

# Morning Prayer of the Church for Wednesday of Holy Week

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We make the sign of the cross as we say:

O God come to our aid  
Glory be to the Father...

**All: O Lord, make haste to help us.**  
**All: As it was in the ...without end, Amen.**



## Invitatory Psalm

## Psalm 94 (95)

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*From the earliest times the Church has used this psalm as a call to worship.  
We are invited to come singing into the presence of God; to come with enthusiastic joy and thanksgiving  
as the best way to express our love to God, who is both saviour and king.*

Leader: Christ the Lord was tempted and suffered for us. Come, let us adore him.  
**All: Christ the Lord was tempted and suffered for us. Come, let us adore him.**

Leader: Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the God who saves us.  
Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord.

**All: Christ the Lord was tempted and suffered for us. Come, let us adore him.**

**A mighty God is the Lord, a great king above all gods.  
In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his.  
To him belongs the sea, for he made it and the dry land shaped by his hands.**

**All: Christ the Lord was tempted and suffered for us. Come, let us adore him.**

Leader: Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us:  
for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture,  
the flock that is led by his hand.

**All: Christ the Lord was tempted and suffered for us. Come, let us adore him.**

**O that today you would listen to his voice!  
‘Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.**

**All: Christ the Lord was tempted and suffered for us. Come, let us adore him.**

Leader: For forty years I was wearied of these people and I said:  
“Their hearts are astray, these people do not know my ways.”  
Then I took an oath in my anger: “Never shall they enter my rest.”

**All: Christ the Lord was tempted and suffered for us. Come, let us adore him.**

**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.**

**All: Christ the Lord was tempted and suffered for us. Come, let us adore him.**

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## Hymn

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Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (2)  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble.....  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to a tree? (2)  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble.....  
Were you there when they nailed him to a tree?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (2)  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble.....  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

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### Psalm 96 (97)      The glory of God in his judgements

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*Antiphon*      *God has made Jesus Christ our wisdom and our virtue, our holiness and our freedom.*

Leader

The Lord is king, let earth rejoice,  
let all the coastlands be glad.  
Cloud and darkness are his raiment;  
his throne, justice and right.

The mountains melt like wax  
before the Lord of all the earth.  
The skies proclaim his justice;  
all peoples see his glory..

Sion hears and is glad;  
the people of Judah rejoice  
because of your judgements, O Lord.

The Lord loves those who hate evil;  
he guards the souls of his saints;  
he sets them free from the wicked.

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

*Antiphon*      **God has made Jesus Christ our wisdom and our virtue, our holiness and our freedom.**

**ALL**

**A fire prepares his path;  
it burns up his foes on every side.  
His lightnings light up the world,  
the earth trembles at the sight.**

**Let those who serve idols be ashamed,  
those who boast of their worthless gods.  
All you spirits, worship him.**

**For you indeed are the Lord  
most high above all the earth,  
exalted far above all spirits.**

**Light shines forth for the just  
and joy for the upright of heart.  
Rejoice, you just, in the Lord;  
give glory to his holy name.**

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

#### Psalm-prayer

**F**ather, you clothe the sky with light and the depths of the ocean with darkness. Among the sons of men you work wonders, and rain terror upon the enemy. Look upon your servants. Do not try us by fire but bring us rejoicing to the shelter of your home.

#### Short Reading

*Isaiah 50:5-7*

**T**he Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

### Short Responsory

You have redeemed us, Lord, by your blood.  
From every tribe and tongue and people and nation.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**All: You have redeemed us, Lord, by your blood.**

**All: You have redeemed us, Lord, by your blood.**

**All: You have redeemed us, Lord, by your blood.**

### Canticle of Zechariah (*The Benedictus*)

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*Antiphon: May the blood of Christ, who offered himself as the perfect sacrifice to God through the Holy Spirit, purify our inner self from dead actions so that we may serve the living God.*

Blest be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
Who brings the dawn and darkest night dispels,  
Who raises up a mighty Saviour from the earth,  
Of David's line, a son of royal birth.

And you, my child, this day you shall be called  
The promised one, the prophet of our God,  
For you will go before the Lord to clear the way,  
And shepherd all into the light of day.

The prophets tell a story just begun  
Of vanquished foe and glorious vict'ry won,  
Of promise made to all who keep the law as guide:  
God's faithful love and mercy will abide.

The tender love God promised from our birth  
Is soon to dawn upon this shadowed earth,  
To shine on those whose sorrows seem to never cease,  
To guide our feet into the path of peace.

This is the oath once sworn to Abraham:  
All shall be free to dwell upon the land,  
Free now to praise, unharmed by the oppressor's rod,  
Holy and righteous in the sight of God.

All glory be to God, Creator blest,  
To Jesus Christ, God's love made manifest,  
And to the Holy Spirit, gentle Comforter,  
All glory be, both now and ever more.

***Antiphon: May the blood of Christ, who offered himself as the perfect sacrifice to God through the Holy Spirit, purify our inner self from dead actions so that we may serve the living God.***

### Prayers and intercessions

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Let us pray earnestly to Christ our Saviour, who redeemed us by his death and resurrection.

*Lord have mercy*

**All: Lord have mercy**

You went up to Jerusalem to endure the passion and enter into glory; lead your Church into the paschal feast of eternal life.

*Lord have mercy*

**All: Lord have mercy**

Your heart was pierced with a lance; heal the wounds of our human weakness.

*Lord have mercy*

**All: Lord have mercy**

You made your cross the tree of life; share your victory with all the baptized.

*Lord have mercy*

**All: Lord have mercy**

You gave salvation to the repentant thief; pardon all our sins.

*Lord have mercy*

**All: Lord have mercy**

Our Father, who art in heaven.....

### Concluding Prayer

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**B**y your will, Lord God, your Son underwent the agony of the cross to break the power of Satan over man. Give your people grace to rise again with Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**All Amen.**

The Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

**All: Amen.**

**THE ANGELUS**

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*The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary:  
Hail Mary....*

**And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.  
Holy Mary....**

*Behold the handmaid of the Lord:  
Hail Mary....*

**Be it done unto me according to Thy word.  
Holy Mary....**

*And the Word was made Flesh:  
Hail Mary....*

**And dwelt among us.  
Holy Mary....**

*Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God,*

**that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

Let us pray:

**ALL: Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection, through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen**