

* When do we Read the Agpiya?

The Agpeia is read throughout the day and in many situations. The hours of the day start from sunrise and end at sunset. The morning prayer ([Prime](#)), which corresponds to 6 a.m., is said upon waking up in the morning or after the Midnight praise the previous night. The [Terce](#) (9 a.m.) and [Sext](#) (noon) hours are prayed before each liturgy during the Offering of Incense. The [None](#) (3 p.m.) hour is also read during fasting days. [Vespers](#) (sunset) and [Compline](#) (9 p.m.) are read in the early evening and before bedtime, respectively. and are both read before the Liturgy during the [Lent](#) and the [fast of Nineveh](#). The [Midnight](#) hour is read just before the Midnight Praise. The [Veil](#) hour is reserved for priests, monks and bishops.



[The Agpeya, Coptic Book of Hours and prayer](#), Agbeya, Agbia

[كتاب الأجيبة، كتاب السبع صلوات القبطية](#)

† [1st Hour - Prime](#)

Morning Prayer is designed to be prayed early coming of the true Light, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Prime is mainly associated with the eternity of God, His incarnation, His resurrection from the

dead. It is intended to offer thanks to Him for having risen us from the sleep, beseeching Him to shine upon us, enlighten our lives, and grant us the power of His resurrection.

† 3rd Hour - Terce

The Third Hour commemorated three significant events: Christ's trial by Pilate, His ascension to heaven, and the descent of the Holy Spirit may cleanse our hearts and renew our lives.

† 6th Hour - Sext

The Sixth Hour reminds us of the crucifixion and passion of Christ. We pray that, through His life-giving passion, He may deliver our minds from lusts, and turn our thoughts to the remembrance of His commandments, and make of us a light of the world and salt of the earth.

† 9th Hour - None

The Ninth Hour commemorates the redemptive death of Christ in the flesh on the cross, and His acceptance of the repentance of the Thief. We pray that the Savior may mortify out carnal lusts, make us partakers of His grace, and accept our repentance when we cry out with the Thief, "Remember us, O Lord, when You come into Your Kingdom." ([Luke](#) 23:42).

† 11th Hour - Vespers

The Vespers (Sunset): Eleventh Hour, is associated with the act of taking down Christ's body from the cross. At the end of the day, we give thanks for God's protection, and confess our sins with the

Prodigal Son ([Luke](#) 15:11-31) that we may be counted among the labours who were called at the eleventh hour of the day ([Matt.](#) 20:1-16).

† [12th Hour - Compline](#)

The Compline (Retiring): Twelfth Hour, commemorates the burial of Christ. We remember the passing world and the final judgment. Mindful of our imminent standing before God, we ask forgiveness of our sins and protection through the night.

† [Midnight](#)

The Midnight Hour: commemorates the second coming of the Lord. The office consists of three watches, corresponding to the three stages of Christ's prayer in the garden of Gethsemane ([Matt.](#) 25:1-13).

† [Veil](#)

Veil: this prayer is to be read by bishops and priests as a means of examining their hearts. It is also a prayer which concerns Monks.