

*Holy
Thursday*

Morning Prayer (Lauds)

Introduction (without Invitatory)

If this is the first Hour that you are reciting today, use the version with the Invitatory Psalm instead.

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Hymn

Sing my tongue, the glorious battle,
Sing the ending of the fray;
To the Cross, our noble trophy,
Here a fitting tribute pay,
Telling how the world's Redeemer,
Slain as victim, won the day.

Tell how, when at length the fullness
Of the appointed time was come,
He, the Word, was born of woman,
Left for us his Father's home,
Showed to men the perfect manhood,
Shone as light amidst the gloom.

Now the thirty years are ended
Which on earth he willed to see,
Willingly he meets his Passion,
Born to set his people free;
On the Cross the Lamb is lifted,
There the sacrifice to be.

Faithful Cross, above all other,
One and only noble Tree,
None in foliage, none in blossom,

None in fruit thy peer may be;
Sweet the wood and sweet the iron,
And the load, most sweet is he.

Unto God be praise and glory:
To the Father and the Son,
To the eternal Spirit, honour
Now and evermore be done;
Praise and glory in the highest,
While the timeless ages run.

Psalm 79 (80)
Lord, tend your vine

"Come, Lord Jesus!" (Rev 22:20).

Look, Lord, and answer quickly, for I am in distress.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
you who lead Joseph's flock,
shine forth from your cherubim throne
upon Ephraim, Benjamin, Manasseh.

O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help.

God of hosts, bring us back;
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

Lord God of hosts, how long
will you frown on your people's plea?
You have fed them with tears for their bread,
an abundance of tears for their drink.
You have made us the taunt of our neighbours,
our enemies laugh us to scorn.

God of hosts, bring us back;
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

You brought a vine out of Egypt;
to plant it you drove out the nations.
Before it you cleared the ground;
it took root and spread through the land.

The mountains were covered with its shadow,
the cedars of God with its boughs.

It stretched out its branches to the sea,
to the Great River it stretched out its shoots.

Then why have you broken down its walls?

It is plucked by all who pass by.

It is ravaged by the boar of the forest,
devoured by the beasts of the field.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted.

Men have burnt it with fire and destroyed it.

May they perish at the frown of your face.

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.

And we shall never forsake you again;

give us life that we may call upon your name.

God of hosts, bring us back;

let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

Amen.

Look, Lord, and answer quickly, for I am in distress.

Psalm-prayer

Lord God, eternal shepherd, you so tend the vineyard you planted that now it extends its branches even to the farthest coast. Look down on your Church and come to us. Help us remain in your Son as branches on the vine, that, planted firmly in your love, we may testify before the whole world to your great power working everywhere.

Canticle

Isaiah 12

The rejoicing of a redeemed people

"If any man is thirsty, let him come to me and drink" (Jn 7:37)

See now that God is my salvation: I have trust and no fear.

I thank you, Lord: you were angry with me,
but your anger has passed and you give me comfort.

Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.

For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he is my saviour.

With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples.

Declare the greatness of his name,
sing a psalm to the Lord!

For he has done glorious deeds:
make them known to all the earth!

People of Zion, sing and shout for joy,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

See now that God is my salvation: I have trust and no fear.

Psalm 80 (81)

Solemn renewal of the covenant

"Take care that no one among you has a wicked, disbelieving heart" (Heb 3:12).

The Lord fed us with finest wheat, he filled us with honey from the rock.

Ring out your joy to God our strength,
shout in triumph to the God of Jacob.

Raise a song and sound the timbrel,
the sweet-sounding harp and the lute;
blow the trumpet at the new moon,
when the moon is full, on our feast.

For this is Israel's law,
a command of the God of Jacob.
He imposed it as a rule on Joseph,
when he went out against the land of Egypt.

A voice I did not know said to me:
'I freed your shoulder from the burden;
your hands were freed from the load.
You called in distress and I saved you.

'I answered, concealed in the storm cloud;
at the waters of Meribah I tested you.
Listen, my people, to my warning.
O Israel, if only you would heed!

