

## Liturgy We Live *by Dr. Gil Haas*

Canonical hours (divine office) punctuated a monastic's day with regular prayers. In Anglican tradition, they are called Daily Offices to distinguish them from other "offices" such as Eucharist. Set prayer times were practiced in Jewish tradition. In Acts 3:1 Peter and John visited the Temple for "afternoon prayers". A monk said seven daily offices based on Psalm 119:164, "Seven times a day do I praise you...", and this pattern highlighted a monastic's routine. Psalms, hymns, prayers, and biblical readings in a complex sequence were used at Lauds or matins (dawn), Prime (6 AM), Terce (9 AM), Sext (noon), None (3 PM), Vespers (dusk), and compline (bedtime). Breviaries contained in one volume all that was necessary for an office and were the precursors of prayer books and bulletins. When Cranmer wrote the first BCP, he reduced these offices to two: Morning Prayer (Matins) and Evening Prayer (Evensong). His use of canticles following the biblical readings was a novel addition. Our current BCP added offices for noon and compline. Until recently, the Daily Office was the principal form of Anglican Sunday worship. Historically, clergy vested for Offices in cassock, surplice, and black tippet (a stole-like garment).

***If you have a liturgical question or an inquiry about anything that transpires during or around our worship service, please forward the question you would like researched to: gghaas@aol.com, or drop the question in the offering basin. Please note whether we can credit you as the source of the question.***