

HOLY SATURDAY
Office of Readings &
Morning Prayer

All stand.

INVITATORY

Priest: Lord, open my lips,

All: and my mouth will proclaim your praise.

Priest - Antiphon:

**Come, let us worship Christ, who for our sake
suffered death and was buried.**

All repeat Antiphon.

Psalm 95

Priest: Come, let us sing to the Lord
and shout with joy to the Rock who saves us.
Let us approach him with praise and thanksgiving
and sing joyful songs to the Lord.

All repeat Antiphon.

Priest: The Lord is God, the mighty God,
the great king over all the gods.
He holds in his hands the depths of the earth
and the highest mountains as well.
He made the sea; it belongs to him,
the dry land, too, for it was formed by his hands.

All repeat Antiphon.

Priest: Come, then, let us bow down and worship,
bending the knee before the Lord, our maker.
For he is our God and we are his people,
the flock he shepherds.

All repeat Antiphon.

Priest: Today, listen to the voice of the Lord:
do not grow stubborn,
as your fathers did in the wilderness,
when at Meriba and Massah
they challenged me and provoked me,
although they had seen all of my works.

All repeat Antiphon.

Priest: Forty years I endured that generation.
I said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray
and they do not know my ways."
So I swore in my anger,
"They shall not enter into my rest."

All repeat Antiphon.

Priest: Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.

All repeat Antiphon.

HYMN – as announced.

PSALMODY

Priest - Antiphon 1:

In peace, I will lie down and sleep.

Psalm 4

Priest: When I call, answer me, O God of justice;

All sit.

Left: from anguish you released me;
have mercy and hear me!

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

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

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

Left: "What can bring us happiness?" many say.
Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord.

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

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

Right: Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:

Left: as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.

All repeat Antiphon 1:

In peace, I will lie down and sleep.

Priest - Antiphon 2:

My body shall rest in hope.

Psalm 16

Priest: Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.

Left: I say to the Lord: "You are my God.
My happiness lies in you alone."

Right: He has put into my heart a marvelous love.
for the faithful ones who dwell in his 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.

Left: 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!

Right: 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.

Left: 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.

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

Right: Glory to the Father and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:

Right: as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.

All repeat Antiphon 2:

My body shall rest in hope.

Priest - Antiphon 3:

**Lift high the ancient portals.
The King of glory enters.**

Psalm 24

Priest: The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,

Left: the world and all its peoples.
It was he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm.

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

Left: 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.

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

Left: Who is the king of glory!
The Lord, the mighty, the valiant,
the Lord, the valiant in war.

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

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

Right: Glory to the Father and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:

Left: as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.

All repeat Antiphon 3:

**Lift high the ancient portals.
The King of glory enters.**

VERSE

Priest: Take up my cause and rescue me.

All: Be true to your word, give me life.

FIRST READING

Hebrews 4:1-13

While the promise of entrance into his rest still holds, we ought to be fearful of disobeying lest any one of you be judged to have lost his chance of entering. We have indeed heard the good news, as they did. But the word which they heard did not profit them, for they did not receive it in faith.

It is we who have believed who enter into that rest, just as God said:

"Thus I swore in my anger,
'They shall never enter into my rest.'"

Yet God's work was finished when he created the world, for in reference to the seventh day Scripture somewhere says, "And God rested from all his work on the seventh day"; and again, in the place we have referred to, God says, "They shall never enter into my rest"

Therefore, since it remains for some to enter, and those to whom it was first announced did not because of unbelief, God once more set a day, "today," when long afterward he spoke through David the word we have quoted:

"Today, if you should hear his voice,
harden not your hearts."

Now if Joshua had led them into the place of rest, God would not have spoken afterward of another day. Therefore a Sabbath rest still remains for the people of God. And he who enters into God's rest, rests from his own work as God did from his. Let us strive to enter into that rest, so that no one may fall, in imitation of the example of Israel's unbelief.

Indeed, God's word is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword. It penetrates and divides soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the reflections and thoughts of the heart. Nothing is concealed from him; all lies bare and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must render an account.

RESPONSORY

Reader: They buried the Lord and sealed the tomb
by rolling a large stone in front of it.