'Let there be no foreign god among you,
no worship of an alien god.
I am the Lord your God,
who brought you from the land of Egypt.
Open wide your mouth and I will fill it.

'But my people did not heed my voice
and Israel would not obey,
so I left them in their stubbornness of heart
to follow their own designs.

'O that my people would heed me,
that Israel would walk in my ways!
At once I would subdue their foes,
turn my hand against their enemies.

'The Lord's enemies would cringe at their feet
and their subjection would last for ever.
But Israel I would feed with finest wheat
and fill them with honey from the rock.'

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

The Lord fed us with finest wheat, he filled us with honey from the rock.

Psalm-prayer

Lord God, open our mouths to proclaim your glory. Help us to leave sin behind and to rejoice in professing your name.

Or:

Father, you rescued your people from slavery and acquired, through the passion of your Son, a new people united in his body and signed with his holiness. Make us faithful to your covenant and obedient to your commandments, so that we may have in your finest bread food for this life and a foretaste of eternity and be able to walk in your ways until we reach our home.

Short Reading

Hebrews 2:9-10

We have seen Jesus crowned with glory and splendour because he submitted to death; by God's grace he had to experience death for all mankind. As it was his purpose to bring a great many of his sons into glory, it was appropriate that God, for whom everything exists and through whom everything exists, should make perfect, through suffering, the leader who would take them to their salvation.

Short Responsory

You have redeemed us, Lord, by your blood.

- *You have redeemed us, Lord, by your blood.*

From every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

- *You have redeemed us, Lord, by your blood.*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

- *You have redeemed us, Lord, by your blood.*

Canticle

Benedictus

The Messiah and the one who was sent before him

I have longed to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel!

He has visited his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up for us a mighty saviour
in the house of David his servant,
as he promised by the lips of holy men,
those who were his prophets from of old.

A saviour who would free us from our foes,
from the hands of all who hate us.
So his love for our fathers is fulfilled
and his holy covenant remembered.

He swore to Abraham our father to grant us,
that free from fear, and saved from the hands of our foes,
we might serve him in holiness and justice
all the days of our life in his presence.

As for you, little child,
you shall be called a prophet of God, the Most High.
You shall go ahead of the Lord
to prepare his ways before him,

To make known to his people their salvation
through forgiveness of all their sins,
the loving-kindness of the heart of our God
who visits us like the dawn from on high.

He will give light to those in darkness,
those who dwell in the shadow of death,
and guide us into the way of peace.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

I have longed to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.

Prayers and intercessions

Let us humbly pray to Christ, the eternal priest, whom the Father anointed with the Holy Spirit to proclaim release for captives.

- *Lord, have mercy on us.*

You went up to Jerusalem to endure the passion and enter into glory;
lead your Church into the paschal feast of eternal life.

- *Lord, have mercy on us.*

Your heart was pierced with a lance;
heal the wounds of our human weakness.

- *Lord, have mercy on us.*

You made your cross the tree of life;
share your victory with all the baptized.

- *Lord, have mercy on us.*

You gave salvation to the repentant thief;
pardon all our sins.

- *Lord, have mercy on us.*

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Love of you with our whole heart, Lord God, is holiness.

Increase, then, your gifts of divine grace in us,
so that, as in your Son's death

you made us hope for what we believe,
you may likewise, in his resurrection,

make us come to you, our final end.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

Compline (Night Prayer)

INTRODUCTION

○ God, come to our aid.

○ Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

Amen.

Examination of Conscience

This is an excellent moment for an examination of conscience. In a communal celebration of Compline, one of the penitential acts given in the Missal may be recited.

Hymn

Christ, thou who art the light and day,

Who chasest nightly shades away,

Thyself the Light of Light confessed,

And promiser of radiance blest:

○ holy Lord, we pray to thee,

Throughout the night our guardian be;

In thee vouchsafe us to repose,
All peaceful till the night shall close.

O let our eyes due slumber take,
Our hearts to thee forever wake:
And let thy right hand from above
Shield us who turn to thee in love.

