R]. *Glorify us, Lord,*

O God, the Father of light,
grateful heart;
— you called us into your
obtain mercy.

As the human family str
more humane,
— through the power
purify our effort

[R]. *Glorify*

O God, the Father
grateful heart;
— you called us into
obtain mercy.

As the human fam
more humane
through th

EASTER LAUDS

INTERCESSIONS
Let us direct these prayers to God, who manifested the risen Christ to the Apostles:
[R]. *Glorify us, Lord, with the glory of Christ.]*

O God, the Father of lights, we praise you today with a grateful heart;
— you called us into your wonderful light, that we may obtain mercy.

As the human family strives to render its life more humane,
— through the power of your Spirit, strengthen and purify our efforts.

Make us devoted to the service of others,
— so that the human race itself may become a sacrifice acceptable to you.

As day now dawns, fill us with your mercy,
— that throughout the day we may ever find joy and delight in your praises.

Our Father...

Prayer
Grant, we pray, O Lord, that, as we celebrate in mystery the solemnities of your Son's Resurrection, so, too, we may be worthy to rejoice at his coming with all the Saints. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

974

Every Ascension edition shares the same pagination and layout, so members of your community can pray seamlessly together—regardless of cover material or font size.



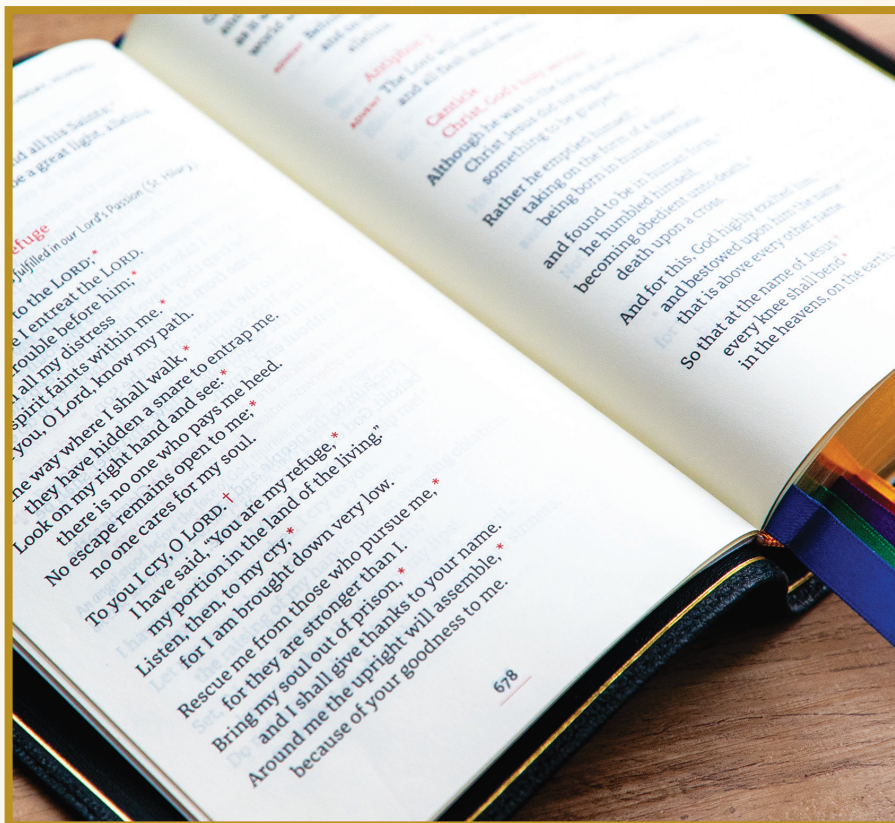
CHOOSING YOUR FORMAT

What You Get in Every Ascension Edition

No matter which edition you choose, you're getting a premium prayer experience.

What's always included:

- ❖ **Matching page numbers across all Ascension editions.**
Including Standard and Large Print, for effortless group prayer.
- ❖ **Line-matched text and layout by 2K/DENMARK.**
Designed for clarity and readability across every volume.
- ❖ **Exclusive Ascension Serif typeface.**
Created for extended reading comfort.
- ❖ **Original commissioned artwork.**
From New Jerusalem Studios, rooted in the Church's visual tradition.
- ❖ **Durable Smyth-sewn binding.**
Built to withstand years of daily use.
- ❖ **FSC® Certified paper.**
Printed with paper sourced in an environmentally, socially, and economically responsible manner.



MAY 31

THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



Feast

From the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, p. 000.

Invitatory

ANT. As we celebrate the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, let us ring out our joy to the Lord alleluia.



FORMATS AVAILABLE

Designed for Communal Prayer

The Liturgy of the Hours is not just a personal devotion, but a shared act of prayer. Each edition is designed with this in mind—ensuring that members of a community can pray together with ease, regardless of format.

With consistent layout, matching pagination, and carefully considered materials, every edition supports the unity and rhythm that define communal prayer.

❖ **Matching page numbers across all Ascension editions.**

Including Standard and Large Print, for effortless group prayer.

❖ **Stanzas for Psalms and Canticles not broken over pages.**

Respects the poetic nature and prevents confusion for communal prayer.

