

HOLY WEEK MORNING PRAYER

PREPARATION

A SENTENCE OF SCRIPTURE

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.
By his wounds you have been healed.

1 Peter 2: 24

VERSICLES AND RESPONSES

Stand

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth will proclaim your praise.

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. **Amen.**

Praise the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

THE WORD OF GOD

A PSALM OR PSALMS

One or more of the appointed Psalm is said or sung
Monday in Holy Week
Psalm 41

Refrain: O Lord, be merciful to me.

- 1 Blessed are those who consider the | poor and | needy; ■
the Lord will deliver them | in the | time of | trouble.
- 2 The Lord preserves them and restores their life,
that they may be happy | in the | land; ■
he will not hand them | over •to the | will of their | enemies.
3. The Lord sustains them | on their | sickbed; ■
their sickness, | Lord, you | will re|move.
- 4 And so I said, 'Lord, be | merciful | to me; ■
heal me, for | I have | sinned a|gainst you.' *[R]*
- 5 My enemies speak | evil a|bout me, ■
asking when I shall | die and my | name | perish.
6. If they come to see me, they utter | empty | words; ■
their heart gathers mischief;
when they go | out, they | tell it a|broad.
- 7 All my enemies whisper to|gether a|gainst me, ■
against me | they de|vise | evil,
- 8 Saying that a deadly thing | has laid | hold on me, ■
and that I will not rise a|gain from | where I | lie.

9† Even my bosom friend, whom I trusted,
who | ate of my | bread, ■
has lifted | up his | heel a|gainst me. *[R]*

10 But you, O Lord, be | merciful | to me ■
and raise me up, | that I | may re|ward them.

11 By this I | know that you | favour me, ■
that my enemy | does not | triumph | over me.

12. Because of my integrity | you up|hhold me ■
and will set me be|fore your | face for | ever.

13 Blessed be the | Lord •God of | Israel, ■
from everlasting to everlasting. A|men and | A|men.

Refrain: O Lord, be merciful to me.

Psalm-Prayer

God our deliverer,
raise up the poor and comfort the betrayed,
through the one who for our sakes became poor
and whose betrayal brought our salvation,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Tuesday in Holy Week

Psalm 27

Refrain: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1 The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom then | shall I | fear? ■

The Lord is the strength of my life;
of whom then | shall I | be a|fraid?

2 When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes,
came upon me to | eat up my | flesh, ■
they | stumbled | and | fell.

3. Though a host encamp against me,
my heart shall | not be a|fraid, ■
and though there rise up war against me,
yet will I | put my | trust in | him.

4 One thing have I asked of the Lord
and that a|lone I | seek: ■
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord |
all the | days of my | life,

5. To behold the fair |beauty •of the |Lord ■
and to | seek his | will •in his | temple.

6 For in the day of trouble
he shall hide me | in his | shelter; ■
in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me
and set me | high up|on a | rock.

7 And now shall he | lift up my | head ■
above my | enemies | round a|bout me;
8. Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation
with | great | gladness; ■
I will sing and make | music | to the | Lord. *[R]*

9 Hear my voice, O Lord, | when I | call; ■
have | mercy up|on me and | answer me.
10 My heart tells of your word, | ‘Seek my | face.’ ■
Your | face, Lord, | will I | seek.
11. Hide | not your | face from me, ■
nor cast your | servant a|way •in dis|pleasure.

12 You have | been my | helper; ■
leave me not, neither forsake me, O | God of | my sal|vation.
13† Though my father and my | mother for|sake me, ■
the | Lord will | take me | up.

14 Teach me your | way, O | Lord; ■
lead me on a level path,
because of | those who | lie in | wait for me.
15 Deliver me not into the | will of my | adversaries, ■
for false witnesses have risen up against me,
and | those who | breathe out | violence.
16 I believe that I shall see the | goodness •of the | Lord ■
in the | land | of the | living.
17 Wait for the Lord;
be strong and he shall | comfort your | heart; ■
wait | patiently | for the | Lord.

Refrain: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Psalm-Prayer

God, our light and our salvation,
illuminate our lives,
that we may see your goodness in the land of the living,
and, looking on your beauty,
may be changed into the likeness of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Wednesday in Holy Week

Psalm 102: 1-15

Refrain: My help comes from the Lord.

