

# HOLY SATURDAY

## The Hour of Readings and Morning Prayer at 9.00pm

*Making little cross upon the mouth*

**Priest (P):** Lord, open our lips.

**Congregation (C):** And we shall praise your name.

*Italic: second choir*

**INVITATORY PSALM**

**PSALM 94 (95)**

**ANTIPHON: Christ the Lord suffered for us and was buried. Come, let us adore him. (C)**

Come, ríng out our jóy to the Lórd; \*  
háil the Gód who sáves us.  
Let us cóme before him, gíving thánks, \*  
with sóngs let us háil the Lórd. **ANT**

A míghty Gód is the Lórd, \*  
a gréat king abóve all góds.  
In his hánd are the dépths of the éarth; \*  
the héights of the móuntains are hís.  
To hím belongs the séa, for he máde it \*  
and the drý land sháped by his hánds. **ANT**

Come ín; let us bów and bend lów; \*  
let us knéel before the Gód who máde us:  
for hé is our Gód and wé †  
the péople who belóng to his pásture, \*  
the flóck that is léd by his hánd. **ANT**

O that todáy you would lísten to his vóice! †  
‘Hárden not your héarts as at Meríbah, \*  
as on that dáy at Mássah in the désert  
when your fáthers pút me to the tést; \*  
when they tríed me, thóugh they saw my  
wórk. **ANT**

For forty yéars I was wéaried of these péople †  
and I sáid: “Their héarts are astráy, \*  
these péople do not knów my wáys.”  
Thén I took an óath in my ánger: \*  
“Néver shall they énter my rést.” **ANT**

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. **ANT**

### HOURLY READINGS

**HYMN (P+C)**

O loving wisdom of our God!  
When all was sin and shame,  
A second Adam to the fight  
And to the rescue came.

O generous love that he who smote  
In man for man the foe,  
The double agony of man  
For man should undergo.

And in the garden secretly,  
An on the cross on high,  
Should teach his brethren, and inspire  
To suffer and to die.

Praise to the holiest in the height,  
And in the depth be praise,  
In all his words most wonderful,  
Most sure in all his ways.

**PSALM 4**

**(P)** Now I will lie down in peace **(C)** and sleep  
comes at once.

When I cáll, ánsWER me, O Gód of jústice; \*  
from ánguish you reléased me, have mércy  
and héar me!

*O mén, how lóng will your héarts be clósed, \*  
will you lóve what is fútile and séek what is  
fálse?*

It is the Lórd who grants fávours to thóse whom  
he lóves; \*  
the Lórd héars me whenéver I cáll him.

*Fear him; do not sín: pónDER on your béd and be  
stíll \**

*Make jústice your sácrífice, and trúst in the  
Lórd.*

'What can bring us happiness?' many say. \*  
Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord.

*You have put into my heart a greater joy \*  
than they have from abundance of corn and  
new wine.*

I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at  
once\*  
for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

*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.

**(P+C)** Now I will lie down in peace and sleep  
comes at once.

### **PSALM 15 (16)**

**(P)** My body shall rest **(C)** in hope.

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you. †  
I say to the Lord: 'You are my God. \*  
My happiness lies in you alone.'

*He has put into my heart a marvellous love \*  
for the faithful ones who dwell in his land.  
Those who choose other gods increase their  
sorrows. †  
Never will I offer their offerings of blood. \*  
Never will I take their name upon my lips.*

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; \*  
it is you yourself who are my prize.  
The lot marked out for me is my delight: \*  
welcome indeed the heritage that falls to me!

*I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, \*  
who even at night directs my heart.  
I keep the Lord ever in my sight: \*  
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.*

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; \*  
even my body shall rest in safety.  
For you will not leave my soul among the  
dead, \*  
nor let your beloved know decay.

*You will show me the path of life, †  
the fullness of joy in your presence, \*  
at your right hand happiness for ever.*

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.*

**(P+C)** My body shall rest in hope.

### **PSALM 23 (24)**

**(P)** My body shall grow higher, eternal doors: **(C)** let the  
King of glory enter.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, \*  
the world and all its peoples.  
It is he who set it on the seas; \*  
on the waters he made it firm.

*Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? \*  
Who shall stand in his holy place?  
The man with clean hands and pure heart, †  
who desires not worthless things, \*  
who has not sworn so as to deceive his  
neighbour.*

He shall receive blessings from the Lord \*  
and reward from the God who saves him.  
Such are the men who seek him, \*  
seek the face of the God of Jacob.

*O gates, lift high your heads; †  
grow higher, ancient doors. \*  
Let him enter, the king of glory!*

Who is the king of glory? †  
The Lord, the mighty, the valiant, \*  
the Lord, the valiant in war.  
O gates, lift high your heads; †  
grow higher, ancient doors. \*  
Let him enter, the king of glory!

Who is he, the king of glory? †  
He, the Lord of armies, \*  
he is the king of glory.

*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.

**(P+C)** Grow higher, eternal doors: let the King of  
glory enter.

**(P)** Uphold my cause and defend me.

**(C)** By your promise, give me life.

#### **FIRST READING**

#### **HEBREWS 4:1-13**

Be careful: the promise of reaching the place of rest he had for them still holds good, and none of you must think that he has come too late for it. We received the Good News exactly as they did; but hearing the message did them no good because they did not share the faith of those who listened. We, however, who have faith, shall reach a place of rest, as in the text: And so, in anger, I swore that not one would reach the place of rest I had for them. God's work was undoubtedly all finished at the beginning of the world; as one text says, referring to the seventh day: After all his work God rested on the seventh day. The text we are considering says: They shall not reach the place of rest I had for them. It is established, then, that there would be some people who would reach it, and since those who first heard the Good News failed to reach it through their disobedience, God fixed another day when, much later, he said 'today' through David in the text already quoted: If only you would listen to him today; do not harden your hearts. If Joshua had led them into this place of rest, God would not later on have spoken so much of another day. There must still be, therefore, a place of rest reserved for God's people, the seventh-day rest, since to reach the place of rest is to rest after your work, as God did after his. We must therefore do everything we can to reach this place of rest, or some of you might copy this example of disobedience and be lost.

The word of God is something alive and active: it cuts like any double-edged sword but more finely: it can slip through the place where the soul is divided from the spirit, or joints from the

marrow; it can judge the secret emotions and thoughts. No created thing can hide from him; everything is uncovered and open to the eyes of the one to whom we must give account of ourselves.

#### **RESPONSORY**

**CF. MT 27:66,60,62**

**(P)** They buried the Lord, made the tomb secure and rolled a stone across the entrance,\* and they placed soldiers there to guard the body.

**(C)** The chief priests went to Pilate and asked for a guard,\* and they placed soldiers there to guard the body.

#### **SECOND READING**

#### **FROM AN ANCIENT HOMILY FOR HOLY SATURDAY**

Something strange is happening – there is a great silence on earth today, a great silence and stillness. The whole earth keeps silence because the King is asleep. The earth trembled and is still because God has fallen asleep in the flesh and he has raised up all who have slept ever since the world began. God has died in the flesh and hell trembles with fear.

He has gone to search for our first parent, as for a lost sheep. Greatly desiring to visit those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death, he has gone to free from sorrow the captives Adam and Eve, he who is both God and the son of Eve. The Lord approached them bearing the cross, the weapon that had won him the victory. At the sight of him Adam, the first man he had created, struck his breast in terror and cried out to everyone: "My Lord be with you all." Christ answered him: "And with your spirit." He took him by the hand and raised him up, saying: "Awake, O sleeper, and rise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

I am your God, who for your sake have become your son. Out of love for you and for your descendants I now by my own authority command all who are held in bondage to come forth, all who are in darkness to be enlightened, all who are sleeping to arise. I order you, O sleeper, to awake. I did not create you to be held a prisoner in hell. Rise from the dead, for I am the life of the dead. Rise up, work of my hands, you who were created in my image. Rise, let us

leave this place, for you are in me and I am in you; together we form only one person and we cannot be separated. For your sake I, your God, became your son; I, the Lord, took the form of a slave; I, whose home is above the heavens, descended to the earth and beneath the earth. For your sake, for the sake of man, I became like a man without help, free among the dead. For the sake of you, who left a garden, I was betrayed to the Jews in a garden, and I was crucified in a garden.

