

# In Winter Time as Defined Above

by St. Benedict of Nursia

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*St. Benedict outlines the structure and significance of worship during winter, emphasizing the importance of praise and communal readings.*

**Scripture:** Psalm 51:15, Psalm 119:105, Psalm 136:1, Philippians 2:10, 1 Thessalonians 5:17, 2 Timothy 3:16, 1 Peter 2:2, 1 John 1:9

**Topics:** "Liturgy", "Worship Service"

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## Description

St. Benedict of Nursia outlines a structured order for the Night Office, beginning with a call to open lips in praise to the Lord, followed by the chanting of Psalms, the Ambrosian hymn 'Te Deum,' and additional Psalms with antiphons. The service includes readings from both the Old and New Testament, along with explanations from respected Catholic Fathers, interspersed with responsories. The Night Office concludes with recitation of Psalms, a lesson from the Apostle, and a litany petition for God's mercy.

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## Transcript

In winter time as defined above, there is first this verse to be said three times: "O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Your praise." To it is added Psalm 3 and the "Glory be to the Father," and after that Psalm 94 to be chanted with an antiphon or even chanted simply. Let the Ambrosian hymn [Te Deum] follow next, and then six Psalms with antiphons.

When these are finished and the verse said, let the Abbot give a blessing; then, all being seated on the benches, let three lessons be read from the book on the lectern by the brethren in their turns, and after each lesson let a responsory be chanted.

Two of the responsories are to be said without a "Glory be to the Father" but after the third lesson let the chanter say the "Glory be to the Father," and as soon as he begins it let all rise from their seats out of honor and reverence to the Holy Trinity. The books to be read at the Night Office shall be those of divine authorship, of both the Old and the New Testament, and also the explanations of them which have been made by well known and orthodox Catholic Fathers.

After these three lessons with their responsories let the remaining six Psalms follow, to be chanted with "Alleluia." After these shall follow the lesson from the Apostle, to be recited by heart, the verse and the petition of the litany, that is "Lord, have mercy on us." And so let the Night Office come to an end.

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