All: They stationed soldiers there to guard it.

Reader: The chief priests asked Pilate for a guard.

All: They stationed soldiers there to guard it

SECOND READING

From an ancient homily on Holy Saturday

Something strange is happening - there is great silence on earth today, a great silence and stillness. The whole earth keeps silence because the King is asleep. The earth trembled and is still because God has fallen asleep in the flesh and he has raised up all who have slept ever since the world began. God has died in the flesh and hell trembles with fear.

He has gone to search for our first parent, as for a lost sheep. Greatly desiring to visit those who live in darkness and the shadow of death, he has gone to free from sorrow the captives Adam and Eve, he who is both God and the son of Eve. The Lord approached them bearing the cross, the weapon that had won him the victory. At the sight of him Adam, the first man he had created, struck his breast in terror and cried out to everyone: "My Lord be with you all." Christ answered him: "And with your spirit." He took him by the hand and raised him up, saying: "Awake, O sleeper, and rise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

I am your God, who for your sake have become your son. Out of love for you and for your descendants I now by my own authority command all who are held in bondage to come forth, all who are in darkness to be enlightened, all who are sleeping to arise. I order you, O sleeper, to wake. I did not create you to be held a prisoner in hell. Rise from the dead, for I am the life of the dead. Rise up, work of my hands, you who were created in my image. Rise, let us leave this place, for you are in me and I am in you; together we form only one person and we cannot be separated.

For your sake I, your God, became your son; I the Lord, took the form of a slave; I, whose home is above the heavens, descended to the earth and beneath the earth. For your sake, for the sake of man, I became like a man without help, free among the dead. For the sake of you, who left a garden, I was betrayed to the Jews in a garden, and I was crucified in a garden.

See on my face the spittle I received in order to restore to you the life I once breathed into you. See there the marks of the blows I received in order to refashion your warped nature in my image. On my back see the marks of the scourging I endured to remove the burden of sin that weighs upon your back. See my hands, nailed firmly to a tree, for you who once wickedly stretched out your hand to a tree.

I slept on the cross and a sword pierced my side for you who slept in paradise and brought forth Eve from your side. My side has healed the pain in yours. My sleep will rouse you from your sleep in hell. The sword that pierced me has sheathed the sword that was turned against you.

Rise, let us leave this place. The enemy led you out of the earthly paradise. I will not restore you to that paradise, but I will enthrone you in heaven. I forbade you the tree that was only a symbol of life, but see, I who am life itself am now one with you. I appointed cherubim to guard you as slaves are guarded, but now I make them worship you as God. The throne formed by cherubim awaits you, its bearers swift and eager. The bridal chamber is adorned, the banquet is ready, the eternal dwelling places are prepared, the treasure houses of all good things lie open. The kingdom of heaven has been prepared for you from all eternity.

RESPONSORY

Reader: Our shepherd,
the source of the water of life, has died.
The sun was darkened when he passed away.
But now man's captor is made captive.

All: This is the day when our Savior broke
through the gates of death.

Reader: He has destroyed the barricades of hell,
overthrown the sovereignty of the devil.

All: This is the day when our Savior
broke through the gates of death.

MORNING PRAYER

PSALMODY

Priest - Antiphon 1:
**Though sinless, the Lord has been put to death.
The world is in mourning as for an only son.**

Psalm 64

Priest: Hear my voice, O God, as I complain,

Left: guard my life from the dread of the foe.
Hide me from the band of the wicked,
from the throng of those who do evil.

Right: They sharpen their tongues like swords;
they aim bitter words like arrows
to shoot at the innocent from ambush,
shooting suddenly and recklessly.

Left: They scheme their evil course;
they conspire to lay secret snares.
They say, "Who will see us?
Who can search out our crimes?"

Right: He will search who searches the mind
and knows the depth of the heart.
God has shot them with his arrows
and dealt them sudden wounds.
Their own tongue has brought them to ruin
and all who see them mock.

Left: 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.

Right: Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:

Left: as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.

All repeat Antiphon 1:

**Though sinless, the Lord has been put to death.
The world is in mourning as for an only son.**

Priest - Antiphon 2:

From the jaws of hell, Lord, rescue my soul.

