



An order for Morning Prayer
on Holy Cross Day

All stand for

The Opening Responses

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

Let your ways be known upon earth,
your saving power among the nations.

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation,
to you be praise and glory for ever.

As a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief
your only Son was lifted up
that he might draw the whole world to himself.

May we walk this day in the way of the cross
and always be ready to share its weight,
declaring your love for all the world.

Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:
Blessed be God for ever.

A Song of Lamentation

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

**Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow,
which was brought upon me,
which the Lord inflicted on the day of his fierce anger.**

**For these things I weep; my eyes flow with tears;
for a comforter is far from me, one to revive my courage.**

Remember my affliction and my bitterness, the wormwood and the gall!

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:

the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,

his mercies never come to an end;

they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.'

The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him.

It is good that we should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

For the Lord will not reject for ever;

though he causes grief, he will have compassion,

according to the abundance of his steadfast love;

for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

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.

after Lamentations 1

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you, now and forever.
Amen.

The Word of God

All sit to say

The Psalms of the Day

Psalm 6

- 1 O Lord, rebuke me not in your wrath; *
neither chasten me in your fierce anger.
- 2 **Have mercy on me, Lord, for I am weak; *
Lord, heal me, for my bones are racked.**
- 3 My soul also shakes with terror; *
how long, O Lord, how long?
- 4 **Turn again, O Lord, and deliver my soul; *
save me for your loving mercy's sake.**
- 5 For in death no one remembers you; *
and who can give you thanks in the grave?
- 6 **I am weary with my groaning; *
every night I drench my pillow and flood my bed with my tears.**
- 7 My eyes are wasted with grief *
and worn away because of all my enemies.
- 8 **Depart from me, all you that do evil, *
for the Lord has heard the voice of my weeping.**
- 9 The Lord has heard my supplication; *
the Lord will receive my prayer.
- 10 **All my enemies shall be put to shame and confusion; *
they shall suddenly turn back in their shame.**

Psalm 146

- 1 Alleluia. Praise the Lord, O my soul: while I live will I praise the Lord; *
as long as I have any being, I will sing praises to my God.
- 2 **Put not your trust in princes, nor in any human power, *
for there is no help in them.**

- 3 When their breath goes forth, they return to the earth; *
on that day all their thoughts perish.
- 4 **Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help, *
whose hope is in the Lord their God;**
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;
- 6 **Who gives justice to those that suffer wrong *
and bread to those who hunger.**
- 7 The Lord looses those that are bound; *
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;
- 8 **The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; *
the Lord loves the righteous;**
- 9 The Lord watches over the stranger in the land;
he upholds the orphan and widow; *
but the way of the wicked he turns upside down.
- 10 **The Lord shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Alleluia.**

At the end of the psalms all remain seated to say

**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.**

The Old Testament Reading

A reading from the book Genesis.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God

called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the LORD God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.'

The LORD God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.'

Genesis 3: 1–15

So ends the first reading.

Silence is kept

The New Testament Reading

A reading from the Gospel according to St John.

Jesus said: 'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—"Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. The crowd answered him, 'We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains for ever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?' Jesus said to them, 'The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.' After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them.

St John 12: 27–36a

So ends the second reading.

Silence is kept

All remain seated for

The Responsoy

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.

All stand to say

Benedictus

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,

who has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,

born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets God promised of old

to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us.

To show mercy to our ancestors, and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath God 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.

And you, 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 all their sins.

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.

St Luke 1: 68-79

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.

All sit or kneel for

The Prayers

Intercessions are offered ending with

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God,
who in the passion of your blessed Son
made an instrument of painful death
to be for us the means of life and peace:
grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ
that we may gladly suffer for his sake;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

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 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 Conclusion

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.

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