

Holy Thursday ~ 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: Look, Lord, and answer quickly, for I am in distress.

Psalm 79 (80)

O Shepherd of Israel, listen - you who take Joseph as your flock. Shine out before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh - you who are enthroned upon the cherubim.

Awaken your power and come to us, come to us and save us. Bring us back, O God: let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

Lord God of hosts - how long will your anger endure against the prayers of your people? You have given us tears for our bread, abundance of tears for us to drink.

You have made us a mockery among our neighbours, and our enemies laugh at us. Bring us back, O God of hosts: let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

You brought a vine out of Egypt; planted it, and drove out the nations. You cleared the ground all about it, made firm its roots; and it filled the land.

Its shade covered mountains, its boughs shaded the cedars of God; its leaves spread as far as the sea, its shoots as far as the River.

So why did you destroy its wall, so that anyone could pluck its fruit, whoever was passing by? The wild boar of the forest broke it, every wild beast could graze off it.

Turn back, O God of hosts, look down from heaven and tend this vine. Protect the vine, for your right hand planted it; and the son of man, whom you made strong.

The vine is burnt and dug up; and they too will perish when they see you rebuke them. Stretch out your hand over your chosen one over the son of man, whom you made strong - and we will not forsake you, and you will give us life; and we will call on your name.

Bring us back, Lord God of hosts: let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

Glory be to the Father...

Ant 1: Look, Lord, and answer quickly, for I am in distress.

Ant 2: See now that God is my salvation: I have trust and no fear. [Canticle: Isaiah 12
The rejoicing of a redeemed people]

I will praise you, Lord, for when you were angry with me you calmed your rage and turned again to console me. Behold, God is my salvation: I will be confident, I will not fear; for the Lord is my strength and my joy, he has become my saviour.

And you will rejoice as you draw water from the wells of salvation. And then you will say: "Praise the Lord and call upon his name.

Tell the peoples what he has done, remember always the greatness of his name.

Sing to the Lord, for he has done great things: let this be known throughout the world. Cry out with joy and gladness, you who dwell in Zion. Great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

Glory be to the Father...

Ant 2: *See now that God is my salvation: I have trust and no fear.*

Ant 3: *The Lord fed us with finest wheat, he filled us with honey from the rock. Psalm 80 (81)*

Shout with joy to God our helper, rejoice in the God of Jacob. Take up the song, sound the timbrel, play on the lyre and the harp.

At the start of the month, sound the trumpet, at the full moon, at our festival. For this is the law for Israel, the decree of the God of Jacob.

He gave it to Joseph, for a witness, when he went out of the land of Egypt; with words that had never been heard: "I freed his back from burdens; his hands were freed from heavy loads.

In your tribulation you called on me and I freed you, I heard you from the heart of the storm, I tested you at the waters of Meribah.

Listen, my people, and I will put my case – Israel, if you would only hear me! You shall not have any strange god, you shall not worship the gods of foreigners.

For I am the Lord, your God, who led you out of the land of Egypt. Open wide your mouth and I shall fill it. But my people did not hear my voice: Israel did not turn to me.

So I let them go on in the hardness of their hearts, and follow their own counsels. If my people had heard me, if only they had walked in my ways – I would swiftly have crushed their enemies, stretched my hand over those who persecuted them.

The enemies of the Lord would be overcome with weakness, Israel's would be the good fortune, for ever: I would feed them full of richest wheat and give them honey from the rock, to their heart's content.

Glory be to the Father ...

Ant 3: *The Lord fed us with finest wheat, he filled us with honey from the rock.*

Scripture Reading: A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the 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.

The Word of the Lord...

Short Repensory:

You have redeemed us by your blood **R:** *You have redeemed us by your blood*

From every tribe and people and nation **R: You have redeemed us by your blood**
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit **R: You have redeemed us by your blood**

Benedictus Antiphon (please stand): *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 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 highest. 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.

To 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...

Benedictus Antiphon: *I have longed to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.*

Intercessions: Christ is the eternal High Priest, whom God anointed with the Holy Spirit and sent to proclaim release for captives. Humbly we pray to him. Our response is : **Lord, have mercy on us.**

You went up to Jerusalem to undergo the Passion and thus enter glory: lead your Church safely through to your eternal Paschal feast. R: Lord, have mercy on us.

It was by your will that, as you hung on the cross, your side was pierced by the soldier's lance – we too are wounded: heal us. R.

By your decree, the cross has become the tree of life: give its fruit to all who are reborn in baptism. R.

Hanging from that tree you pardoned the penitent thief: we too are sinners: pardon us. R.

Our Father...

Concluding Prayer: 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. 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.