O strong defender, hear our prayers,
Repel our foes and break their snares,
And govern thou thy servants here,
Those ransomed with thy life-blood dear.

Almighty Father, this accord
Through Jesus Christ, thy Son our Lord,
Who with the Holy Ghost and thee
Doth reign through all eternity.

Psalm 90 (91)
The protection of the Most High

“Behold, I have given you power to tread under foot both serpents and scorpions”
(Lk 10:19).

He will conceal you with his wings; you will not fear the terror of the night.

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
and abides in the shade of the Almighty
says to the Lord: ‘My refuge,
my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!’

It is he who will free you from the snare
of the fowler who seeks to destroy you;
he will conceal you with his pinions
and under his wings you will find refuge.

You will not fear the terror of the night
nor the arrow that flies by day,
nor the plague that prowls in the darkness
nor the scourge that lays waste at noon.

A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand fall at your right,
you, it will never approach;
his faithfulness is buckler and shield.

Your eyes have only to look
to see how the wicked are repaid,
you who have said: 'Lord, my refuge!'
and have made the Most High your dwelling.

Upon you no evil shall fall,
no plague approach where you dwell.
For you has he commanded his angels,
to keep you in all your ways.

They shall bear you upon their hands
lest you strike your foot against a stone.
On the lion and the viper you will tread
and trample the young lion and the dragon.

Since he clings to me in love, I will free him;
protect him for he knows my name.
When he calls I shall answer: 'I am with you,'
I will save him in distress and give him glory.

With length of life I will content him;
I shall let him see my saving power.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

He will conceal you with his wings; you will not fear the terror of the night.

Psalm-prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, when tempted by the devil, you remained loyal to your Father whose angels watched over you at his command. Guard your Church and keep us safe from the plague of sin so that we may remain loyal to the day we enjoy your salvation and your glory.

Short Reading

Apocalypse 22:4-5

They will see the Lord face to face, and his name will be written on their foreheads. It will never be night again and they will not need lamplight or sunlight, because the Lord God will be shining on them. They will reign for ever and ever.

Short Responsory

Christ humbled himself for us and, in obedience, accepted death.

Canticle

Nunc Dimittis

Christ is the light of the nations and the glory of Israel

Save us, Lord, while we are awake; protect us while we sleep; that we may keep watch with Christ and rest with him in peace.

At last, all-powerful Master,
you give leave to your servant
to go in peace, according to your promise.

For my eyes have seen your salvation
which you have prepared for all nations,
the light to enlighten the Gentiles
and give glory to Israel, your people.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Save us, Lord, while we are awake; protect us while we sleep; that we may keep watch with Christ and rest with him in peace.

Let us pray.

Visit this house, we pray you, Lord:
drive far away from it all the snares of the enemy.
May your holy angels stay here and guard us in peace,
and let your blessing be always upon us.

Through Christ our Lord,

Amen.

The Lord grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

Amen.

Good Friday

Morning Prayer (Lauds)

Introduction (without Invitatory)

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O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

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world without end.

Amen.

Hymn

Sing my tongue, the glorious battle,
Sing the ending of the fray;
To the Cross, our noble trophy,
Here a fitting tribute pay,
Telling how the world's Redeemer,
Slain as victim, won the day.

Tell how, when at length the fullness
Of the appointed time was come,
He, the Word, was born of woman,
Left for us his Father's home,
Showed to men the perfect manhood,
Shone as light amidst the gloom.

Now the thirty years are ended
Which on earth he willed to see,
Willingly he meets his Passion,
Born to set his people free;
On the Cross the Lamb is lifted,
There the sacrifice to be.

Faithful Cross, above all other,
One and only noble Tree,
None in foliage, none in blossom,

None in fruit thy peer may be;
Sweet the wood and sweet the iron,
And the load, most sweet is he.

Unto God be praise and glory:
To the Father and the Son,
To the eternal Spirit, honour
Now and evermore be done;
Praise and glory in the highest,
While the timeless ages run.

Psalm 50 (51)
God, have mercy on me

“You must be made new in mind and spirit, and put on the new nature of God’s creating” (Eph 4:23,24).

