

HOLY WEEK LITURGY

WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

OPENING SENTENCE

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

ISAIAH 53:6

or this

Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow, which was brought upon me, which the LORD inflicted on the day of his fierce anger.

LAMENTATIONS 1:12

Silence is kept for meditation.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

Almighty and most merciful Father,

we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.

We have offended against your holy laws.

We have left undone those things which we ought to have done,

and we have done those things which we ought not to have done;

and apart from your grace, there is no health in us.

O Lord, have mercy upon us.

Spare all those who confess their faults.

Restore all those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to all people in Christ Jesus our Lord.

And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,

that we may now live a godly, righteous, and sober life,

to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.

Silence is kept for private confession.

After confession, the leader prays . . .

Grant to your faithful people, merciful Lord, pardon and peace; that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All stand.

Leader O Lord, open our lips;

Group **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Leader O God, make speed to save us;

Group **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Leader Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Group **As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Leader Praise the Lord.

Group **The Lord's Name be praised.**

SING – “Man of Sorrows,” What a Name

look it up if you don't know lyrics or tune

RESPONSIVE READING

*Leader Reads the Phrase Before the *, All Read Together the Phrase After the **

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: *

O come, let us adore him.

JUBILATE

Be Joyful

O be joyful in the LORD, all you lands; *

serve the LORD with gladness,
and come before his presence with a song.

Be assured that the LORD, he is God; *

it is he that has made us, and not we ourselves;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

**O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving,
and into his courts with praise; ***

be thankful unto him, and speak good of his Name.

For the LORD is gracious, his mercy is everlasting, *

and his truth endures from generation to generation.

PSALM 100

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: *

O come, let us adore him.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

THE PSALM

Someone read aloud the psalm, with everyone saying together the bolded portion at the end.

Save Me, O God

69 TO THE CHOIRMASTER: ACCORDING TO LILIES. OF DAVID.

Verses 6—14, 21—22

⁶ Let not those who hope in you be put to shame through me,
O Lord GOD of hosts;
let not those who seek you be brought to dishonor through me,
O God of Israel.

⁷ For it is for your sake that I have borne reproach,
that dishonor has covered my face.

⁸ I have become a stranger to my brothers,
an alien to my mother's sons.

⁹ For zeal for your house has consumed me,
and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.

¹⁰ When I wept and humbled my soul with fasting,
it became my reproach.

¹¹ When I made sackcloth my clothing,
I became a byword to them.

¹² I am the talk of those who sit in the gate,
and the drunkards make songs about me.

¹³ But as for me, my prayer is to you, O LORD.

At an acceptable time, O God,
in the abundance of your steadfast love answer me in your saving faithfulness.

14 Deliver me

from sinking in the mire;
let me be delivered from my enemies
and from the deep waters.

21 They gave me poison for food,
and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink.

22 Let their own table before them become a snare;
and when they are at peace, let it become a trap.

**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.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING
A Reading from ISAIAH 50:4—9

Someone Reads Aloud:

- 4 The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of those who are taught,
that I may know how to sustain with a word
him who is weary.
Morning by morning he awakens;
he awakens my ear
to hear as those who are taught.
- 5 The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious;
I turned not backward.
- 6 I gave my back to those who strike,
and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard;
I hid not my face
from disgrace and spitting.
- 7 But the Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like a flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame.
- 8 He who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who is my adversary?
Let him come near to me.
- 9 Behold, the Lord GOD helps me;
who will declare me guilty?
Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment;
the moth will eat them up.

Leader The Word of the Lord.

Group **Thanks be to God.**

TE DEUM LAUDAMUS

We Praise You, O God

(A very, very, very, very ancient hymn of the church.)

**We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord;
all creation worships you, the Father everlasting.**

**To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,
the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise:**

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

The glorious company of apostles praise you.

The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.

The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.

**Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you:
Father, of majesty unbounded,
your true and only Son, worthy of all praise,
and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.**

**You, Christ, are the king of glory,
the eternal Son of the Father.**

**When you took our flesh to set us free
you humbly chose the Virgin's womb.**

**You overcame the sting of death
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.**

You are seated at God's right hand in glory.

We believe that you will come to be our judge.

**Come then, Lord, and help your people,
bought with the price of your own blood,
and bring us with your saints
to glory everlasting.**

**Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;
govern and uphold them now and always.**

**Day by day we bless you;
we praise your Name for ever.**

**Keep us today, Lord, from all sin;
have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.**

**Lord, show us your love and mercy,
for we have put our trust in you.**

**In you, Lord, is our hope;
let us never be put to shame.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING I (EPISTLE)

A Reading from HEBREWS 9:11—28

Someone Reads Aloud:

Redemption Through the Blood of Christ

¹¹ But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹² he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. ¹³ For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the

purification of the flesh, ¹⁴how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

¹⁵Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. ¹⁶For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. ¹⁷For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. ¹⁸Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. ¹⁹For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, ²⁰saying, “This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you.” ²¹And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. ²²Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

²³Thus it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. ²⁴For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. ²⁵Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, ²⁶for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, ²⁸so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Leader The Word of the Lord.

Group **Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING II (GOSPEL)
A Reading from MATTHEW 26:1—5, 14—25

Someone Reads Aloud:

The Plot to Kill Jesus

26 When Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said to his disciples, ²“You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.”

³Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, ⁴and plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. ⁵But they said, “Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people.” . . .

Judas to Betray Jesus

¹⁴Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests ¹⁵and said, “What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?” And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.

The Passover with the Disciples

¹⁷Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?” ¹⁸He said, “Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’ ” ¹⁹And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.

²⁰When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. ²¹And as they were eating, he said, “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” ²²And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, “Is it I, Lord?” ²³He answered, “He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. ²⁴The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.” ²⁵Judas, who would betray him, answered, “Is it I, Rabbi?” He said to him, “You have said so.”

Leader The Gospel of the Lord.

Group Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

BENEDICTUS

The Song of Zechariah - Luke 1:68-79

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old
that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
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 APOSTLES' CREED

All standing

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

Kneel or stand.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

All together pray . . .

**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,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

A PRAYER FOR WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

Assist us mercifully with your grace, Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the meditation of those mighty acts by which you have promised us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A PRAYER FOR GRACE

Wednesday

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to the beginning of this day: Defend us by your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin nor run into any danger; and that, guided by your Spirit, we may do what is righteous in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FREE PRAYERS

Pray for anything that comes to mind.

Pray especially for:

The COVID-19, Coronavirus, pandemic.

For those suffering from it.

For those in the medical field tending to them.

For wisdom for our national, state, and local leaders as they lead.

For wisdom for the church in the midst of it.

For missionaries & those around the world in places with inadequate medical care.

For the spread of it to be halted.

For God's mercy.

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

All together . . .

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.**

**We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.**

**And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts
we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;**

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

THE BENEDICTION

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

2 CORINTHIANS 13:14