

Holy Saturday

A liturgy of the word

In the Jewish tradition the transition between one day and the next happens at sunset so we are entering the first day of the week. As we, like Mary, await the dawn on this Holy day we recall the history of salvation, we experience once again the development of humanity's relationship with God and we prepare for the freedom and joy of new life emerging from the bondage of sin and death.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, to you be glory and praise for ever.
Your steadfast love extends to the heavens and your faithfulness never ceases.
Illuminate our hearts with your wisdom and strengthen our lives with your word, for you are the fountain of life; in your light we see true light.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
All Blessed be God for ever.

This is the night in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life. The Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer.
As we await the risen Christ, let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, recalling how he saved his people in ages past and in the fullness of time sent his Son to be our Redeemer. Let us pray that God may bring to perfection in each of us the saving work he has begun.

The first reading Genesis 1:1 – 2:4
The Creation

Psalm 104: 1-7

Psalm response which we say together at the beginning and end of the psalm:

All Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray that we may see God's image restored.
Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation. Your love cannot be contained and overflows in the wonder of creation. You formed the universe out of nothing and moulded us from the clay of the earth. All you have made sings of your marvellous deeds,
O Lord, our maker and redeemer.
All Amen.

The second reading Genesis 3 The Fall

Psalm 51.1-7

Psalm response:

All Have mercy on me, O God.

Let us pray that our merciful God will show compassion on all who fall victim to the power of sin. Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation. The sin which we dare not confront breaks your heart and nothing can be concealed from your sight, yet you showed mercy to our ancestors. Show mercy today to all who fall prey to sin's lure, and shatter the power of evil,
O Lord, our maker and redeemer.
All Amen.

The third reading Exodus 12.1-24 The Passover

Psalm 77.11-end

Psalm response:

All With a mighty arm you redeem your people.

Let us pray that God will feed and sustain his people through the hard journeys of this life. Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation. With the dawning of their deliverance your people ate the feast of freedom. As Christ our Passover Lamb

gives hope to the hopeless and frees the
ensnared,
establish the justice for which your heart
yearns,
O Lord, our maker and redeemer.
All Amen.

Song of Exodus

**Come, sing to God! He sets his people
free;
The Lord has won the greatest victory.
God is our strength, our Saviour and our
song,
And we will honour him our whole life
long.**

**Come, sing to God, for glorious is his
name,
To all the world his saving works
proclaim.
God is our strength, his glory has been
shown:
The power of evil he has overthrown.**

**Come, sing to God in this his triumph
hour;
His strong right arm has shown his
glorious power.
God is our strength, his vict'ry is
complete:
Oppression's forces languish in defeat.**

**Come, sing to God, the God of truth and
grace,
Within whose sanctuary we take our
place.
God is our strength, we worship and
adore!
The Lord our God shall reign for
evermore.**

Let us pray that God will give freedom to his
enslaved people.
Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.
You heard the agony of your people
as they cried out from their slavery,
and you gave them Moses
to lead them to a land flowing with milk and
honey.
Hear the cry of the enslaved and the
homeless today
and lead us through the turbulent sea of life
to our true home with you,
O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

All Amen.

The fifth reading Ezekiel 47.1-12 The
river of life

Psalm 46.1-5

Psalm response:

All God is our refuge and strength.

Let us pray that God's justice will flow like
rivers in the deserts of this world.
Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.
The river of life flows from your heart
and where that stream goes everything bursts
into flower.

May your refreshing water
be a torrent of life in the deserts of this world,
bringing food to eat and healing to the
nations,
O Lord, our maker and redeemer.
All Amen.

The sixth reading
Zephaniah 3.14-end
Jerusalem praises God

Psalm 98

Psalm response:

All Sing to the Lord a new song.

The seventh reading Mark 16.1-8

On this night that the Lord has made,
let us pray for the people he has redeemed.

That we may live as those who believe in the
triumph of the cross:

Risen Lord Jesus
hear our prayer

That all people may receive the good news of
his victory:

Risen Lord Jesus
hear our prayer

That those born to new life in the waters of
baptism

may know the power of his resurrection:

Risen Lord Jesus
hear our prayer

That those who suffer pain and anguish
may find healing and peace in the wounds of
Christ. We pray particularly for...:

Risen Lord Jesus
hear our prayer

That in the undying love of Christ
we may be united with all who have died in
the faith of Christ. We hold before you ...:

Risen Lord Jesus
hear our prayer

Let us commend the world, in which Christ
rose from the dead,
to the mercy and protection of God.

Jesus Christ,
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship
at your feet;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Collect

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.

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is 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.**

The Grace

All **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all this night and
evermore.
Amen.**

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