❖ **Clear indentation in the Psalms.**

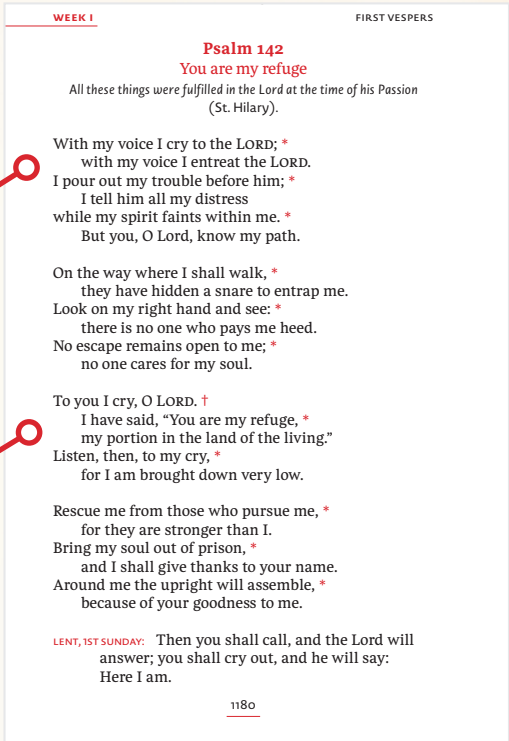
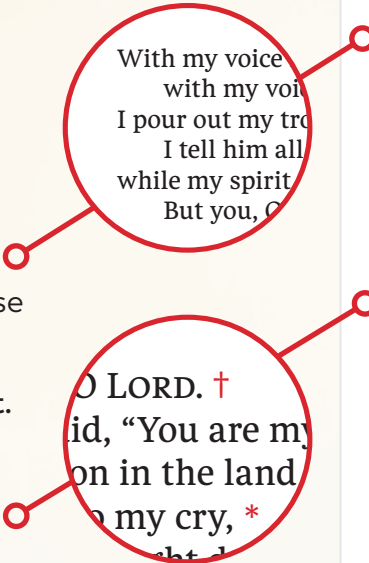
Supports natural call-and-response between sides or choirs.

❖ **Responsorial symbols throughout.**

Provide clear cues for communal participation.

❖ **Asterisks and daggers for pacing.**

Indicate natural pauses for alternating verses.



Did you know? These ribbon colors were chosen to reflect the liturgical palette.

Each volume includes eight ribbons, giving you enough markers to move easily between sections throughout the day. Their colors were thoughtfully chosen to reflect the shades of the Church's liturgical colors.

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|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| | | | | | | | |
| BLACK <i>Requiem</i> (Black) | STRAW <i>Feasts</i> (White/Gold) | MULBERRY <i>Advent & Lent</i> (Violet) | CYPRESS <i>Ordinary Time</i> (Green) | BURGUNDY <i>Pentecost & Martyrs</i> (Red) | ROSE GOLD <i>Gaudete & Laetare</i> (Rose) | SAXE <i>Mary & Marian Feasts</i> (Blue) | BRIDAL WHITE <i>Christmas & Easter</i> (White) |



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the *Liturgy of the Hours*?

Liturgy of the Hours is the daily prayer of the Church. Rooted in Scripture, it sanctifies the hours of the day with prayer, readings, and hymns. Clergy and religious often pray it together, and the laity are encouraged to join in as they are able, whether individually, with family, or in parish groups.

Why is there a new edition?

The English translation currently in use is based on the *editio typica* of 1971 and was published in 1975 and 1976. In 1985, the Vatican issued the *editio typica altera*, replacing the 1971 editions. This English Second Edition is a translation of the *editio typica altera*.

Can I still use my current four-volume set of the *Liturgy of the Hours*?

Yes. You may continue praying with your current volumes and you may begin using the new edition Ash Wednesday, February 10, 2027. If you are required to pray the *Liturgy of the Hours*, the mandatory-use date of the new edition is the First Sunday or Advent, December 3, 2028.

Will there be new extracted editions like the current *Christian Prayer*, *Shorter Christian Prayer*, *Daytime Prayer*, and *Night Prayer*?

The new translation in extracted editions such as *Christian Prayer*, *Shorter Christian Prayer*, *Daytime Prayer*, and *Night Prayer* is expected before the mandatory-use date of the First Sunday of Advent, December 3, 2028.

Is there an edition available in Spanish?

The USCCB has not confirmed a Spanish edition of *The Liturgy of the Hours*. Therefore, any Spanish translation lawfully approved by another Conference of Bishops may be used.

Where will Ascension's editions be available?

Ascension's editions of *The Liturgy of the Hours*, *Second Edition* will be available in English in the areas represented by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). This includes the United States, U.S. Virgin Islands, and the areas under the jurisdiction of the Archdiocese for Military Services worldwide.

When will Ascension's editions be available?

Volume II for Lent and Easter will be the first volume available in time to begin use on Ash Wednesday, February 10, 2027. Preorders for this volume will begin on July 1, 2026. The remaining volumes will be available one by one throughout 2027 until all four volumes have been released.