

Holy Saturday

Mattins and Ante-Communion
at 10:00 am



MATTINS

(Note: No Gloria Patri at the end of Venite, the Psalms, or the Canticles.)

OPENING SENTENCE

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

CONFESSION

Let us humbly confess our sins to almighty God.

Almighty and most merciful Father, We have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, We have offended against thy holy laws, We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, And we have done those things which we ought not to have done; And there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent; According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

PARDON THROUGH THE CROSS

Almighty Father, who of thy great love to men didst give thy dearly beloved Son to die for us; Grant that through his Cross our sins may be put away, and remembered no more against us, and that, cleansed by his Blood, and mindful of his sufferings, we may take up our cross daily, and follow him in newness of life, until we come to his everlasting kingdom. **Amen.**

INTRODUCTORY RESPONSES

Christ became obedient unto death for us,
Even death upon a cross

He was pierced for our sins,
Bruised for no fault but ours.

His punishment has won our peace,
And by his wounds we are healed.

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom,
Strength, honour, glory, and praise. Amen.

VENITE EXULTEMUS DOMINO (Psalm 95)

Celebrant: He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows:

O come let us worship.

O come, let us sing unto the Lord :

let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving :

and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God : and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are all the corners of the earth :

and the strength of the hills is his also.

The sea is his, and he made it : and his hands prepared the dry land.

O come, let us worship, and fall down :

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is the Lord our God :

and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

To-day, O that ye would hear his voice :

'Harden not your hearts as in the Provocation,

and as in the day of Temptation in the wilderness;

When your fathers tempted me : proved me, and saw my works.

Forty years long was I grieved with that generation, and said :

**“It is a people that do err in their hearts,
for they have not known my ways”;
Unto whom I swear in my wrath :
that they should not enter into my rest.’**

Celebrant: He hath bourned our griefs and carried our sorrows:
O Come let us worship.

The Gloria Patri is omitted.

PSALM 16 - *Conserva me, Domine*

- 1 Preserve me, O God : for in thee have I put my trust.
- 2 I have said unto the Lord, ‘Thou art my God :
I have no good apart from thee.’
- 3 All my delight is upon the saints that are in the earth :
and upon such as excel in virtue.
- 4 But they that run after another god : shall have great trouble.
- 5 Their drink-offerings of blood will I not offer :
neither make mention of their names within my lips.
- 6 The Lord himself is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup :
thou shalt maintain my lot.
- 7 The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places :
yea, I have a goodly heritage.
- 8 I will thank the Lord for giving me counsel :
my heart also instructeth me in the night-season.
- 9 I have set the Lord always before me :
for he is on my right hand, therefore I shall not fall.
- 10 Wherefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth :
my flesh also shall dwell in safety.
- 11 For why? thou wilt not leave my soul to hell :
neither wilt thou suffer thy holy one to see corruption.
- 12 Thou shalt show me the path of life; in thy presence is the fulness of joy :
and at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

The Gloria Patri is omitted.

PSALM: 30 - *Exaltabo te, Domine*

- 1 I will magnify thee, O Lord, for thou hast set me up :
and not made my foes to triumph over me.
- 2 O Lord my God, I cried unto thee : and thou has healed me.
- 3 Thou, Lord, hast brought up my soul from hell :
thou hast kept my life from them that go down to the pit.
- 4 Sing praises unto the Lord, O ye saints of his :
and give thanks unto his holy Name.
- 5 For his wrath endureth but the twinkling of an eye, and in his favour is life :
heaviness may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.
- 6 As for me, in my prosperity I said, 'I shall never be moved' :
thou, Lord, of thy goodness hadst made my hill so strong.
- 7 But thou didst turn thy face from me : and I was troubled.
- 8 Then cried I unto thee, O Lord : and gat me to my Lord right humbly;
- 9 'What profit is there in my blood : when I go down to the pit?
- 10 Shall the dust give thanks unto thee? : or shall it de-clare thy truth?
- 11 Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me : Lord, be thou my help-er.'
- 12 Thou hast turned my heaviness into joy :
thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness;
- 13 That my soul may sing of thy praise without ceasing :

The Gloria Patri is omitted.

