



## A Book of Hours

By Thomas Merton

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Thomas Merton was the most popular proponent of the Christian contemplative tradition in the twentieth century. Now, for the first time, some of his most lyrical and prayerful writings have been arranged into *A Book of Hours*, a rich resource for daily prayer and contemplation that imitates the increasingly popular ancient monastic practice of "praying the hours".

Editor Kathleen Deignan mined Merton's voluminous writings, arranging prayers for Dawn, Day, Dusk, and Dark for each of the days of the week. *A Book of Hours* allows for a slice of monastic contemplation in the midst of hectic modern life, with psalms, prayers, readings, and reflections.

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## A Book of Hours By Thomas Merton Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"*A Book of Hours* reveals in ways I have never experienced the hidden wellspring of Merton's contemplative life and art. This is a gorgeous book, beautifully conceived and intelligently executed. Deignan has woven a tapestry of Merton's prayer, prose, and poetry at their most ardent so as to re-educate our awareness that God is Beautiful and most worthy of our daily praise. This five-star book will snugly fit the pocket of your heart."

--**Jonathan Montaldo**, Editor of *A Year with Thomas Merton*

"One of the modern writers of the monastic tradition, of course, is Thomas Merton, and, though I might be one who thinks that Merton has been sized up, quoted, used and reused in every imaginable way, I was pleasantly surprised recently when I came across *Thomas Merton: A Book of Hours*, compiled by Kathleen Deignan. It is a marvelous, inspiring, comforting, jolting, consoling little volume that organizes Merton's writing into prayers for dawn, midday, dusk and night of each day." --**Tom Roberts**, Editor of the *National Catholic Reporter*

"Open any page of this wonderful book and you will find a mind-stopping, heart-catching phrase that will remind you, in Merton's unique way, that God is here, all around, right now, and in that moment everything will be different and you will be changed." --**Sylvia Boorstein**, Author of *It's Easier Than You Think*

"What a delight to contemplate Thomas Merton's *Book of Hours*, compiled from the monk's enormous corpus of prose and poetry. Kathleen Deignan's selections and commentary draw the reader ever deeper into the mystery of God's love. A treasure trove to be prayerfully savored." --**Br. Patrick Hart, O.C.S.O.**, of the Abbey of Gethsemani

"The human heart thirsts for stillness. Kathleen Deignan, a true Sister and soul mate of Merton, guides us to wellsprings of stillness in the depths of his writings and puts an intricately wrought chalice to our lips: living water." --**David Steindl-Rast, O.S.B.**, Author of *The Music of Silence*

"A lovely book, beautifully designed with a wonderful and thoughtfully chosen selection of excerpts from Merton's most contemplative poetry and prose. I wouldn't hesitate to give it as a gift, particularly to someone who is new to Merton." --**Carl McColman**, Author of *The Big Book of Christian Mysticism*

#### About the Author

Kathleen Deignan, C.N.D., is a sister of the Congregation of Notre Dame, a theologian, and a composer of sacred song who has been engaged in liturgical musicianship for many years. She received her master's degree in spirituality studies and her doctorate in historical theology from Fordham University in New York, where she studied with her mentor, the late geologist, Father Thomas Berry, one of the great inspirations of her life and ministry.

As a member of the Congregation of Notre Dame, Deignan is engaged in the mission of liberating education at Iona College where she is professor of religious studies. As part of her collaboration with the

Congregation of Christian Brothers and colleagues, she founded and directs the Iona Spirituality Institute, a project for the celebration and study of the spiritual life, which has sponsored her work in interfaith dialogue, peace and justice studies, and spiritual animation in the United States and abroad, particularly in Ireland where she has worked to foster the wisdom legacy of Thomas Merton. In October 2009, she received Fordham University's *Doctrina et Sapientia* Award for her work in spirituality.

In addition to her books. Deignan has written many articles that have appeared in *The Way, Review for Religious, Sisters Today, Franciscan Review, Diakonia, Sacred Journey, and Monastic Interreligious Dialogue Bulletin.*

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