1 O Lord, | hear my | prayer ■
and let my | crying | come be|fore you.
2 Hide not your | face | from me ■
in the | day of | my dis|tress.
3. Incline your | ear to | me; ■
when I | call, make | haste to | answer me, *[R]*

4 For my days are con|sumed in | smoke ■
and my bones burn a|way as | in a | furnace.

5 My heart is smitten down and | withered like | grass, ■
so that I for|get to | eat my | bread.

6. From the | sound of my | groaning ■
my | bones cleave | fast to my | skin.

7 I am become like a | vulture •in the | wilderness, ■
like an | owl that | haunts the | ruins.

8 I | keep | watch ■
and am become like a sparrow |
solitary up|on the | housetop.

9. My enemies revile me | all the day | long, ■
and those who rage at me have | sworn to|gether a|gainst me.

10 I have eaten | ashes for | bread ■
and | mingled my | drink with | weeping,

11 Because of your indig|nation and | wrath, ■
for you have taken me | up and | cast me | down.

12. My days fade a|way •like a | shadow, ■
and | I am | withered like | grass. *[R]*

13 But you, O Lord, shall en|dure for | ever ■
and your | name through | all •gene|rations.

14 You will arise and have | pity on | Zion; ■
it is time to have mercy upon her; |
surely the | time has | come.

15† For your servants love her | very | stones ■
and feel com|passion | for her | dust.

Refrain: My help comes from the Lord.

Psalm-Prayer

In the depths of our isolation
we cry to you, Lord God;
give light in our darkness
and bring us out of the prison of our despair
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Maundy Thursday

Psalm 39

Refrain: Lord, let me know my end and the number of my days.

1 I said, ‘I will keep watch | over my | ways, ■
so that I of|fend not | with my | tongue.

2 ‘I will guard my | mouth •with a | muzzle, ■
while the | wicked are | in my | sight.’

3. So I held my tongue | and said | nothing; ■
I kept silent | but to | no a|vail. *[R]*

4 My distress increased, my heart grew | hot with|in me; ■
while I mused, the fire was kindled
and I | spoke out | with my | tongue:
5 ‘Lord, let me know my end and the | number •of my | days, ■
that I may | know how | short my | time is.
6 ‘You have made my days but a handsbreadth,
and my lifetime is as nothing | in your | sight; ■
truly, even those who stand | upright are | but a | breath.
7† ‘We walk about like a shadow
and in vain we | are in | turmoil; ■
we heap up riches and | cannot tell | who will | gather them. [R]

8 ‘And now, | what is my | hope? ■
Truly my | hope is | even in | you.
9 ‘Deliver me from | all my trans|gressions ■
and do not | make me the | taunt •of the | fool.’
10 I fell silent and did not | open my | mouth, ■
for surely | it was | your | doing.
11 Take a|way your | plague from me; ■
I am con|sumed •by the | blows of your | hand.
12 With rebukes for sin you punish us;
like a moth you con|sume our | beauty; ■
truly, | everyone is | but a | breath. [R]
13. Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give | ear to my | cry; ■
hold | not your | peace •at my | tears.

14 For I am but a | stranger with | you, ■
a wayfarer, as | all my | forebears | were.
15 Turn your gaze from me, that I may be | glad a|gain, ■
before I go my | way and | am no | more.

Refrain: Lord, let me know my end and the number of my days.

Psalm-Prayer

O Christ, Son of the living God,
help us when we are too cast down to pray,
and grant that we may trust you all our days,
for you are with us in our living and our dying,
Jesus, Lord and God.

Good Friday

Psalm 130

Refrain: My soul waits for the Lord.

1 Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord;
Lord, | hear my | voice; ■
let your ears consider well the | voice •of my | suppli|cation.
2 If you, Lord, were to mark what is | done a|miss, ■
O | Lord, | who could | stand?

3† But there is for|giveness with | you, ■
so | that you | shall be | feared. *[R]*

4 I wait for the Lord; my | soul | waits for him; ■
in his | word | is my | hope.

5 My soul waits for the Lord,
more than the night watch | for the | morning, ■
more than the | night watch | for the | morning. *[R]*

6 O Israel, | wait •for the | Lord, ■
for with the | Lord there is | mercy;

7 With him is | plenteous re|demption ■
and he shall redeem | Israel from | all their | sins.

Refrain: My soul waits for the Lord.

Psalm-Prayer

Father, we commend to your faithful love
those who are crying from the depths;
help them to watch and pray
through their time of darkness,
in sure hope of the dawn of your
 forgiveness and redemption;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Psalm 143

Refrain: Show me, O Lord, the way that I should walk in.

