

Service for Saturday in Holy Week (Easter Eve)

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross; that we might die to sin and live for righteousness; by his wounds we have been healed. (1Peter 2.24)

We come in prayer as the family of God in our Father's presence to offer him praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive his word, to bring before him the needs of the world, and to seek his grace that through his Son Jesus Christ we may give ourselves to his service.

Let us together confess our sins to the Father and seek his pardon and peace.

Let us pray.

**Almighty and merciful God, we have sinned against you
in thought, word and deed.**

We have not loved you with all our heart.

We have not loved others as Christ loved us.

We are truly sorry.

In your mercy, forgive what we have been,

help us to amend what we are,

and direct what we shall be;

that we may delight in your will

and walk in your ways,

to the glory and praise of your name. Amen.

Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive our sins, and keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

O Lord, open our lips,

and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

To you we lift our eyes,

for you are enthroned in the heavens.

Glory be 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.

Let us worship the Lord.

All praise to his name.

READINGS

Psalm 16

Keep me safe, my God, for in you I take refuge.

² I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord;
apart from you I have no good thing."

³ I say of the holy people who are in the land,
"They are the noble ones in whom is all my delight."

⁴ Those who run after other gods will suffer more and more.
I will not pour out libations of blood to such gods
or take up their names on my lips.

- ⁵ Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup;
you make my lot secure.
- ⁶ The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
surely I have a delightful inheritance.
- ⁷ I will praise the Lord, who counsels me;
even at night my heart instructs me.
- ⁸ I keep my eyes always on the Lord.
With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.
- ⁹ Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest secure,
- ¹⁰ because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,
nor will you let your faithful one see decay.
- ¹¹ You make known to me the path of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Old Testament reading: Hosea 6: 1-6

"Come, let us return to the Lord. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds. ² After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will restore us, that we may live in his presence.³ Let us acknowledge the Lord; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth." ⁴ "What can I do with you, Ephraim? What can I do with you, Judah? Your love is like the morning mist, like the early dew that disappears. ⁵ Therefore I cut you in pieces with my prophets, I killed you with the words of my mouth— then my judgments go forth like the sun. ⁶ For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.

Salvator Mundi

Jesus, Saviour of the world, come to us in your mercy:
we look to you to save and help us.

By your cross and life laid down you set your people free:
we look to you to save and help us.

When they were ready to perish, you saved your disciples:
we look to you to save and help us.

In the greatness of your mercy loose us from our chains:
forgive the sins of your people.

**Make yourself known as our Saviour and mighty Deliverer:
save and help us that we may praise you.**

Come now and dwell with us, Lord Christ Jesus:
hear our prayer and be with us always.

And when you come in your glory, make us to be one with you:
and to share in the life of your kingdom.

New Testament reading: 1 Peter 3: 17-22

¹⁷ For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. ¹⁹ After being made alive,^[a] he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits— ²⁰ to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, ²¹ and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God.^[b] It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

Nunc Dimittis:

**Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace: according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation: which thou hast prepared before the face
of all peoples.
To be a light to lighten the gentiles: and to be the glory of thy people Israel.
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.**

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Christ have mercy upon us.

Our Father.....

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS.

In our baptism we died with Christ and were buried with him, so that we might rise with him to a new life within the family of his church.
We now meet to join to renew the promises made at our baptism, to affirm our allegiance to Christ and our rejection of all that is evil.

Stand.

Do you renew and affirm the promises made at your baptism? **I do.**

Do you turn in faith to Christ? **I do.**

Do you renounce all evil? **I do by God's help.**

Will you obey and serve Christ? **I will, by God's help.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, creator of heaven and earth?
I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ, who redeemed all the world?
I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit who gives life to the people of God?
I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Those who are baptised are called to worship and serve God.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbour as yourself ?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society, by prayer for the world and its leaders,
by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

With the help of God, I will.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given us the will to do all these things:
Give us the courage and strength to achieve them
To the honour and glory of your name,
and the good of your Church and people;
through Jesus our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

May Christ dwell in our hearts through faith,
that we may be rooted and grounded in love
and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit. **Amen.**

