

Morning Prayer – Holy Saturday

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

O loving wisdom of our God!
When all was sin and shame.
A second Adam to the fight,
And to the rescue came.

O generous love! That he who smote
In man for man the foe,
The double agony in man
For man should undergo.

And is the garden secretly,
And on the cross on high,
Should teach his brethren and inspire
To suffer and to die.

Praise to the Holiest in the height,
And in the depth be praise,
In all his words most wonderful,
Most sure in all his ways.

Psalm 63 (64)

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.

Canticle

Isaiah 38

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

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.

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.'

Antiphon (in place of 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.

Benedictus

Save us, Saviour of the world. By the 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 the 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. **℞**

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

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. **℞**

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. **℞**

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

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.
We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

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