1 Hear my | prayer, O | Lord, ■
and in your faithfulness give ear to my supplications;
| answer me | in your | righteousness.

2 Enter not into judgment | with your | servant, ■
for in your sight shall | no one | living be | justified.

3. For the enemy has pursued me,
crushing my | life •to the | ground, ■
making me sit in | darkness like | those long | dead.

4 My spirit | faints with|in me; ■
my | heart with|in me is | desolate. *[R]*

5 I remember the time past; I muse upon | all your | deeds; ■
I con|sider the | works of your | hands.

6. I stretch | out my | hands to you; ■
my soul gasps for you | like a | thirsty | land.

7 O Lord, make haste to answer me; my | spirit | fails me; ■
hide not your face from me

lest I be like | those who go | down •to the | Pit.

8 Let me hear of your loving-kindness in the morning,
for in you I | put my | trust; ■

show me the way I should walk in,
for I | lift up my | soul to | you. *[R]*

9. Deliver me, O Lord, | from my | enemies, ■
for I | flee to | you for | refuge.

10 Teach me to do what pleases you, for | you are my | God; ■
let your kindly spirit lead me | on a | level | path.

11 Revive me, O Lord, | for your | name's sake; ■
for your righteousness' sake, | bring me | out of | trouble.

12 In your faithfulness, slay my enemies,
and destroy all the adversaries | of my | soul, ■
for | truly | I am your | servant.

Refrain: Show me, O Lord, the way that I should walk in.

Psalm-Prayer

Jesus, our companion,
when we are driven to despair,
help us, through the friends and strangers
we encounter on our path,
to know you as our refuge,
our way, our truth and our life.

Easter Eve

Psalm 142

Refrain: Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to your name.

1 I cry aloud •to the | Lord; ■
to the Lord I | make my | suppli|cation.
2. I pour out my com|plaint be|fore him ■
and | tell him | of my | trouble.

3 When my spirit faints within me, you | know my | path; ■
in the way wherein I walk | have they | laid a | snare for me.
4 I look to my right hand, and find | no one who | knows me; ■
I have no place to flee to, and | no one | cares for my | soul. *[R]*
5. I cry out to you, O | Lord, and | say: ■
'You are my refuge, my | portion •in the | land of the | living.

6 'Listen to my cry, for I am brought | very | low; ■
save me from my persecutors, for they | are too | strong | for me.

7 'Bring my | soul •out of | prison, ■
that I may give | thanks | to your | name;
7a When you have dealt | bountifully | with me, ■
then shall the | righteous | gather a|round me.'

Refrain: Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to your name.

Psalm-Prayer

God of compassion,
you regard the forsaken

and give hope to the crushed in spirit;
hear those who cry to you in distress
and bring your ransomed people to sing your glorious praise,
now and for ever.

THE PRAYER OF HABAKKUK

Habakkuk 3: 2-4, 13a, 15-19

A CANTICLE

*Refrain: You came forth to save your people,
to save your anointed, O God.*

- 1 O Lord, I have heard of your renown, ■
and I stand in awe, O Lord, of your work.
- 2 In the midst of the years renew it;
in the midst of the years make it known; ■
in wrath remember mercy.
- 3 God came from Teman, and the Holy One from Mount Paran. ■
His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise.
- 4 His brightness was like the sun, ■
rays flashed from his hand; there he veiled his power.
- 5 You came forth to save your people, ■
to save your anointed.
- 6 You trampled the sea with your horses, ■
churning the mighty waters.
- 7 I hear, and my belly trembles, ■
my lips quiver at the sound;
- 8 Rottenness enters into my bones, ■
and my steps totter beneath me.
- 9 I will quietly wait for the day of trouble ■
to come upon the people that invade us.
- 10 Though the fig tree does not blossom,
nor fruit appear on the vines, ■
the produce of the olive fail, and the fields yield no food,
- 11 Though the flock be cut off from the fold ■
and there be no herd in the stalls,
- 12 Yet will I rejoice in the Lord, ■
I will exult in the God of my salvation.
- 13 God, the Lord, is my strength; ■
he makes my feet like hinds' feet,
and makes me tread upon the high places.

*Refrain: You came forth to save your people,
to save your anointed, O God.*

A READING OR READINGS

One or two readings as appointed

Monday in Holy Week

Lamentations 1: 1-12a

How lonely sits the city
that once was full of people!
How like a widow she has become,

she that was great among the nations!
She that was a princess among the provinces
has become a vassal.