Isaiah 38:10-14, 17-20

Priest: Once, I said,

Left: "In the noontime of life I must depart,
To the gates of the nether world
I shall be consigned for the rest of my years."

Right: I said, "I shall see the Lord no more
in the land of the living.
No longer shall I behold my fellow men
among those who dwell in the world."

Left: My dwelling, like a shepherds tent,
is struck down and borne away from me;
you have folded up my life,
like a weaver who severs the last thread.

Right: Day and night you give me over to torment;
I cry out until the dawn.
Like a lion he breaks all my bones;
day and night you give me over to torment.

Left: Like a swallow I utter shrill cries,
I moan like a dove.
My eyes grow weak, gazing heaven-ward:
O Lord, I am in straits; be my surety!

Right: You have preserved my life
from the pit of destruction,
when you cast behind your back
all my sins.

Left: For it is not the nether world that gives you thanks,
nor death that praises you;
neither do those who go down into the pit
await your kindness.

Right: The living, the living give you thanks,
as I do today.
Fathers declare to their sons,
O God, your faithfulness.

Left: The Lord is our savior;
we shall sing to stringed instruments
in the house of the Lord
all the days of our life.

Right: Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:

Left: as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.

All repeat Antiphon 2:

From the jaws of hell, Lord, rescue my soul.

Priest - Antiphon 3:

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

Psalm 150

Priest: Praise God in his holy place,

Left: praise him in his mighty heavens.
Praise him for his powerful deeds,
praise his surpassing greatness.

Right: 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.

Left: O praise him with resounding cymbals,
praise him with clashing of cymbals.
Let everything that lives and that breathes
give praise to the Lord.

Right: Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:

Left: as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.

All repeat Antiphon 3:

**I was dead, but now I live forever,
and I hold the keys of death and of hell.**

READING Hosea 5:15b-16.2

Thus says the Lord: In their affliction, they shall look for me:
"Come, let us return to the Lord, for it is he who has rent, but
he will heal us; he has struck us, but he will bind our wounds.
He will revive us after two days; on the third day he will raise
us up, to live in his presence."

ANTIPHON

All: **For our sake Christ was obedient,
accepting even death, death on a cross.
Therefore God raised him on high
and gave him the name above all other names.**

All stand.

GOSPEL CANTICLE

Priest - Antiphon:

**Save us, O Savior of the world.
On the cross you redeemed us
by the shedding of your blood;
we cry out for your help, O God.**

Canticle of Zechariah
Luke 1:68-79

Priest: (while all make the Sign of the Cross)
Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;

Left: he has come to his people and set them free.

Right: He has raised up for us a mighty savior,
born of the house of his servant David.

Left: Through his holy prophets he promised of old
that he would save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us.

Right: He promised to show mercy to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant.

Left: This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight,
all the days of our life.

Right: You, my child, shall be called the prophet
of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
to give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.

Left: In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Right: (All bow.)
Glory to the Father and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:

Left: as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.

All repeat Antiphon:

**Save us, O Savior of the world.
On the cross you redeemed us
by the shedding of your blood;
we cry out for your help, O God**

INTERCESSIONS

Priest: Our Redeemer suffered and was buried for us
in order to rise again.
With sincere love we adore him,
and aware of our needs we cry out.

Reader: Christ our Savior, your sorrowing Mother
stood by you at your death and burial,

All: in our sorrows may we share your suffering.

Reader: Christ our Lord, like the seed buried in the ground,
you brought forth for us the harvest of grace,

All: may we die to sin and live for God.

Reader: Christ, the Good Shepherd,
in death you lay hidden from the world,

All: teach us to love a life hidden
with you in the Father.

Reader: Christ, the new Adam, you entered
the kingdom of death to release all the just
since the beginning of the world;

All: may all who lie dead in sin hear your voice
and rise to life.

Reader: Christ, Son of the living God,
through baptism we were buried with you;

All: risen with you also in baptism,
may we walk in newness of life.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER

Priest: All powerful and ever-living God,
your only Son went down among the dead
and rose again in glory.
In your goodness raise up your faithful people,
buried with him in baptism,
to be one with him
in the eternal life of heaven,
where he lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

BLESSING and DISMISSAL