

# 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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