She weeps bitterly in the night,
with tears on her cheeks;
among all her lovers
she has no one to comfort her;
all her friends have dealt treacherously with her,
they have become her enemies.

Judah has gone into exile with suffering
and hard servitude;
she lives now among the nations,
and finds no resting-place;
her pursuers have all overtaken her
in the midst of her distress.

The roads to Zion mourn,
for no one comes to the festivals;
all her gates are desolate,
her priests groan;
her young girls grieve,
and her lot is bitter.

Her foes have become the masters,
her enemies prosper,
because the Lord has made her suffer
for the multitude of her transgressions;
her children have gone away,
captives before the foe.

From daughter Zion has departed
all her majesty.
Her princes have become like stags
that find no pasture;
they fled without strength
before the pursuer.

Jerusalem remembers,
in the days of her affliction and wandering,
all the precious things
that were hers in days of old.
When her people fell into the hand of the foe,
and there was no one to help her,
the foe looked on mocking
over her downfall.

Jerusalem sinned grievously,
so she has become a mockery;
all who honoured her despise her,

for they have seen her nakedness;
she herself groans,
and turns her face away.

Her uncleanness was in her skirts;
she took no thought of her future;
her downfall was appalling,
with none to comfort her.
'O Lord, look at my affliction,
for the enemy has triumphed!'

Enemies have stretched out their hands
over all her precious things;
she has even seen the nations
invade her sanctuary,
those whom you forbade
to enter your congregation.

All her people groan
as they search for bread;
they trade their treasures for food
to revive their strength.
Look, O Lord, and see
how worthless I have become.

Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?

Luke 22: 1-23

Now the festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was near. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to put Jesus to death, for they were afraid of the people.

Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve; he went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers of the temple police about how he might betray him to them. They were greatly pleased and agreed to give him money. So he consented and began to look for an opportunity to betray him to them when no crowd was present.

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, 'Go and prepare the Passover meal for us that we may eat it.' They asked him, 'Where do you want us to make preparations for it?' 'Listen,' he said to them, 'when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house he enters and say to the owner of the house, "The teacher asks you, 'Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'" He will show you a large room upstairs, already furnished. Make preparations for us there.' So they went and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, 'I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, 'Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.' Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in

my blood. But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!' Then they began to ask one another which one of them it could be who would do this.

Tuesday in Holy Week

Lamentations 3: 1-18

I am one who has seen affliction
under the rod of God's[a] wrath;
he has driven and brought me
into darkness without any light;
against me alone he turns his hand,
again and again, all day long.

He has made my flesh and my skin waste away,
and broken my bones;
he has besieged and enveloped me
with bitterness and tribulation;
he has made me sit in darkness
like the dead of long ago.

He has walled me about so that I cannot escape;
he has put heavy chains on me;
though I call and cry for help,
he shuts out my prayer;
he has blocked my ways with hewn stones,
he has made my paths crooked.

He is a bear lying in wait for me,
a lion in hiding;
he led me off my way and tore me to pieces;
he has made me desolate;
he bent his bow and set me
as a mark for his arrow.

He shot into my vitals
the arrows of his quiver;
I have become the laughing-stock of all my people,
the object of their taunt-songs all day long.
He has filled me with bitterness,
he has glutted me with wormwood.

He has made my teeth grind on gravel,
and made me cower in ashes;
my soul is bereft of peace;
I have forgotten what happiness is;
so I say, 'Gone is my glory,
and all that I had hoped for from the Lord.'

Luke 22: 39-53

He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, 'Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.' Then he

withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, 'Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.' Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them, 'Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.'

While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him, 'Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?' When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, 'Lord, should we strike with the sword?' Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said, 'No more of this!' And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him, 'Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!'

Wednesday in Holy Week

Jeremiah 11: 18-20

It was the Lord who made it known to me, and I knew;
then you showed me their evil deeds.
But I was like a gentle lamb
led to the slaughter.
And I did not know it was against me
that they devised schemes, saying,
'Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,
let us cut him off from the land of the living,
so that his name will no longer be remembered!'
But you, O Lord of hosts, who judge righteously,
who try the heart and the mind,
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

Luke 22: 54-71

Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said, 'This man also was with him.' But he denied it, saying, 'Woman, I do not know him.' A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, 'You also are one of them.' But Peter said, 'Man, I am not!' Then about an hour later yet another kept insisting, 'Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean.' But Peter said, 'Man, I do not know what you are talking about!' At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, 'Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times.' 62 And he went out and wept bitterly.

