

## HOLY SATURDAY

### Morning Prayer

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

Lord, who throughout these forty days  
For us didst fast and pray,  
Teach us with thee to mourn our sins,  
And close by thee to stay.

As thou with Satan didst contend,  
And didst the victory win,  
O give us strength in thee to fight,  
In thee to conquer sin.

As thirst and hunger thou didst bear,  
So teach us, gracious Lord,  
To die to self, and daily live  
By thy most holy word.

And through these days of penitence,  
And through thy Passiontide,  
Yea, evermore, in life and death,  
Jesus, with us abide.

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

**Psalm 63 (64)**

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.**

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

**Antiphon 2:** Save my soul from the gates of hell, Lord.

## **Canticle**

### **Isaiah 38**

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.**

**Antiphon: Save my soul from the gates of hell, Lord.**

**Antiphon 3:** I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the  
keys of death and of hell.

### **Psalm 150**

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

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

## Scripture 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**

## Benedictus

**Antiphon:** 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.

**Antiphon: 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.**

### **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 for ever.**

### **Our Father**

## **Concluding Prayer**

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.**

## **DISMISSAL**

May the Lord bless us and keep us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life.

**Amen**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**