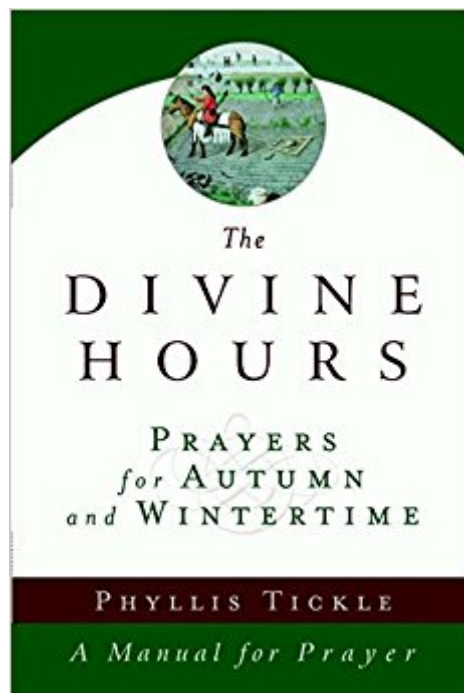




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The Divine Hours (Volume Two): Prayers For Autumn And Wintertime: A Manual For Prayer



Synopsis

The second 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 second book in the set, Prayers for Autumn and Wintertime, provides prayers, psalms, and readings for these two festive seasons. Compact, it is perfect for those seeking greater spiritual depth. As a contemporary Book of Hours, The Divine Hours: Prayers for Autumn and Wintertime heralds a renewal of the tradition of disciplined daily prayer, and gives those already using the first volume the continuity they are seeking. The series will culminate in a third volume for springtime, completing the liturgical and calendar year with the offices for every day.

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Customer Reviews

“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*

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

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C.S. Lewis once remarked that there was a general distrust, particularly by Protestants, of fixed, repetitive prayer. It was claimed they violated the scripture in Matthew 6, in which Jesus admonishes his listeners to not engage in "meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words." The fixed-prayer cycle of The Divine Hours may seem like that to the prejudiced mind. But Lewis, in the Screwtape

Letters, speaks of the parrot babbles we did as a child, as if repeating a prayer is a childish thing, and the truly spiritual compose only spontaneous prayers. For me, spontaneous prayers are a disaster for a mind as prone to meander as mine. It is quite impossible for me to pray longer than twenty seconds without straying to thoughts all together unholy. Hence my need for an anchor, a corral, a hemmed in path for my mind to pray along, so as not to get lost. This trilogy is just that sort of thing. Phyllis Tickle has taken the Book of Common Prayer and laid it out so those of use who find the actually book daunting may still utilize this excellent tool. There is a minor amount of uncertainty when first starting as to the dates, but once you start, the dates settle into a rhythm. There are four times of prayer: Morning, Mid-Day, Vespers, and Night. The prayers themselves are mostly scripture Psalms with other readings added occasionally. The Vespers prayer has a hymn or piece of poetry and the Night Office usually has writings by universally acknowledge Saints of God. I highly recommend The Divine Hours. Praying this will encourage you, guide you, deepen your relationship with God, and give you structure and peace. It is an excellent tool for those who wish to improve their prayer life but are uncertain how or where to begin. Even those who have been Christians for many years will benefit from the act of praying the scripture.

The page headers and footers are missing from the Kindle version, making the Kindle version almost unusable. You simply have no way of knowing where you are. Given the work that Tickle put into this series, it is a shame that she would so spit on her memory with this unusable mess.

I bought this book to help get me through the cold dark winter. It was in my recommendations from but I knew nothing about what the Daily Offices were or what a Compline was. When I got the book back in October I just started doing the readings four times a day. I found that this book is so much more than I expected. I have tried different forms of devotions in my life but this is the first that I actually look forward to reading. The combination of Psalms, prayers, hymns, and other verses from the Bible helps me to center my thoughts on things that really matter throughout the day. Each reading is only a page or two long and takes maybe 10 minutes but each one has a powerful impact on my day and on my life. Although I planned to use this method of devotions just through the winter I have now added the springtime and summer versions to my wish list.

Tickle has done a great service for everyone who practices daily devotions. Along with the "Prayers for Summertime" and "Prayers for Springtime," this book provides everything one needs to pray one or all of the Daily Offices (the night prayers of Matins, Laud, and Prime are contained in her "The

Night Offices"). The book is broken into chapters by month, with daily Morning Prayer, Midday Prayer, and Vespers. Compline is the same from week to week within a given month, so Tickle provides the seven days of Compline readings at the back of each month. The Introduction also includes a history of the Divine Hours and some instruction in how to use the prayers. She encourages readers to chant or sing the psalms or prayers when appropriate, but affirms that silent reading, chanting, or singing is a matter of personal preferences. Each day's Offices follow the structure of the Book of Common Prayer, although the old familiar Invitatories and Responses are replaced by other varied, often less-familiar, lines from Scripture. The readings are usually biblical, but may also be from Christian sources. All-in-all, each office takes only a few minutes to read to oneself, and is varied, accessible, and enjoyable. The book, itself, is easy to use (although a built-in bookmark or two would be great), the type is easy to read, and it's not so heavy I'm going to mind packing it for a trip (although it's not a small book, by any means). I highly recommend this book and its companions for the Divine Office beginner or regular practitioner. Those new to daily prayer may also enjoy Brook's *The School of Prayer: An Introduction to the Divine Office for All Christians*.

The actual books that can be bought have Date references, however, the Kindle Version does not. If you miss a few days, it's just about impossible to get to the right reading -- Very disappointing. Spend \$5.00 more and get the book.

I enjoyed the liturgical nature of the book, but I have found the daily expectations of it to be overwhelming. If I were to consider incorporating prayers into my mid-day routine as well, I would need a book that was lighter and smaller in size to consider taking it to and from work each day. I also wasn't expecting so much redundancy in the prayers. The concept is wonderful, but this particular book may be for a different season of life.

There are no dates!!! The print book has the dates in the margins, but this book has NO GUIDANCE about which day is which.

the prayers are good, but they go in order of every other week! for instance they ended this weekend Jan 8 2017 and don't pick up prayers until Sunday Jan 15 leaving the week in between blank. something I hadn't realized. If you want a full divine hours, or something that just has the divine hours this is not for you.

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