God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.

My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done.

That you may be justified when you give sentence
and be without reproach when you judge,
O see, in guilt I was born,
a sinner was I conceived.

Indeed you love truth in the heart;
then in the secret of my heart teach me wisdom.
O purify me, then I shall be clean;
O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear rejoicing and gladness,
that the bones you have crushed may revive.
From my sins turn away your face
and blot out all my guilt.

A pure heart create for me, O God,

put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.
Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,
that I may teach transgressors your ways
and sinners may return to you.
O rescue me, God, my helper,
and my tongue shall ring out your goodness.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise.
For in sacrifice you take no delight,
burnt offering from me you would refuse,
my sacrifice, a contrite spirit.
A humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn.
In your goodness, show favour to Sion:
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
Then you will be pleased with lawful sacrifice,
holocausts offered on your altar.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen.

God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all.

Psalm-prayer

Father, he who knew no sin was made sin for us, to save us and restore us to your friendship. Look upon our contrite heart and afflicted spirit and heal our troubled conscience, so that in the joy and strength of the Holy Spirit we may proclaim your praise and glory before all the nations.

Canticle

Habakkuk 3

The Lord will appear in judgement

"Lift up your heads, for your redemption is near at hand" (Lk 21:28).

Jesus Christ showed his love for us and freed us from our sins with his life's blood.

Lord, I have heard of your fame,
I stand in awe at your deeds.
Do them again in our days,
in our days make them known!
In spite of your anger, have compassion.

God comes forth from Teman,
the Holy One comes from Mount Paran.
His splendour covers the sky
and his glory fills the earth.
His brilliance is like the light,
rays flash from his hands;
there his power is hidden.

You march out to save your people,
to save the one you have anointed.
You made a path for your horses in the sea,
in the raging of the mighty waters.

This I heard and I tremble with terror,
my lips quiver at the sound.
Weakness invades my bones,
my steps fail beneath me
yet I calmly wait for the doom
that will fall upon the people who assail us.

For even though the fig does not blossom,
nor fruit grow on the vine,
even though the olive crop fail,
and fields produce no harvest,
even though flocks vanish from the folds
and stalls stand empty of cattle,

Yet I will rejoice in the Lord
and exult in God my saviour.
The Lord my God is my strength.
He makes me leap like the deer,
he guides me to the high places.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Jesus Christ showed his love for us and freed us from our sins with his life's blood.

Psalm 147 (147B)
God, the foundation of Jerusalem

"Come, and I will show you the bride that the Lamb has chosen" (Rev 21:9).

We venerate your Cross, Lord; we praise and glorify your holy resurrection. Because of the tree joy has come into the whole world.

O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!
Sion, praise your God!

He has strengthened the bars of your gates
he has blessed the children within you.

He established peace on your borders,
he feeds you with finest wheat.

He sends out his word to the earth
and swiftly runs his command.

He showers down snow white as wool,
he scatters hoar-frost like ashes.

He hurls down hailstones like crumbs.
The waters are frozen at his touch;
he sends forth his word and it melts them:
at the breath of his mouth the waters flow.

He makes his word known to Jacob,
to Israel his laws and decrees.

He has not dealt thus with other nations;
he has not taught them his decrees.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

We venerate your Cross, Lord; we praise and glorify your holy resurrection. Because of the tree joy has come into the whole world.

Psalm-prayer

Lord, you established peace within the borders of Jerusalem. Give the fullness of peace now to your faithful people. May peace rule us in this life and possess us in eternal life. You are about to fill us with the best of wheat; grant that what we see dimly now as in a mirror, we may come to perceive clearly in the brightness of your truth.

Or:

All-powerful God, it is through your Church, generously endowed with gifts of grace and fortified by the Holy Spirit, that you send out your word to all nations. Strengthen your Church with the best of all food and make her dauntless in faith. Multiply her children to celebrate with one accord the mysteries of your love at the altar on high.

