

Morning Prayer
Passiontide
Thursday, 2 April 2020

Preparation

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

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

One or more of the following is said or sung:

this or another prayer of thanksgiving

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.
All: Blessed be God for ever.

a suitable hymn, or A Song of Lamentation

1 Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? ♦
Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow,

**2 Which was brought upon me, ♦
which the Lord inflicted
on the day of his fierce anger.**

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

**4 Remember my affliction and my bitterness, ♦
the wormwood and the gall!**

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

**6 The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, ♦
his mercies never come to an end;**

7 They are new every morning; ♦

great is your faithfulness.

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

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

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

11 For the Lord will not reject for ever; ♦
though he causes grief, he will have compassion,

**12 According to the abundance of his steadfast love; ♦
for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.**

Lamentations 1.12, 16a,b; 3.19, 21-26, 31-33

**All: 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.**

This opening prayer may be said

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 for ever.

All: Amen.

The Word of God

Psalmody

The appointed psalmody is said.

Psalm 40

Refrain: **Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God.**

1 I waited patiently for the Lord; ♦
he inclined to me and heard my cry.

**2 He brought me out of the roaring pit,
out of the mire and clay; ♦**

he set my feet upon a rock and made my footing sure.

3 He has put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God; ♦
many shall see and fear
and put their trust in the Lord.

**4 Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, ♦
who does not turn to the proud that follow a lie.**

5 Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God.
How great your designs for us! ♦
There is none that can be compared with you.

**6 If I were to proclaim them and tell of them ♦
they would be more than I am able to express. R**

7 Sacrifice and offering you do not desire ♦
but my ears you have opened;

**8 Burnt offering and sacrifice for sin you have not required; ♦
then said I: 'Lo, I come.**

9 'In the scroll of the book it is written of me
that I should do your will, O my God; ♦
I delight to do it: your law is within my heart.'

**10 I have declared your righteousness in the great congregation; ♦
behold, I did not restrain my lips,
and that, O Lord, you know.**

11 Your righteousness I have not hidden in my heart;
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; ♦
I have not concealed your loving-kindness and truth
from the great congregation. R

**12 Do not withhold your compassion from me, O Lord; ♦
let your love and your faithfulness always preserve me,**

13 For innumerable troubles have come about me;
my sins have overtaken me so that I cannot look up; ♦
they are more in number than the hairs of my head,
and my heart fails me.

**14 Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me; ♦
O Lord, make haste to help me.**

15 Let them be ashamed and altogether dismayed
who seek after my life to destroy it; ♦
let them be driven back and put to shame
who wish me evil.

**16 Let those who heap insults upon me ♦
be desolate because of their shame. R**

17 Let all who seek you rejoice in you and be glad; ♦
let those who love your salvation say always,
'The Lord is great.'

**18 Though I am poor and needy, ♦
the Lord cares for me.**

19 You are my helper and my deliverer; ♦
O my God, make no delay.

Refrain: **Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God.**

Free us from our sins, O God,
and may our sacrifices be of praise
to the glory of your Son,
our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Psalm 125

Refrain: **Glorious things are spoken of you,
Zion, city of our God.**

1 Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, ♦
which cannot be moved, but stands fast for ever.

**2 As the hills stand about Jerusalem, ♦
so the Lord stands round about his people,
from this time forth for evermore.**

3 The sceptre of wickedness shall not hold sway
over the land allotted to the righteous, ♦
lest the righteous turn their hands to evil.

**4 Do good, O Lord, to those who are good, ♦
and to those who are true of heart.**

5 Those who turn aside to crooked ways
the Lord shall take away with the evildoers; ♦
but let there be peace upon Israel.

Refrain: **Glorious things are spoken of you,
Zion, city of our God.**

God of power,
you are strong to save
and you never fail those who trust in you;
keep us under your protection

and spread abroad your reign of peace
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Each psalm or group of psalms may end with

**All: 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.**

If there are two Scripture readings, the first may be read here, or both may be read after the canticle.

Exodus 9.13-end

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Rise up early in the morning and present yourself before Pharaoh, and say to him, "Thus says the Lord, the God of the Hebrews: Let my people go, so that they may worship me. For this time I will send all my plagues upon you yourself, and upon your officials, and upon your people, so that you may know that there is no one like me in all the earth. For by now I could have stretched out my hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, and you would have been cut off from the earth. But this is why I have let you live: to show you my power, and to make my name resound through all the earth. You are still exalting yourself against my people, and will not let them go. Tomorrow at this time I will cause the heaviest hail to fall that has ever fallen in Egypt from the day it was founded until now. Send, therefore, and have your livestock and everything that you have in the open field brought to a secure place; every human or animal that is in the open field and is not brought under shelter will die when the hail comes down upon them.'" ' Those officials of Pharaoh who feared the word of the Lord hurried their slaves and livestock off to a secure place. Those who did not regard the word of the Lord left their slaves and livestock in the open field.

