



THE OFFICE OF READINGS
AND MORNING PRAYER

HOLY SATURDAY

INTRODUCTION

O Lord, ✠ open our lips.

And we shall praise your name.

INVITATORY PSALM

Ant Christ the Lord suffered for us and was buried. Come, let us adore him.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the God who saves us.
Let us come before him giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord

**A mighty God is the Lord,
a great king above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his.
To him belongs the sea for he made it,
and the dry land shaped by his hand.**

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people that belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.

**O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.**

For forty years I was wearied of these people
and I said: "Their hearts are astray,
these people do not know my ways."
Then I took an oath in my anger:
"Never shall they enter my rest."

**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.

**Ant Christ the Lord suffered for us and was buried.
Come, let us adore him.**

HYMN

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!

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

O wisest love! that flesh and blood,
which did in Adam fail,
should strive afresh against the foe,
should strive, and should prevail;

And that the highest gift of grace
should flesh and blood refine:
God's presence and his very self,
and essence all-divine.

O generous love! that he who smote
in man for man the foe,
the double agony in Man
for man should undergo.

And in 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!

PSALMODY

Ant Now I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once.

When I call answer me, O God of justice;
from anguish you released me; have mercy and hear me.

**O men, how long will your hearts be closed,
will you love what is futile and seek what is false?**

It is the Lord who grants favours to those whom he loves;
the Lord hears me whenever I call him.

**Fear him; do not sin: ponder on your bed and be still;
make justice your sacrifice and trust in the Lord.**

"What can bring us happiness" many say.
Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.

**You have put into my heart a greater joy
than they have from abundance of corn and new wine.**

I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once
for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

**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.

**Ant Now I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at
once.**

Ant *My body shall rest in hope.*

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.
I say to the Lord "You are my God.
My happiness lies in you alone."

**You have put into my heart a marvellous love
for the faithful ones who dwell in your land.
Those who choose other gods increase their sorrows.
Never will I offer their offerings of blood.
Never will I take their name upon my lips.**

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup,
it is you yourself who are my prize.
The lot marked out for me is my delight,
welcome indeed the heritage that falls to me!

**I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,
who even at night directs my heart.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight;
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.**

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay.

**You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever.**

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.**

Ant My body shall rest in hope.

Ant Grow higher, ancient doors; let the king of glory enter.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm.

**Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desire not worthless things,
who has not sworn so as to deceive his neighbour.**

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob.

**O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory!**

Who is the king of glory?
The Lord, the mighty, the valiant,
the Lord, the valiant in war.

**O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory!**

Who is he, the king of glory?
He, the Lord of armies,
he is the king of 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.

**Ant Grow higher, ancient doors; let the king of glory
enter.**

**V Uphold my cause and defend me.
R By your promise give me life.**

THE FIRST READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Heb 4: 1-13

RESPONSORY

They buried the Lord, made the tomb secure and rolled a stone across the entrance, and they placed soldiers there to guard the body.

The chief priests went to Pilate and asked for a guard, and they placed soldiers there to guard the body.

THE SECOND READING

A reading from an ancient homily for Holy Saturday

RESPONSORY

Our Shepherd, the source of living water, has departed. At his passing the sun was darkened, for he who held the first man captive is now taken captive himself. Today our Saviour has shattered the bars and burst the gates of death.

He has torn down the barricades of hell and overthrown the power of Satan. Today our Saviour has shattered the bars and burst the gates of death.

Ant 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.

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

Ant 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 upwards.
O Lord, I am oppressed; be my security!

**Surely 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 lives,
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.

Ant Save my soul from the gates of hell, Lord.

Ant 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.

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

READING Hosea 6: 1-3a

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.

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

Ant 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.**

**Ant 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.**

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.
We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
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.