Short Reading

Isaiah 52:13-15

See, my servant will prosper, he shall be lifted up, exalted, rise to great heights. As the crowds were appalled on seeing him - so disfigured did he look that he seemed no longer human - so will the crowds be astonished at him, and kings stand speechless before him; for they shall see something never told and witness something never heard before.

Short Responsory

Christ humbled himself for us and, in obedience, accepted death, even death on a cross.

Canticle

Benedictus

The Messiah and the one who was sent before him

Over his head was placed the charge against him: 'This is Jesus, the Nazarene, the King of the Jews.'

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel!

He has visited his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up for us a mighty saviour
in the house of David his servant,
as he promised by the lips of holy men,
those who were his prophets from of old.

A saviour who would free us from our foes,
from the hands of all who hate us.

So his love for our fathers is fulfilled
and his holy covenant remembered.

He swore to Abraham our father to grant us,
that free from fear, and saved from the hands of our foes,
we might serve him in holiness and justice
all the days of our life in his presence.

As for you, little child,
you shall be called a prophet of God, the Most High.

You shall go ahead of the Lord
to prepare his ways before him,

To make known to his people their salvation
through forgiveness of all their sins,
the loving-kindness of the heart of our God
who visits us like the dawn from on high.

He will give light to those in darkness,
those who dwell in the shadow of death,
and guide us into the way of peace.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Over his head was placed the charge against him: 'This is Jesus, the Nazarene, the King of the Jews.'

Prayers and intercessions

Let us pray to our Redeemer, who suffered for us, was buried, and rose from the dead.

- *Lord, have mercy on us.*

Lord and master, for us you became obedient even to death;
keep us faithful to God's will in the darkness of our lives.

- *Lord, have mercy on us.*

Jesus, our life, by dying on the cross you destroyed hell and death;
grant that we may die with you and rise with you in glory.

- *Lord, have mercy on us.*

Christ, our king, you were the scorn of the people, a worm not a man;
teach us to tread your path of humility.

- *Lord, have mercy on us.*

Jesus, our Saviour, you laid down your life for your friends;
let us love one another as you have loved us.

- *Lord, have mercy on us.*

Jesus, our hope, you stretched out your hands on the cross to embrace all ages of men;

gather all God's scattered children into the kingdom of salvation.

- *Lord, have mercy on us.*

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Be mindful, Lord, of this your family,
for whose sake our Lord Jesus Christ, when betrayed,

did not hesitate to yield himself into his enemies' hands
and undergo the agony of the cross.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

Friday 10 April 2020

Compline (Night Prayer)

INTRODUCTION

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

Amen.

Examination of Conscience

This is an excellent moment for an examination of conscience. In a communal celebration of Compline, one of the penitential acts given in the Missal may be recited.

Hymn

Christ, thou who art the light and day,

Who chasest nightly shades away,

Thyself the Light of Light confessed,

And promiser of radiance blest:

O holy Lord, we pray to thee,
Throughout the night our guardian be;
In thee vouchsafe us to repose,
All peaceful till the night shall close.

O let our eyes due slumber take,
Our hearts to thee forever wake:
And let thy right hand from above
Shield us who turn to thee in love.

O strong defender, hear our prayers,
Repel our foes and break their snares,
And govern thou thy servants here,
Those ransomed with thy life-blood dear.

Almighty Father, this accord
Through Jesus Christ, thy Son our Lord,
Who with the Holy Ghost and thee
Doth reign through all eternity.

Psalm 90 (91)
The protection of the Most High

“Behold, I have given you power to tread under foot both serpents and scorpions”
(Lk 10:19).

He will conceal you with his wings; you will not fear the terror of the night.

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
and abides in the shade of the Almighty
says to the Lord: ‘My refuge,
my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!’

It is he who will free you from the snare
of the fowler who seeks to destroy you;
he will conceal you with his pinions
and under his wings you will find refuge.

You will not fear the terror of the night
nor the arrow that flies by day,
nor the plague that prowls in the darkness
nor the scourge that lays waste at noon.

A thousand may fall at your side,

ten thousand fall at your right,
you, it will never approach;
his faithfulness is buckler and shield.