THE FIRST LESSON: Zechariah 9.9-12

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on an ass, on a colt the foal of an ass. I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your captives free from the waterless pit. Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

CANTICLE: Salvator Mundi

O Saviour of the world who by thy Cross and precious Blood hast redeemed us :
save us and help us we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

Thou didst save thy disciples when ready to perish :
hear us and save us we humbly beseech thee.

Let the pitifulness of thy great mercy :
loose us from our sins we humbly beseech thee.

Make it appear that thou art our Saviour and mighty Deliverer :
O save us that we may praise thee we humbly beseech thee.

Draw near according to thy promise from the throne of thy glory :
look down and hear our crying we humbly beseech thee.

Come again and dwell with us, O Lord Christ Jesus :
abide with us for ever we humbly beseech thee.

And when thou shalt appear with power and great glory :
may we be made like unto thee, in thy glorious Kingdom.

The Gloria Patri is omitted.

THE SECOND LESSON: 1 Peter 2.11-end

Beloved, I beseech you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh that wage war against your soul. Maintain good conduct among the Gentiles, so that in case they speak against you as wrongdoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation. Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing right you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish men. Live as free men, yet without using your freedom as a pretext for evil; but live as servants of God. Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the emperor. Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to the kind and gentle but also to the overbearing. For one is approved if, mindful of God, he endures pain while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it, if when you do wrong and are beaten for it you take it patiently? But if when you do right and suffer for it you take it patiently, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his

steps. He committed no sin; no guile was found on his lips. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he trusted to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

CANTICLE: Benedictus

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel :
for he hath visited and redeemed his people;
And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us :
in the house of his servant David;
As he spake by the mouth of his holy Prophets :
which have been since the world began;
That we should be saved from our enemies :
and from the hands of all that hate us;
To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers :
and to remember his holy covenant;
To perform the oath which he swore to our forefather Abraham :
that he would grant us
That we being delivered out of the hands of our enemies :
might serve him without fear,
In holiness and righteousness before him : all the days of our life.
And thou, child, shalt be called the Prophet of the Highest :
for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;
To give knowledge of salvation unto his people :
for the remission of their sins;
Through the tender mercy of our God :
whereby the day-spring from on high hath visited us;
To give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death :
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The Gloria Patri is omitted.

CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Catholic Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen.

The Lord be with you;
And with thy spirit.
Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.

O Lord, save thy servants;
That put their trust in thee.

Send unto them help from above;
And evermore mightily defend them.

Help us, O God our Saviour;
And for the glory of thy Name deliver us;
be merciful unto us sinners, for thy Name's sake.

O Lord, hear our prayer;
And let our cry come unto thee.

COLLECT

Heavenly Father, whose son on this day didst rest in the sepulchre, and didst thereby sanctify the grave to be a bed of hope to thy people: Make us so to abound in sorrow for our sins, which were the cause of his passion, that when our bodies rest in the dust, our souls may live with thee. **Amen.**

ANTE-COMMUNION

INTROIT: PSALM 42.1-7, Ant v 1

Like the hart desireth the water brooks :
so longeth my soul after thee, O God.
My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the living God :
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?
My tears have been my food day and night :
while all day long they say unto me, 'Where is now thy God?'
These things will I remember as I pour out my soul within me :
how I went with the multitude,
and brought them forth into the house of God,
With the voice of praise and thanksgiving :
a multitude keeping holy-day.
Why art thou so full of heaviness, O my soul? :
and why art thou so disquieted within me?
O put thy trust in God, for I will yet give him thanks :
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.
Like as the hart desireth the water brooks :
so longeth my soul after thee, O God.

The Gloria Patri is omitted.

KYRIE ELEISON

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Grant, O Lord, that as we are baptized into the death of thy blessed Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, so by continual mortifying our corrupt affections we may be buried with him; and that, through the grave, and gate of death, we may pass to our joyful resurrection; for his merits, who died, and was buried, and rose again for us, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE EPISTLE. 1 St Peter 3. 17.