Now the men who were holding Jesus began to mock him and beat him; they also blindfolded him and kept asking him, 'Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?' They kept heaping many other insults on him.

When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. They said, 'If you are the Messiah, tell us.' He replied, 'If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.' All of them asked, 'Are you, then, the Son of

God?’ He said to them, ‘You say that I am.’ Then they said, ‘What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!’

Maundy Thursday

Leviticus 16: 2-24

The Lord said to Moses:

Tell your brother Aaron not to come just at any time into the sanctuary inside the curtain before the mercy-seat that is upon the ark, or he will die; for I appear in the cloud upon the mercy-seat. Thus shall Aaron come into the holy place: with a young bull for a sin-offering and a ram for a burnt-offering. He shall put on the holy linen tunic, and shall have the linen undergarments next to his body, fasten the linen sash, and wear the linen turban; these are the holy vestments. He shall bathe his body in water, and then put them on. He shall take from the congregation of the people of Israel two male goats for a sin-offering, and one ram for a burnt-offering.

Aaron shall offer the bull as a sin-offering for himself, and shall make atonement for himself and for his house. He shall take the two goats and set them before the Lord at the entrance of the tent of meeting; and Aaron shall cast lots on the two goats, one lot for the Lord and the other lot for Azazel. Aaron shall present the goat on which the lot fell for the Lord, and offer it as a sin-offering; but the goat on which the lot fell for Azazel shall be presented alive before the Lord to make atonement over it, so that it may be sent away into the wilderness to Azazel.

Aaron shall present the bull as a sin-offering for himself, and shall make atonement for himself and for his house; he shall slaughter the bull as a sin-offering for himself. He shall take a censer full of coals of fire from the altar before the Lord, and two handfuls of crushed sweet incense, and he shall bring it inside the curtain and put the incense on the fire before the Lord, so that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy-seat that is upon the covenant, or he will die. He shall take some of the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it with his finger on the front of the mercy-seat, and before the mercy-seat he shall sprinkle the blood with his finger seven times.

He shall slaughter the goat of the sin-offering that is for the people and bring its blood inside the curtain, and do with its blood as he did with the blood of the bull, sprinkling it upon the mercy-seat and before the mercy-seat. Thus he shall make atonement for the sanctuary, because of the uncleannesses of the people of Israel, and because of their transgressions, all their sins; and so he shall do for the tent of meeting, which remains with them in the midst of their uncleannesses. No one shall be in the tent of meeting from the time he enters to make atonement in the sanctuary until he comes out and has made atonement for himself and for his house and for all the assembly of Israel. Then he shall go out to the altar that is before the Lord and make atonement on its behalf, and shall take some of the blood of the bull and of the blood of the goat, and put it on each of the horns of the altar. He shall sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it and hallow it from the uncleannesses of the people of Israel.

When he has finished atoning for the holy place and the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall present the live goat. Then Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the people of Israel, and all their transgressions, all their sins, putting them on the head of the goat, and sending it away into the wilderness by means of someone designated for the task. The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to a barren region; and the goat shall be set free in the wilderness.

Then Aaron shall enter the tent of meeting, and shall take off the linen vestments that he put on when he went into the holy place, and shall leave them there. He shall bathe his body in water in a holy place, and put on his vestments; then he shall come out and offer his burnt-offering and the burnt-offering of the people, making atonement for himself and for the people.

Luke 23: 1-25

Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying, 'We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king.' Then Pilate asked him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' He answered, 'You say so.' Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, 'I find no basis for an accusation against this man.' But they were insistent and said, 'He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place.'

When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them, 'You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him.'

Then they all shouted out together, 'Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!' (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting, 'Crucify, crucify him!' A third time he said to them, 'Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.' But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

Good Friday

Genesis 22: 1-18

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, 'Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt-offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.' So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt-offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, 'Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.' Abraham took the wood of the burnt-offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, 'Father!' And he said, 'Here I am, my son.' He said, 'The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt-offering?' Abraham said, 'God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt-offering, my son.' So the two of them walked on together.

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill[a] his son. 11 But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and

said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.' And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt-offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place 'The Lord will provide'; as it is said to this day, 'On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.'

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, 'By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.'

John 18: 28 - 40

Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said, 'What accusation do you bring against this man?' They answered, 'If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.' Pilate said to them, 'Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law.' The Jews replied, 'We are not permitted to put anyone to death.' (This was to fulfil what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?' Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?' Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.' Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.' Pilate asked him, 'What is truth?'

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, 'I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?' They shouted in reply, 'Not this man, but Barabbas!' Now Barabbas was a bandit.

