

Prayer Book Spirituality

Institute for Christian Studies
Diocese of Central Florida

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The Book of Common Prayer is not just a resource we use on Sunday mornings, but a rule of life that governs the spiritual disciplines of all the faithful. Bishops, priests, and deacons must take the lead in using the Prayer Book as their rule of life, adhering to the practices of the Daily Office, with the rigorous scripture reading and meditation presumed within it. This class is designed to inspire a Prayer Book spirituality which, like a more broadly Benedictine spirituality, forms disciples of Christ in the way God desires.

Required pre-class assignment: Read “The Daily Office,” by R.R. Reno. Copies to be made available by Archdeacon Alday.

Required text (bring to class): *The Book of Common Prayer*.

Recommended reading: No secondary sources are required before the class. These are just a few liturgical books (that is, books used in worship) and writings about liturgy that may be useful in this class and others:

Liturgical Resources

Daily Office Readings (Year 1, Vols. 1 & 2; Year 2, Vols. 1 & 2)

Lesser Feasts and Fasts

Holy Women, Holy Men

Readings for the Daily Office from the Early Church (Ed. J. Robert Wright)

They Still Speak: Readings for the Lesser Feasts (Ed. J. Robert Wright)

Secondary Reading

Marion J. Hatchett, *Commentary on the American Prayer Book*

Dennis G. Michno, *A Priest's Handbook: The Ceremonies of the Church* ("The Daily Office," pp. 125-145)

Leonel L. Mitchell, *Pastoral and Occasional Liturgies* (Chapter 1, "The Daily Offices")

Leonel L. Mitchell, *Praying Shapes Believing: A Theological Commentary on the Book of Common Prayer* (particularly Chapter 3, "The Daily Office")

Michael Ramsey, *The Christian Priest Today* (Chapter 3, "The Man of Prayer")

Alexander Schmemmann, *For the Life of the World* (Chapter 3, "The Time of Mission")

Martin Thornton, *English Spirituality*

Post-class assignment: In a 2-3 page (double-spaced) paper, describe what happens to a person when he or she prays the Daily Office over and over again. Further details provided in class.

In order to receive credit for this class, the assignment must be submitted to the instructor by e-mail (andrew.petiprin@gmail.com) no later than one month after the date of the class.