It is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well-doing, than for evil-doing. For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: by which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; which sometime were disobedient, when once the long-suffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared; wherein few, that is, eight souls, were saved by water. The like figure whereunto, even baptism, doth also now save us, (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience towards God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.

THE TRACT: PSALM 42.8-14

My soul is vexed within me; therefore will I remember thee :
from the land of Jordan, from Hermon, and the Little Hill.
One deep calleth another, because of the noise of thy torrents :
all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me.
The Lord will grant his loving kindness in the daytime :
and in the night season will I sing of him,
and make my prayer unto the God of my life.
I will say unto God my rock, 'Why hast thou forgotten me? :
why go I thus heavily, while the enemy oppresseth me?'
My bones are smitten asunder, while mine enemies reproach me :
while they say daily unto me, 'Where is now thy God?'
Why art thou so vexed, O my soul? :
and why art thou so disquieted within me?
O put thy trust in God, for I will yet give him thanks :
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

THE GOSPEL: St Matthew 27. 57.

When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple. He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered. And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed. And there was Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary, sitting over against the sepulchre. Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first. Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch; go your way, make it as sure as you can. So they went and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

TABLE PRAYERS

O God, who for our sakes didst give up thy well-beloved Son to endure the shameful death of the cross, that we might be delivered from the power of the devil and be cleansed from all unrighteousness: Grant unto thy servants that through his passion the body of sin may be destroyed in us, and through the power of his resurrection we may walk in newness of life.

O Lord, arise and help us:
and deliver us for thy Name's sake.

And as thy Son Jesus Christ, after he had suffered in the flesh for our sins, did preach to the spirits in prison, so also may thy Church ever be ready in body and spirit to do thy will; that by the preaching of thy gospel all who shall be obedient to the faith may be gathered into thy glorious kingdom.

O Lord, arise and help us:
and deliver us for thy Name's sake.

Hear thou our prayer for all that are in trouble and distress. Draw them to thyself, that they may find the comfort and strength which thou alone canst give because thy Son hast borne our griefs and carried our sorrows on the cross; and grant to all of us the loving heart and ready hand to help, that serving the needs of others we may show forth our love and gratitude to thee.

O Lord, arise and help us:
and deliver us for thy Name's sake.

By the continual remembrance of his bitter cross, teach us to crucify the flesh with the affections and lusts thereof; that in the union and merits of his death and passion we may die with him, and rest with him, and rise again with him, and live with him forever.

O Lord, arise and help us:
and deliver us for thy Name's sake.

Grant to the faithful departed all the unsearchable benefits of thy Son's passion; that in the day of his appearing they may be manifested as thy true children.

O Lord, arise and help us:
and deliver us for thy Name's sake.

Finally, grant that as in this life we are united in the mystical body of thy Church, and in death are laid in holy ground with the sure hope of resurrection; so at the last day we too may rise to the life immortal, and be numbered with thy saints in glory everlasting.

O Lord, arise and help us:
and deliver us for thy Name's sake.

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 them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

Most merciful Father, on the Sabbath day those who loved him rested and waited. Grant us faithful and expectant hearts as we wait upon him, the same who died for our sins, thy Son and our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight: and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**



THE HARROWING OF HELL (Anastasis)

“When the gatekeepers of hell saw Him, they fled; the bronze gates were broken open, and the iron chains were undone”

(Ancient Commentary on Scripture 11.107).

Cyril of Alexandria, 370-444



APPROACH TO THE CROSS

O Lord Christ, Lamb of God, Lord of Lords,
call us, who are called to be saints,
along the way of thy Cross :
draw us, who would draw nearer our King,
to the foot of thy Cross :
cleans us, who are not worthy to approach,
with the pardon of thy Cross :
instruct us, the ignorant and blind,
in the school of thy Cross :
arm us, for the battles of holiness,
by the might of thy Cross :
bring us, in the fellowship of thy sufferings
to the victory of thy Cross :
and seal us in the kingdom of thy glory
among the servants of thy Cross,
O crucified Lord;
who with the Father and the Holy Ghost
livest and reignest one God almighty, eternal,
world without end.

*From: A Procession of Passion Prayers
by Eric Milner-White, 1884-1963*