

# Holy Saturday Morning Prayer

Presider: O Lord, open my lips. (*Stand*)

All: *And my mouth will proclaim your praise.*

---

## **Invitatory Psalm**

## **Psalm 99 (100)**

**Presider:** Come, let us worship Christ the Lord, who was tempted and suffered for us.

**All:** – *Come, let us worship Christ the Lord, who was tempted and suffered for us.*

**Presider:** Rejoice in the Lord, all the earth,  
and serve him with joy.  
Exult as you enter his presence.

**All:** – *Come, let us worship Christ the Lord, who was tempted and suffered for us.*

**Presider:** Know that the Lord is God.  
He made us and we are his  
– his people, the sheep of his flock.

**All:** – *Come, let us worship Christ the Lord, who was tempted and suffered for us.*

**Presider:** Cry out his praises as you enter his gates,  
fill his courtyards with songs.  
Proclaim him and bless his name;  
for the Lord is our delight.  
His mercy lasts for ever,  
his faithfulness through all the ages.

**All:** – *Come, let us worship Christ the Lord, who was tempted and suffered for us.*

**Presider:** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

## **Hymn**

## **The Lord of the Dance**

Refrain     Dance then, wherever you may be  
              I am the Lord of the Dance, said He!  
              And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be  
              And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said He!

I danced for the scribe & the pharisee  
But they would not dance & they wouldn't follow me  
I danced for fishermen, for James & John  
They came with me & the Dance went on:

I danced on the Sabbath & I cured the lame  
The holy people said it was a shame!  
They whipped & they stripped & they hung me high  
And they left me there on a cross to die!

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black  
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back  
They buried my body & they thought I'd gone  
But I am the Dance & I still go on!

They cut me down and I leapt up high  
I am the Life that'll never, never die!  
I'll live in you if you'll live in Me -  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said He!

*(Sit)*

**Psalm 63 (64)**

**A prayer against enemies**

**Presider**     *They weep for him as if for their only child, for the innocent Lord  
has been killed.*

**TS**            Listen, O God, to my voice;  
                  keep me safe from fear of the enemy.  
Protect me from the alliances of the wicked,  
                  from the crowd of those who do evil.

**PS**

They have sharpened their tongues like swords,  
aimed poisonous words like arrows,  
to shoot at the innocent in secret.

**TS** They will attack without warning, without fear,  
for they are firm in their evil purpose.  
They have set out to hide their snares  
– for they say, “Who will see us?”  
They have thought out plans to commit wicked deeds,  
and they carry out what they have planned.

**PS** Truly the heart and soul of humanity  
are bottomless depths.  
And God has shot them with his arrow:  
in a moment, they are wounded –  
their own tongues have brought them low.

**TS** All who see them will shake their heads;  
all will behold them with fear  
and proclaim the workings of God  
and understand what he has done.

**PS** The just will rejoice and hope in the Lord:  
the upright in heart will give him glory.

**All** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.  
Amen.

**All:** *They weep for him as if for their only child, for the innocent Lord  
has been killed.*

---

**Isaiah 38**

**Canticle**

**Presider** *Lord, rescue my soul from the gates of the underworld.*

**TS** I said, in the middle of my days

I am going to the gates of the underworld.  
Where shall I find the remainder of my years?  
I said, I will not see the Lord God in the land of the living,  
I will never see another of the inhabitants of the earth.

**PS** My dwelling-place is taken away, taken far away from me,  
like the tent of a shepherd.  
Like a weaver, he has rolled up my life  
and cut it off from the loom.

**TS** From morning to night,  
you have made an end of me.  
I cried for help till daybreak;  
like a lion, he has crushed all my bones.

**PS** From morning to night,  
you have made an end of me.  
I twitter like a fledgling sparrow,  
make noises like a dove.

**TS** My eyes are weak  
from looking upward.  
But you have pulled my soul out of the pit of destruction,  
you have put all my sins behind you.

**PS** For after all, the underworld will not proclaim you,  
nor death praise you;  
those who go down there  
do not wait in hope for your faithfulness.

**TS** It is the living, the living who will proclaim you,  
as I do today.  
Fathers will pass on to their children  
the truth of your faithfulness.

**PS** Save me, Lord,  
and to the sound of the harp we will sing to you,  
all the days of our life,  
in the house of the Lord.

**All** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.  
Amen.

**All:** *Lord, rescue my soul from the gates of the underworld.*

---

**Psalm 150**

**Praise the Lord**

**Presider** *I was dead, and now I am alive for all eternity and I hold the keys of death and the underworld.*

**TS** Praise the Lord in his sanctuary,  
praise him in his mighty firmament.  
Praise him for his mighty deeds,  
praise him for all his greatness.

**PS** Praise him with trumpet-blasts,  
praise him with the harp and lyre,  
praise him with timbrel and dance,  
praise him with strings and pipes,  
praise him with cymbals resounding,  
praise him with cymbals of jubilation.

**TS** All that breathes, praise the Lord!

**All** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**All:** *I was dead, and now I am alive for all eternity and I hold the keys of death and the underworld.*

---

**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**

I will sing to you with joy upon my lips.  
– *I will sing to you with joy upon my lips.*  
I will reflect on the greatness of your justice.  
– *I will sing to you with joy upon my lips.*  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.  
– *I will sing to you with joy upon my lips.*

**Canticle** *(Stand)*

**Benedictus**

*Presider: Savior of the world, save us. By your cross and blood you redeemed us: we pray you, come to our help, for you are our God.*

PS 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.

TS 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.

PS 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.

TS 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.

PS 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 the shadow of  
death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

All      Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
          and to the Holy Spirit:  
          as it was in the beginning, is now,  
          and will be for ever. Amen.

*All: Savior of the world, save us. By your cross and blood you  
redeemed us: we pray you, come to our help, for you are our  
God.*

### **Prayers and Intercessions**

**Presider:** Our Redeemer suffered and was buried for us, later to rise again. With sincere devotion we worship him and bring him our petitions:

**All:**    – *Lord, have mercy on us.*

**Presider:** Christ our Saviour, by your will your Mother was with you at your cross and burial: when we are afflicted, make us also sharers in your passion.

**All:**    – *Lord, have mercy on us.*

**Presider:** Christ our Lord, like a seed falling on the earth you bore for us the fruit of divine life: grant that we may die to sin and live for God.

**All:**    – *Lord, have mercy on us.*

**Presider:** Christ our Shepherd, as you lay in the tomb you were hidden from all: teach us to love our true life, which is hidden with you in the Father.

**All:**    – *Lord, have mercy on us.*

**Presider:** Christ, the new Adam, you went down into the realm of the dead and freed from that prison all the just who had died since the beginning of the world: may all who lie in the tomb of sin hear your voice and come to life.

**All:**    – *Lord, have mercy on us.*

**Presider:** Christ, Son of the living God, in baptism you have given us the gift of burial with you: may we share your resurrection also, and live renewed lives.

**All:** – *Lord, have mercy on us.*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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.

### **Concluding Prayer**

**Presider:**

Almighty and ever-living God, your only-begotten Son descended into the underworld, from which he rose into glory. In your kindness, grant that your faithful people, who in their baptism shared his burial, may advance to eternal life by sharing in his resurrection. He lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

**Presider:**

May the Lord bless us and keep us from all harm; and may he lead us to eternal life. **All:** AMEN