See on my face the spittle I received in order to restore to you the life I once breathed into you. See there the marks of the blows I received in order to refashion your warped nature in my image. On my back see the marks of the scourging I endured to remove the burden of sin that weighs upon your back. See my hands, nailed firmly to a tree, for you who once wickedly stretched out your hand to a tree.

I slept on the cross and a sword pierced my side for you who slept in paradise and brought forth Eve from your side. My side has healed the pain in yours. My sleep will rouse you from your sleep in hell. The sword that pierced me has sheathed the sword that was turned against you.

Rise, let us leave this place. The enemy led you out of the earthly paradise. I will not restore you to that paradise, but I will enthrone you in heaven. I forbade you the tree that was only a symbol of life, but see, I who am life itself am now one with you. I appointed cherubim to guard you as slaves are guarded, but now I make them worship you as God. The throne formed by cherubim awaits you, its bearers swift and eager. The bridal chamber is adorned, the banquet is ready, the eternal dwelling places are prepared, the treasure houses of all good things lie open. The kingdom of heaven has been prepared for you from all eternity.

## RESPONSORY

**(P)** Our shepherd, the source of living water, has departed. At his passing the sun was darkened, for he who held the first man captive is now taken captive himself.\* Today the Saviour has shattered the bars and burst the gates of death.

**(C)** He has torn down the barricades of hell and overthrown the power of Satan.\* Today the Saviour has shattered the bars and burst the gates of death.

## MORNING PRAYER

### PSALM 63 (64)

**(P)** They will mourn for him as for an only son, **(C)** since it is the innocent one of the Lord who has been slain.

Hear my voice, O Gód, as I compláin, \*  
guard my life from dréad of the fóe.  
Híde me from the bánd of the wícked, \*  
from the thróng of thóse who do évil.

*They shárpen their tóngues like swórd; \*  
they áim bitter wórd; like árróws  
to shóot at the ínnocent from ámbush, \*  
shóoting súddenly and récklessly.*

They schéme their évil cóurse; \*  
they conspíre to lay sécret snáres.  
They sáy: 'Whó will sée us? \*  
Whó can séarch out our crímes?'

*He will séarch who séarches the mínd \*  
and knóws the dépths of the héart.  
Gód has shót them with his árrów \*  
and déalt them súdden wóunds.  
Their ówn tongúe has bróught them to rúin \*  
and áll who sée them móck.*

Thén will áll men féar; \*  
they will téll what Gód has dóne.  
They will únderstánd God's déeds. \*  
The júst will rejóice in the Lórd  
and flý to hím for réfuge. \*  
All the úpright héarts will glóry.

*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.

**(P+C)** They will mourn for him as for an only son, since it is the innocent one of the Lord who has been slain.

### CANTICLE

### ISAIAH 38

**(P)** Save my soul **(C)** from the gates of hell, Lord.

I said, In the noontide of my days I must depart; †

I am consigned to the gates of Sheol \*  
for the rest of my years.

*I said, I shall not see the Lord \*  
in the land of the living;  
I shall look upon man no more \*  
among the inhabitants of the world.*

My dwelling is plucked up and removed from me\*  
like a shepherd's tent;  
like a weaver I have rolled up my life; \*  
he cuts me off from the loom.

*From day to night you bring me to an end; \*  
I cry for help until morning;  
like a lion he breaks all my bones; \*  
from day to night you bring me to an end.*

Like a swallow or a crane I clamour, \*  
I moan like a dove.  
My eyes are weary with looking upward. \*  
O Lord, I am oppressed; be my security.

*Lo, it was for my welfare \*  
that I had great bitterness;  
but you have held back my life \*  
from the pit of destruction,  
for you have cast all my sins \*  
behind your back.*

For Sheol cannot thank you, \*  
death cannot praise you;  
those who go down to the pit \*  
cannot hope for your faithfulness.

*The living, the living, he thanks you, †  
as I do this day; \*  
the father makes known to the children your  
faithfulness.*

The Lord will save me, \*  
and we will sing to stringed instruments  
all the days of our life, \*  
at the house of the Lord.

*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.

**(P+C)** Save my soul from the gates of hell, Lord.

### PSALM 150

**(P)** I was dead and now I am to live for ever and  
ever, **(C)** and I hold the keys of death and of hell.

Práise Gód in his hólly pláce, \*  
práise him in his míghty héavens.  
Práise him for his pówerful déeds, \*  
práise his surpássing gréatness.

