

## Holy Saturday ~ Morning Prayer

### Opening 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**

**Ant 1: *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) A prayer against enemies

Listen, O God, to my voice; keep me safe from fear of the enemy. Protect me from the alliances of the wicked, from the crowd of those who do evil.

*They have sharpened their tongues like swords, aimed poisonous words like arrows, to shoot at the innocent in secret.*

They will attack without warning, without fear, for they are firm in their evil purpose. They have set out to hide their snares – for they say, “Who will see us?”

*They have thought out plans to commit wicked deeds, and they carry out what they have planned. Truly the heart and soul of a man are bottomless depths.*

And God has shot them with his arrow: in a moment, they are wounded – their own tongues have brought them low. All who see them will shake their heads; all will behold them with fear and proclaim the workings of God and understand what he has done.

*The just will rejoice and hope in the Lord: the upright in heart will give him glory.*

Glory be to the Father...

**Ant 1: *They will mourn for him as for an only son, since it is the innocent one of the Lord who has been slain.***

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

[Canticle: Isaiah 38]

I said, in the middle of my days I am going to the gates of the underworld. Where shall I find the remainder of my years?

*I said, I will not see the Lord God in the land of the living, I will never see another of the inhabitants of the earth.*

My dwelling-place is taken away, taken far away from me, like the tent of a shepherd. Like a weaver, he has rolled up my life and cut it off from the loom.

*From morning to night, you have made an end of me. I cried for help till daybreak; like a lion, he has crushed all my bones.*

From morning to night, you have made an end of me. I twitter like a fledgling sparrow, make noises like a dove. My eyes are weak from looking upward.

*But you have pulled my soul out of the pit of destruction, you have put all my sins behind you. For after all, the underworld will not proclaim you, nor death praise you; those who go down there do not wait in hope for your faithfulness.*

It is the living, the living who will proclaim you, as I do today. Fathers will pass on to their children the truth of your faithfulness.

*Save me, Lord, and to the sound of the harp we will sing to you, all the days of our life, in the house of the Lord.*

**Glory be to the Father ...**

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

**Ant 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 the Lord in his sanctuary, praise him in his mighty firmament. Praise him for his mighty deeds, praise him for all his greatness.

*Praise him with trumpet-blasts, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with timbrel and dance.*

Praise him with strings and pipes, praise him with cymbals resounding, praise him with cymbals of jubilation.

*All that breathes, praise the Lord!*

**Glory be to the Father ...**

**Ant 3:** *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)**

A reading from the prophet Hosea,

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.'

The Word of the Lord...

### **Short Responsory:**

I will sing to you with joy upon my lips. **R:** *I will sing to you with joy upon my lips.*

I will reflect on the greatness of your justice. **R:** *I will sing to you with joy upon my lips.*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. **R:** *I will sing to you with joy upon my lips.*

**Benedictus Antiphon (please stand):** *Saviour of the world, save us. By your cross and blood you redeemed us: we pray you, come to our help, for you are 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 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 safe from the hands of our foes, we might serve him with 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.

Glory be to the Father...

**Benedictus Ant:** *Saviour of the world, save us. By your cross and blood you redeemed us: we pray you, come to our help, for you are our God.*

#### **Intercessions:**

Our Redeemer suffered and was buried for us, later to rise again. With sincere devotion we worship him and bring him our petitions:

**Response** – *Lord, have mercy on us.*

Christ our Saviour, by your will your Mother was with you at your cross and burial: when we are afflicted, make us also sharers in your passion. **R.**

Christ our Lord, like a seed falling on the earth you bore for us the fruit of divine life: grant that we may die to sin and live for God. **R.**

Christ our Shepherd, as you lay in the tomb you were hidden from all: teach us to love our true life, which is hidden with you in the Father. **R.**

Christ, the new Adam, you went down into the realm of the dead and freed from that prison all the just men who had died since the beginning of the world: may all who lie in the tomb of sin hear your voice and come to life. **R.**

Christ, Son of the living God, in baptism you have given us the gift of burial with you: may we share your resurrection also, and live renewed lives. **R.**

**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, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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