The Lord said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand towards heaven so that hail may fall on the whole land of Egypt, on humans and animals and all the plants of the field in the land of Egypt.' Then Moses stretched out his staff towards heaven, and the Lord sent thunder and hail, and fire came down on the earth. And the Lord rained hail on the land of Egypt; there was hail with fire flashing continually in the midst of it, such heavy hail as had never fallen in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation. The hail struck down everything that was in the open field throughout all the land of Egypt, both human and animal; the hail also struck down all the plants of the field, and shattered every tree in the field. Only in the land of Goshen, where the Israelites were, there was no hail.

Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron, and said to them, 'This time I have sinned; the Lord is in the right, and I and my people are in the wrong. Pray to the Lord! Enough of God's thunder and hail! I will let you go; you need stay no longer.' Moses said to him, 'As soon as I have gone out of the city, I will stretch out my hands to the Lord; the thunder will cease, and there will be no more hail, so that you may know that the earth is the Lord's. But as for you and your officials, I know that you do not yet fear the Lord God.' (Now the flax and the barley were ruined, for the barley was in the ear and the flax was in bud. But the wheat and the spelt were not ruined, for they are late in coming up.) So Moses left Pharaoh, went out of the city, and stretched out his hands to the Lord; then the thunder and the hail ceased, and the rain no longer poured down on the earth. But when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunder had ceased, he sinned once more and hardened his heart, he and his officials. So the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he would not let the Israelites go, just as the Lord had spoken through Moses.

Canticle

A Song of the Lord's Gracious Deeds, or another suitable canticle, for example, number 23 (page 574), number 42 (page 593) or number 43 (page 594), may be said

Refrain:

**All: I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,
the praises of the Most High.**

1 Who is this that comes from Edom, ♦
coming from Bozrah, his garments stained crimson?

**2 Who is this in glorious apparel, ♦
marching in the greatness of his strength?**

3 'It is I, who announce that right has won the day, ♦
it is I,' says the Lord, 'for I am mighty to save.'

**4 Why are your robes all red, O Lord, ♦
and your garments like theirs who tread the winepress?**

5 'I have trodden the winepress alone, ♦
and from the peoples no one was with me.'

**6 I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, ♦
the praises of the Most High;**

7 All that God has done for us in his mercy, ♦
by his many acts of love.

**8 For God said, 'Surely, they are my people,
my children who will not deal falsely,' ♦
and he became their Saviour in all their distress.**

9 So God redeemed them by his love and pity; ♦
he lifted them up and carried them
through all the days of old.

Isaiah 63.1-3a, 7-9

**All: 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: I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,
the praises of the Most High.**

Scripture Reading

One or more readings appointed for the day are read.

The reading(s) may be followed by a time of silence.

Hebrews 12.14-end

Pursue peace with everyone, and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springs up and causes trouble, and through it many become defiled. See to it that no one becomes like Esau, an immoral and godless person, who sold his birthright for a single meal. You know that later, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, even though he sought the blessing with tears.

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. (For they could not endure the order that was given, 'If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.' Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, 'I tremble with fear.') But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, 'Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.' This phrase 'Yet once more' indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

A suitable song or chant, or a responsory in this or another form, may follow

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you;
All: by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.
God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong.
All: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
We preach Christ crucified,
the power of God and the wisdom of God.
All: By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.
God forbid that I should glory,
save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.
All: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you;
by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

cf 1 Corinthians 1 and Galatians 6

Gospel Cantic

*The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah) is normally said,
or Saviour of the World (page 644) may be said*

Refrain: **The word of the cross is folly
to those who are perishing,
but to those who are being saved**

it is the power of God.

1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, ♦
who has come to his people and set them free.

**2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, ♦
born of the house of his servant David.**

3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old ♦
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us,

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

5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: ♦
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**6 Free to worship him without fear, ♦
holy and righteous in his sight
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 prepare his way,

**8 To give his people knowledge of salvation ♦
by the forgiveness of all their sins.**

9 In the tender compassion of our God ♦
the dawn from on high shall break upon 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.**

Luke 1.68-79

**All: 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.**

Refrain: **The word of the cross is folly
 to those who are perishing,
 but to those who are being saved
 it is the power of God.**

Prayers

Intercessions are offered

- for the day and its tasks

- for the world and its needs
- for the Church and her life

Prayers may include the following concerns from the cycle on pages 364–365

- The persecuted Church
- The oppressed peoples of the world
- All who are lonely
- All who are near to death
- All who are facing loss

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer

Silence may be kept.

The Collect of the day is said

**All: Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
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 is said

Standing at the foot of the cross,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**All: 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.

All: Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

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