*O práise him with sóund of trúmpet, \*  
práise him with lúte and hárp.  
Práise him with tímbrél and dánce, \*  
práise him with stríngs and pípes.*

O práise him with resóunding cýmbals, \*  
práise him with cláshing of cýmbals.  
Let éverything that líves and that bréathes \*  
give práise to the Lórd.

*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.

**(P+C)** I was dead and now I am to live for ever  
and ever, \* and I hold the keys of death and of  
hell.

### SHORT READING

### HOSEA 5:15-6:2

The Lord says this: They will search for me in  
their misery. 'Come, let us return to the Lord. He  
has torn us to pieces, but he will heal us; he has  
struck us down, but he will bandage our wounds;

after a day or two he will bring us back to life, on the third day he will raise us and we shall live in his presence.'

### SHORT RESPONSORY

**(P)** Christ humbled himself for us and, in obedience, accepted death, even death on a cross. **(C)** Therefore, God raised him to the heights and gave him the name which is above all other names.

### CANTICLE

### BENEDICTUS

**(P)** Save us, Saviour of the world. **(C)** By your cross and the shedding of your blood you have redeemed us. Come to help us, Lord, our God.

**(P+C)** Blessed be the Lórd, the Gód of Ísrael! \*  
He has vísited his péople and redéemed them.

He has raised úp for ús a mighty sáviour \*  
in the hóuse of Dávid his sérvant,  
as he prómised by the líps of holy mén, \*  
thóse who were his próphets from of óld.

A sáviour who would frée us from our fóes, \*  
from the hánds of áll who háte us.  
So his lóve for our fáthers is fulfilled \*  
and his hólý covenant remébered.

He swóre to Ábraham our fáther to gránt us, \*  
that frée from féar, and sáved from the hánds  
of our fóes,  
we might sérve him in hóliness and jústice \*  
all the dáys of our lífe in his présence.

As for yóu, little chíld, \*  
you shall be cálléd a próphet of Gód, the  
Most Hígh.  
You shall go ahéad of the Lórd \*  
to prépare his wáys befóre him,

To make knówn to his péople their salvátion \*  
through forgíveness of áll their síns,  
the loving-kíndness of the héart of our Gód \*  
who vísits us like the dáwn from on hígh.

He will give líght to those in dárkness, †  
those who dwéll in the shádw of déath, \*  
and gúide us into the wáy of péace.

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.

**(P+C)** Save us, Saviour of the world. By your cross  
and the shedding of your blood you have  
redeemed us. Come to help us, Lord, our God.

### PRAYERS AND INTERCESSIONS

**(P)** Let us pray to our Redeemer, who suffered  
for us, was buried, and rose from the dead.

**(C)** – Lord, have mercy on us.

**(P)** Christ, our Lord, you saw your mother  
standing by the cross;  
may we share your saving passion in our time  
of suffering.

**(C)** – Lord, have mercy on us.

**(P)** Christ, our Saviour, you died like a grain of  
wheat falling into the ground;  
gather us to yourself in the harvest of  
redemption.

**(C)** – Lord, have mercy on us.

**(P)** Christ, our shepherd, lying in the tomb you  
were hidden from men;  
teach us to love our real life, which is hidden  
with you in God.

**(C)** – Lord, have mercy on us.

**(P)** Christ, the new Adam, you went down into  
the world of the dead to free the just;  
may those who are dead in sin hear your voice  
and live.

**(C)** – Lord, have mercy on us.

**(P)** Son of the living God, we were buried with  
you in baptism;  
let us rise with you, alive to God for ever.

**(C)** – Lord, have mercy on us.

**(C)** 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.

**(P)** Almighty, ever-living God, whose Only-Begotten Son descended to the realm of the dead, and rose from there to glory, grant that your faithful people, who were buried with him in baptism, may, by his resurrection, obtain eternal life. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

**(C)** Amen.

### **BLESSING**

**(P)** The Lord be with you.

**(C)** And with your spirit.

**(P)** May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**(C)** Amen.

**(P)** Go in peace.

**(C)** Thanks be to God.