Easter Eve

Hosea 6: 1-6

'Come, let us return to the Lord;
for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us;
he has struck down, and he will bind us up.

After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will raise us up,
that we may live before him.

Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord;
his appearing is as sure as the dawn;
he will come to us like the showers,
like the spring rains that water the earth.'

What shall I do with you, O Ephraim?
What shall I do with you, O Judah?
Your love is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.

Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets,
I have killed them by the words of my mouth,
and my judgement goes forth as the light.
For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice,
the knowledge of God rather than burnt-offerings.

John 2: 18-22

The Jews then said to him, ‘What sign can you show us for doing this?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’ The Jews then said, ‘This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?’ But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

THE GOSPEL CANTICLE

BENEDICTUS *The Song of Zechariah Luke 1: 68-79*

*Refrain: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.*

1 Blessèd be the Lord the | God of | Israel, ■
who has come to his | people · and | set them | free.
2 The Lord has raised up for us a | mighty | saviour, ■
born of the | house of · his | servant | David.
3 Through the holy prophets God | promised · of | old ■
to save us from our enemies,
from the | hands of | those who | hate us,
4 to show | mercy · to our | forebears, ■
and to re|member · his | holy | covenant.
5 This was the oath God swore to our | father | Abraham: ■
to set us | free · from the | hand of · our | enemies.
6 Free to worship him with out | fear, ■
holy and righteous before him | all the | days of · our | life.
7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the | Most | High, ■
for you will go before the | Lord · to pre|pare his | way,
8 To give his people knowledge | of sal|vation ■
by the for|giveness · of | all their | sins.
9 In the tender compassion | of our | God ■
the dawn from on | high shall | break up|on us.
10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness ____
and the | shadow · of | death, ■
and to guide our feet | into · the | way of | peace.

*Refrain: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.*

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,**

suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER

Kneel

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

INTERCESSIONS AND THANKSGIVINGS

Lamb of God,
being human, you knew the pain the cross would inflict;
being divine, you knew it was the only way we could be redeemed.

INTERCESSIONS

We pray

for creation and its care . . .
for the nations of the world . . .
for our nation and its leaders . . .
for this community and those who are in authority . . .
for the church universal as it works on your behalf . . .
for this local church in its ministry . . .
for persons with particular needs . . .

THANKSGIVINGS

We thank you

for the redemption of creation . . .
for the sacrifice of your servants around the world . . .
for your work as it continues in our community . . .
for the sacrifice of those who serve us in your name . . .
for our redemption . . .

CONCLUDING PRAYER

**With the angels and those encircling your throne
we join in proclaiming,
“Worthy is the lamb that was slaughtered
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honour**

and glory and blessing” forever and ever. Amen.

THE COLLECT

The Collect of the Day *may be said or the prayer which follows these Collects:*

Monday in Holy Week

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy,
but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of his cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Tuesday in Holy Week

O God,
who by the passion of your blessed Son made
an instrument of shameful death
to be for us the means of life:
Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ,
that we may gladly suffer pain and loss
for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Wednesday in Holy Week

Lord God,
whose blessed Son our Saviour
gave his back to the smiters,
and did not hide his face from shame:
Give us grace to endure the sufferings
of this present time,
with sure confidence in the glory that shall be revealed;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

Maundy Thursday

Almighty God,
at the Last Supper your Son Jesus Christ
washed the disciples' feet
and commanded them to love one another.
Give us humility and obedience to be servants of others
as he was the servant of all;
who gave up his life and died for us,
yet is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Good Friday

Almighty Father,
Look with mercy on this your family
for which our Lord Jesus Christ
was content to be betrayed
and given up into the hands of sinners

and to suffer death upon the cross;
who is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Easter Eve

Grant, Lord,
that we who are baptized into the death
of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
may continually put to death our evil desires
and be buried with him;
and that through the grave and gate of death
we may pass to our joyful resurrection;
through his merits, who died and was buried and rose again for us,
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

or

God of love,
as in Jesus Christ you gave yourself to us,
so may we give ourselves to you,
living according to your holy will.
Keep our feet firmly in the way
where Christ leads us;
make our mouths speak the truth
that Christ teaches us;
fill our bodies with the life
that is Christ within us.
In his holy nme we pray. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, so we pray
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
On earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

or

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say
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 those who 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.**

THE ENDING

May Christ, who bore our sins on the cross,
set us free to serve him with joy. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

DISMISSAL

BLESSING