



# HOLY SATURDAY

MARK 15:47

*In silence we await*

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# HOLY SATURDAY

## Morning Prayer (Lauds)

Lord, open our lips.

And we shall praise your name.

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

**Psalm 94 (95)**

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 hands.

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 who 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,  
as 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.

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

## Hymn

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

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. 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)

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

**Silence**

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

**Canticle Isaiah 38 : 10 – 14, 17 - 20**

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 upward.  
O Lord, I am oppressed; be my security.

Lo, 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.

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

**Silence**

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

**Silence**

**Scripture Reading**

**Hosea 5:15-6:2**

'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.'

**Silence**

**In place of the Short Responsory the following antiphon is said.**

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**Ant.** 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.

**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.

### **Intercessions**

Let us pray to our Redeemer, who suffered for us, was buried, and rose from the dead.

**R** – Lord, have mercy on us.

1. Christ, our Lord, you saw your mother standing by the cross;  
may we share your saving passion in our time of suffering. **R**

2. Christ, our Saviour, you died like a grain of wheat falling into the ground; gather us to yourself in the harvest of redemption. **R**
3. 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. **R**
4. 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. **R**
5. Son of the living God, we were buried with you in baptism; let us rise with you, alive to God for ever. **R**

Our Father, .....

## The Office of Readings

### The First Reading Hebrews 4: 1 - 13

Responsory:

Mt. 27: 66, 60, 62

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

**V/** 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

#### The Lord's descent into hell.

What is happening? Today there is a great silence over the earth, a great silence, and stillness, a great silence because the King sleeps; the earth was in terror and was still, because God slept in the flesh and raised up those who were sleeping from the ages. God has died in the flesh, and the underworld has trembled.

Truly he goes to seek out our first parent like a lost sheep; he wishes to visit those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. He goes to free the prisoner Adam and his fellow-prisoner Eve from their pains, he who is God, and Adam's son.

The Lord goes in to them holding his victorious weapon, his cross. When Adam, the first created man, sees him, he strikes his breast in terror and calls out to all: 'My Lord be with you all.' And Christ in reply says to Adam: 'And with your spirit.' And grasping his hand he raises him up, saying: 'Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light.

'I am your God, who for your sake became your son, who for you and your descendants now speak and command with authority those in prison: come forth, and those in darkness: have light, and those who sleep: rise.



'I command you: Awake, sleeper, I have not made you to be held a prisoner in the underworld. Arise from the dead; I am the life of the dead. Arise, O man, work of my hands, arise; you who were fashioned in my image. Rise, let us go hence; for you in me and I in you, together we are one undivided person.

'For you, I your God became your son; for you, I the Master took on your form, that of slave; for you, I who am above the heavens came on earth and under the earth; for you, man, I became as a man without help, free among the dead; for you, who left a garden, I was handed over to Jews from a garden and crucified in a garden.

'Look at the spittle on my face, which I received because of you, in order to restore you to that first divine in breathing at creation. See the blows on my cheeks, which I accepted in order to refashion your distorted form to my own image.

'See the scourging of my back, which I accepted in order to disperse the load of your sins which was laid upon your back. See my hands nailed to the tree for a good purpose, for you, who stretched out your hand to the tree for an evil one.

'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, healed the pain of your side; my sleep will release you from your sleep in Hades; my sword has checked the sword which was turned against you.

'But arise, let us go hence. The enemy brought you out of the land of paradise; I will reinstate you, no longer in paradise, but on the throne of heaven. I denied you the tree of life, which was a figure, but now I myself am united to you, I who am life. I posted the cherubim to guard you as they would slaves; now I make the cherubim worship you as they would God.

'The cherubim throne has been prepared, the bearers are ready and waiting, the bridal chamber is in order, the food is provided, the everlasting houses and rooms are in readiness, the treasures of good things have been opened; the kingdom of heaven has been prepared before the ages.'

### Responsory

**R/.** 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 the Saviour has shattered the bars and burst the gates of death.

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



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Let us pray.

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.

Let us praise the Lord.

— Thanks be to God.

## **HOLY SATURDAY INSTRUCTIONS :**

*On Holy Saturday the Church is as it were at the Lord's tomb, meditating on his passion and death, and on his descent into hell, and awaiting his resurrection with prayer and fasting. It is highly recommended that on this day the Office of Readings, and Morning Prayer be celebrated with the participation of the people. Where this cannot be done, there should be some celebration of the Word of God, or some act of devotion suited to the mystery celebrated on this day.*

*The Image of Christ crucified or lying in the tomb, or the descent into hell, which mystery Holy Saturday recalls, as also an image of the Sorrowful Virgin Mary can be placed in the Church for the veneration of the faithful.*

*On this day the Church abstains strictly from the celebration of the Sacrifice of the Mass. Holy Communion may be given in the form of Viaticum. The celebration of marriages is forbidden, as also celebration of other sacraments, except those of Penance and the Anointing of the Sick.*

*The faithful are to be instructed on the special character of Holy Saturday. Festive customs and traditions associated with this day on account of the former practice of anticipating the celebration of Easter on Holy Saturday should be reserved for Easter night and the day that follows.*