Your eyes have only to look
to see how the wicked are repaid,
you who have said: 'Lord, my refuge!'
and have made the Most High your dwelling.

Upon you no evil shall fall,
no plague approach where you dwell.
For you has he commanded his angels,
to keep you in all your ways.

They shall bear you upon their hands
lest you strike your foot against a stone.
On the lion and the viper you will tread
and trample the young lion and the dragon.

Since he clings to me in love, I will free him;
protect him for he knows my name.
When he calls I shall answer: 'I am with you,'
I will save him in distress and give him glory.

With length of life I will content him;
I shall let him see my saving power.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

He will conceal you with his wings; you will not fear the terror of the night.

Psalm-prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, when tempted by the devil, you remained loyal to your Father whose angels watched over you at his command. Guard your Church and keep us safe from the plague of sin so that we may remain loyal to the day we enjoy your salvation and your glory.

Short Reading

Apocalypse 22:4-5

They will see the Lord face to face, and his name will be written on their foreheads. It will never be night again and they will not need lamplight or sunlight, because the Lord God will be shining on them. They will reign for ever and ever.

Short Responsory

Christ humbled himself for us and, in obedience, accepted death, even death on a cross.

Canticle

Nunc Dimittis

Christ is the light of the nations and the glory of Israel

Save us, Lord, while we are awake; protect us while we sleep; that we may keep watch with Christ and rest with him in peace.

At last, all-powerful Master,
you give leave to your servant
to go in peace, according to your promise.

For my eyes have seen your salvation
which you have prepared for all nations,
the light to enlighten the Gentiles
and give glory to Israel, your people.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Save us, Lord, while we are awake; protect us while we sleep; that we may keep watch with Christ and rest with him in peace.

Let us pray.

Visit this house, we pray you, Lord:

drive far away from it all the snares of the enemy.

May your holy angels stay here and guard us in peace,

and let your blessing be always upon us.

Through Christ our Lord,

Amen.

The Lord grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

Amen.

*Holy
Saturday*

Morning Prayer (Lauds)

Introduction (without Invitatory)

If this is the first Hour that you are reciting today, use the version with the Invitatory Psalm instead.

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Hymn

Sing my tongue, the glorious battle,
Sing the ending of the fray;
To the Cross, our noble trophy,
Here a fitting tribute pay,
Telling how the world's Redeemer,
Slain as victim, won the day.

Tell how, when at length the fullness
Of the appointed time was come,
He, the Word, was born of woman,
Left for us his Father's home,
Showed to men the perfect manhood,
Shone as light amidst the gloom.

Now the thirty years are ended
Which on earth he willed to see,
Willingly he meets his Passion,
Born to set his people free;
On the Cross the Lamb is lifted,
There the sacrifice to be.

Faithful Cross, above all other,
One and only noble Tree,
None in foliage, none in blossom,

None in fruit thy peer may be;
Sweet the wood and sweet the iron,
And the load, most sweet is he.

Unto God be praise and glory:
To the Father and the Son,
To the eternal Spirit, honour
Now and evermore be done;
Praise and glory in the highest,
While the timeless ages run.

Psalm 63 (64)
A prayer against enemies

“This psalm in particular invites us to think about the passion of the Lord”
(St Augustine).

*They will mourn for him as for an only son, since it is the innocent one of the Lord
who has been slain.*

Hear my voice, O God, as I complain,
guard my life from dread of the foe.
Hide me from the band of the wicked,
from the throng of those who do evil.

They sharpen their tongues like swords;
they aim bitter words like arrows
to shoot at the innocent from ambush,
shooting suddenly and recklessly.

They scheme their evil course;
they conspire to lay secret snares.

They say: ‘Who will see us?
Who can search out our crimes?’

He will search who searches the mind
and knows the depths of the heart.

God has shot them with his arrow
and dealt them sudden wounds.

Their own tongue has brought them to ruin
and all who see them mock.

Then will all men fear;
they will tell what God has done.

They will understand God's deeds.

