



# MID-DAY PRAYER ON HOLY SATURDAY

8 APRIL 2023

# THE PREPARATION

*Presider*

O God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

My trust is in you, O Lord,

**I have said, 'You are my God.'**

Glory to God, to Christ and to the Spirit:

**as it was in the beginning is now and will be for ever.**

**Amen.**

PRAISE

‘Sunset to Sunrise  
Changes Now’

*Common Praise 188 (sung  
to 188)*

*Cantor*

Sunset to sunrise changes now,  
for God doth make the world anew;  
on the Redeemer’s thorn-crowned brow  
the wonders of that dawn we view.

Even though the sun withholds its light,  
lo! a more heavenly lamp shines here,  
and from the cross on Calvary’s height  
gleams of eternity appear.

Here in o’erwhelming final strife  
the Lord of life hath victory,  
and sin is slain, and death brings life  
and earth inherits heaven’s key.

# PSALM

## Psalm 31.1-4, 15-16

### *Psalmist*

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

**Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.

**Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me. **Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me. Make your face to shine upon your servant, and in your loving-kindness save me. **Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

## PSALM PRAYER

*Psalmist*

Helper of the helpless,  
comfort of the afflicted,  
may your servants who stand in the midst of evil  
find strength in the knowledge of your presence,  
and praise you for the wonders of your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

## READING

### Job 14.1-14

#### *Reader*

A reading from Job.

Job said, “A mortal, born of woman, few of days and full of trouble, comes up like a flower and withers, flees like a shadow and does not last. Do you fix your eyes on such a one? Do you bring me into judgment with you? Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? No one can. Since their days are determined, and the number of their months is known to you, and you have appointed the bounds that they cannot pass, look away from them and desist, that they may enjoy, like labourers, their days.

## READING

### Job 14.1-14 (continued)

#### *Reader*

“For there is hope for a tree, if it is cut down, that it will sprout again and that its shoots will not cease. Though its root grows old in the earth and its stump dies in the ground, yet at the scent of water it will bud and put forth branches like a young plant. But mortals die and are laid low; humans expire, and where are they? As waters fail from a lake and a river wastes away and dries up, so mortals lie down and do not rise again; until the heavens are no more, they will not awake or be roused out of their sleep. O that you would hide me in Sheol, that you would conceal me until your wrath is past, that you would appoint me a set time and remember me! If mortals die, will they live again? All the days of my service I would wait until my release should come.

## RESPONSORY

*Reader*

We adore you, O Christ,  
and we bless you;  
**by your holy cross,  
you have redeemed the world.**

God chose what is weak in the world  
to shame the strong.  
**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.**

We preach Christ crucified,  
the power of God and the wisdom of God.  
**By your holy cross,  
you have redeemed the world.**

God forbid that I should glory,  
save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you; by  
your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.**



## READING

### John 19.38-42

#### *Reader*

A reading from the Gospel according to John.

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission, so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

# RESPONSE

*Reader*

*After a period of silent reflection, the Reader then says,*

Blessed are those  
who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,  
**for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

# INTERCESSIONS, PETITIONS & THANKSGIVINGS

*Presider*

Let us remember

- the persecuted Church;
- the oppressed peoples of the world;
- all who are lonely;
- all who are near to death;
- all who are facing loss, and
- our own petitions, intercessions and thanksgivings.

## VERSICLES & RESPONSES

### *Presider*

Lord Jesus, you embraced the cross that we might learn to give our lives for the sake of love: **we praise you, Lamb of God.**

Innocent captive, you submitted to the judgement of sinners: **we praise you, Lamb of God.**

In the hour of death you heard the penitent thief and opened to him the door of paradise: **we praise you, Lamb of God.**

Most merciful Saviour, you have known the pain of abandonment: **we praise you, Lamb of God.**

Lord, you loved the church and gave up your own self for us: **we praise you, Lamb of God.**

Through your blood you have brought to all people the crown of life: **we praise you, Lamb of God.**

## THE COLLECT

*Presider*

O God,  
creator of heaven and earth,  
as the crucified body of your dear Son  
was laid in the tomb  
and rested on this holy Sabbath,  
so may we await with him  
the coming of the third day,  
and rise with him to newness of life;  
who now lives and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,  
now and for ever. **Amen.**

# THE LORD'S PRAYER

## *Presider*

Standing at the foot of the cross and gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us:

**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.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

# THE SENDING FORTH

*Deacon (or Presider)*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Presider*

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