



The Divine Hours: Volume III

By Phyllis Tickle

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“A welcome remedy for the increasing number of lay Christians who have rediscovered the daily offices. Tickle puts each day’s prayers, psalms, readings, and refrains—everything you need—in one place. The rhythm that Tickle’s book establishes gives one a stronger sense of participating in an ancient, worldwide but very personal liturgy.”

—Nora Gallagher, *beliefnet.com*, and author of *Things Seen and Unseen: A Year Lived in Faith*

The third and final volume in a trilogy of prayer manuals compiled by *Publishers Weekly* religion editor Phyllis Tickle as a contemporary Book of Hours to guide Christians gently yet authoritatively through the daily offices.

The Divine Hours is the first major literary and liturgical reworking of the sixth-century Benedictine Rule of fixed-hour prayer. This beautifully conceived and thoroughly modern three-volume guide will appeal to the theological novice as well as to the ecclesiastical sophisticate. Making primary use of the Book of Common Prayer and the writings of the Church Fathers, *The Divine Hours* is also a companion to the New Jerusalem Bible, from which it draws its Scripture readings. The trilogy blends prayer and praise in a way that, while extraordinarily fresh, respects and builds upon the ancient wisdom of Christianity.

The third and final book in the set, *Prayers for Springtime*, provides prayers, psalms, and readings for this season associated with rebirth. Compact, with deluxe endpapers, it is perfect for those seeking greater spiritual depth. As a contemporary Book of Hours, *The Divine Hours: Prayers for Springtime* heralds a renewal of the tradition of disciplined daily prayer, and gives those already using the first two volumes the completion they are seeking. With this volume, the series culminates with three prayer manuals encompassing the liturgical and calendar year with the offices for every day.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

The Divine Hours completes the celebrated trilogy of fixed-hour prayer manuals edited by Phyllis Tickle. Where gospel and shared meals are known as the "food and sustenance of the Church," the fixed-hour prayer is the "work," according to Tickle, religion editor for *Publishers Weekly*. Fans of the previous *Divine Hours* books (*Prayers for Summertime*, *Prayers for Autumn and Wintertime*) applaud Tickle's uncomplicated format, her use of a modern calendar rather than a liturgical one, and the single ribbon in the binding, which is, amazingly, all that readers need to track the daily offices. Fixed-hour prayers (also called "keeping the hours" or "saying the offices") are listed for each calendar day--morning, midday, and evening. Almost all of the sacred readings are from the New Jerusalem Bible, and the psalms and psalm hymns are lifted from the Book of Common Prayer. Some readers may object to the occasional passages with traditional, patriarchal language ("Almighty God, my heavenly Father: I have sinned against you, through my own fault....") Be assured that Tickle chose these readings carefully, no doubt relying upon her extensive religious studies and strong feminine perspective, as evidenced in her excellent memoir *The Shaping of a Life*. --Gail Hudson

From Library Journal

This book brings to conclusion spiritual writer and Publishers Weekly columnist Tickle's substantial revival and revitalization of the medieval practice of fixed-hour prayer. Like her anonymous predecessors, Tickle draws from Christian Scripture and from the writings of the church fathers but she also avails herself of the Book of Common Prayer and hymn-texts, as well as religious poetry. Literary and profound, Tickle's work should be welcome to a broad readership, Christian and non-Christian alike. Highly recommended.

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Review

“*The Divine Hours* is simply the best book for people who want to work prayer into the fabric of their daily life.”

—Bert Ghezzi, author of *Voices of the Saints*

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—Nora Gallagher, Beliefnet.com and author of *Things Seen and Unseen: A Year Lived in Faith*

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