The just will rejoice in the Lord
and fly to him for refuge.

All the upright hearts will glory.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*They will mourn for him as for an only son, since it is the innocent one of the Lord
who has been slain.*

Psalm-prayer

Father, you gave your Son victory over the men who plotted evil against him; when he cried to you in his agony, you delivered him from fear of his enemies. May those who suffer with him in this life find refuge and success in you.

Canticle

Isaiah 38

The psalm of Hezekiah on recovering from sickness

"I was dead and behold, I am alive and I hold the keys of death" (Rev 1:17-18).

Save my soul from the gates of hell, Lord.

I said, In the noontide of my days I must depart;
I am consigned to the gates of Sheol
for the rest of my years.

I said, I shall not see the Lord
in the land of the living;
I shall look upon man no more
among the inhabitants of the world.

My dwelling is plucked up and removed from me
like a shepherd's tent;
like a weaver I have rolled up my life;
he cuts me off from the loom.

From day to night you bring me to an end;
I cry for help until morning;

like a lion he breaks all my bones;
from day to night you bring me to an end.

Like a swallow or a crane I clamour,
I moan like a dove.

My eyes are weary with looking upward.
O Lord, I am oppressed; be my security.

Lo, it was for my welfare
that I had great bitterness;
but you have held back my life
from the pit of destruction,
for you have cast all my sins
behind your back.

For Sheol cannot thank you,
death cannot praise you;
those who go down to the pit
cannot hope for your faithfulness.

The living, the living, he thanks you,
as I do this day;
the father makes known to the children your faithfulness.

The Lord will save me,
and we will sing to stringed instruments
all the days of our life,
at the house of the Lord.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Save my soul from the gates of hell, Lord.

Psalm 150
Praise the Lord

“Sing praise in your spirit, sing praise with your soul, that is: give glory to God in both your soul and your body” (Hesychius).

I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of hell.

Praise God in his holy place,
praise him in his mighty heavens.

Praise him for his powerful deeds,
praise his surpassing greatness.

O praise him with sound of trumpet,
praise him with lute and harp.

Praise him with timbrel and dance,
praise him with strings and pipes.

O praise him with resounding cymbals,
praise him with clashing of cymbals.

Let everything that lives and that breathes
give praise to the Lord.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of hell.

Psalm-prayer

Lord God, maker of heaven and earth and of all created things, you make your just one holy and you justify sinners who confess your name. Hear us as we humbly pray to you: give us eternal joy with your saints.

Or:

Lord God, through your saving plan all things are ours, and we are Christ's and Christ is yours. Accept the praises of your Church. By these praises, through Christ, with him and in him, all your honour and glory is celebrated, all-powerful Father, in the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

Short Reading

Hosea 5:15-6:2

The Lord says this: They will search for me in their misery. 'Come, let us return to the Lord. He has torn us to pieces, but he will heal us; he has struck us down, but he will bandage our wounds; after a day or two he will bring us back to life, on the third day he will raise us and we shall live in his presence.'

Short Responsory

Christ humbled himself for us and, in obedience, accepted death, even death on a cross. Therefore God raised him to the heights and gave him the name which is above all other names.

Canticle

Benedictus

The Messiah and the one who was sent before him

Save us, Saviour of the world. By your cross and the shedding of your blood you have redeemed us. Come to help us, Lord, our God.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel!

He has visited his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up for us a mighty saviour
in the house of David his servant,
as he promised by the lips of holy men,
those who were his prophets from of old.

A saviour who would free us from our foes,
from the hands of all who hate us.
So his love for our fathers is fulfilled
and his holy covenant remembered.

He swore to Abraham our father to grant us,
that free from fear, and saved from the hands of our foes,
we might serve him in holiness and justice
all the days of our life in his presence.

As for you, little child,
you shall be called a prophet of God, the Most High.
You shall go ahead of the Lord
to prepare his ways before him,

To make known to his people their salvation
through forgiveness of all their sins,
the loving-kindness of the heart of our God
who visits us like the dawn from on high.

He will give light to those in darkness,
those who dwell in the shadow of death,
and guide us into the way of peace.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*Save us, Saviour of the world. By your cross and the shedding of your blood you
have redeemed us. Come to help us, Lord, our God.*

Prayers and intercessions

Let us pray to our Redeemer, who suffered for us, was buried, and rose from the
dead.

- *Lord, have mercy on us.*

Christ, our Lord, you saw your mother standing by the cross;
may we share your saving passion in our time of suffering.

- *Lord, have mercy on us.*

Christ, our Saviour, you died like a grain of wheat falling into the ground;
gather us to yourself in the harvest of redemption.

- *Lord, have mercy on us.*

Christ, our shepherd, lying in the tomb you were hidden from men;
teach us to love our real life, which is hidden with you in God.

- *Lord, have mercy on us.*

Christ, the new Adam, you went down into the world of the dead to free the just;
may those who are dead in sin hear your voice and live.

- *Lord, have mercy on us.*

Son of the living God, we were buried with you in baptism;
let us rise with you, alive to God for ever.

- *Lord, have mercy on us.*

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Almighty, ever-living God,
whose Only-Begotten Son descended to the realm of the dead,
and rose from there to glory,
grant that your faithful people,
who were buried with him in baptism,
may, by his resurrection, obtain eternal life.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

Compline (Night Prayer)

INTRODUCTION

○ God, come to our aid.
○ *Lord, make haste to help us.*
Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Examination of Conscience

This is an excellent moment for an examination of conscience. In a communal celebration of Compline, one of the penitential acts given in the Missal may be recited.

Hymn

Christ, thou who art the light and day,
Who chasest nightly shades away,
Thyself the Light of Light confessed,
And promiser of radiance blest:

O holy Lord, we pray to thee,
Throughout the night our guardian be;
In thee vouchsafe us to repose,
All peaceful till the night shall close.

O let our eyes due slumber take,
Our hearts to thee forever wake:
And let thy right hand from above
Shield us who turn to thee in love.

O strong defender, hear our prayers,
Repel our foes and break their snares,
And govern thou thy servants here,
Those ransomed with thy life-blood dear.

Almighty Father, this accord
Through Jesus Christ, thy Son our Lord,
Who with the Holy Ghost and thee
Doth reign through all eternity.

Psalm 90 (91)
The protection of the Most High

“Behold, I have given you power to tread under foot both serpents and scorpions”
(Lk 10:19).

He will conceal you with his wings; you will not fear the terror of the night.

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
and abides in the shade of the Almighty
says to the Lord: ‘My refuge,
my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!’

It is he who will free you from the snare
of the fowler who seeks to destroy you;
he will conceal you with his pinions
and under his wings you will find refuge.

You will not fear the terror of the night
nor the arrow that flies by day,
nor the plague that prowls in the darkness
nor the scourge that lays waste at noon.

A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand fall at your right,
you, it will never approach;
his faithfulness is buckler and shield.

Your eyes have only to look
to see how the wicked are repaid,
you who have said: ‘Lord, my refuge!’
and have made the Most High your dwelling.

Upon you no evil shall fall,
no plague approach where you dwell.
For you has he commanded his angels,
to keep you in all your ways.

They shall bear you upon their hands
lest you strike your foot against a stone.
On the lion and the viper you will tread
and trample the young lion and the dragon.

Since he clings to me in love, I will free him;
protect him for he knows my name.
When he calls I shall answer: ‘I am with you,’
I will save him in distress and give him glory.

With length of life I will content him;

I shall let him see my saving power.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen.

He will conceal you with his wings; you will not fear the terror of the night.

Psalm-prayer

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Nunc Dimittis

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For my eyes have seen your salvation
which you have prepared for all nations,
the light to enlighten the Gentiles
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watch with Christ and rest with him in peace.*

Let us pray.

Visit this house, we pray you, Lord:
drive far away from it all the snares of the enemy.
May your holy angels stay here and guard us in peace,
and let your blessing be always upon us.
Through Christ our Lord,

Amen.

The Lord grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

Amen.
