

# Morning Prayer of the Church for Thursday of Holy Week

---

*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)

---

*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.

---

## Hymn

---

Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us,  
you are one with us, Mary's Son.  
Cleansing our souls from all their sin,  
pouring your love and goodness in,  
Jesus, our love for you we sing, living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us,  
born as one of us, Mary's Son.  
Led out to die on Calvary,  
risen from death to set us free,  
living Lord Jesus, help us see you are Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ I would come to you  
live my life for you, Son of God.  
All your commands I know are true,  
your many gifts will make me new,  
into my life your power breaks through, living Lord

---

## Psalm 79 (80) - Lord, tend your vine

---

**This psalm evidently composed in a time of great national trouble, begins with a prayer that the Shepherd (i.e. King) of Israel may, as in the olden days, turn again in friendship towards His people rescue them from all their troubles.**

**Israel, the God's vine, was lovingly tended by Him in the past. Yet that vine has been uprooted, and must surely perish if the Lord does not intervene. It cannot live without the support of the right hand which has planted it. The psalmist pledges the assurance that if God intervenes on their behalf, the people would no more stray from Him.**

*Antiphon: Look, Lord, and answer quickly, for I am in distress.*

Leader

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
you who lead Joseph's flock,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne  
upon Ephraim, Benjamin, Manasseh.  
O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help.

Lord God of hosts, how long  
will you frown on your people's plea?  
You have fed them with tears for their bread,  
an abundance of tears for their drink.  
You have made us the taunt of our neighbours,  
our enemies laugh us to scorn.

You brought a vine out of Egypt;  
to plant it you drove out the nations.  
Before it you cleared the ground;  
it took root and spread through the land.

Then why have you broken down its walls?  
It is plucked by all who pass by.  
It is ravaged by the boar of the forest,  
devoured by the beasts of the field.

All

**God of hosts, bring us back;  
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.**

**God of hosts, bring us back;  
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.**

**The mountains were covered with its shadow,  
the cedars of God with its boughs.  
It stretched out its branches to the sea,  
to the Great River it stretched out its shoots.**

**God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted.  
Men have burnt it with fire and destroyed it.  
May they perish at the frown of your face.**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.  
And we shall never forsake you again;  
give us life that we may call upon your name.

**God of hosts, bring us back;  
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.**

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.**

***Antiphon    Look, Lord, and answer quickly, for I am in distress.***

### **Psalm-prayer**

**L**ord God, eternal shepherd, you so tend the vineyard you planted that now it extends its branches even to the farthest coast. Look down on your Church and come to us. Help us remain in your Son as branches on the vine, that, planted firmly in your love, we may testify before the whole world to your great power working everywhere.

### **Short Reading**

**W**e have seen Jesus crowned with glory and splendour because he submitted to death; by God's grace he had to experience death for all mankind. As it was his purpose to bring a great many of his sons into glory, it was appropriate that God, for whom everything exists and through whom everything exists, should make perfect, through suffering, the leader who would take them to their salvation.

### **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*)**

---

***Antiphon:***                      *I have longed to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.*

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:***                      ***I have longed to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.***

## Prayers and intercessions

---

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

---

**L**ove of you with our whole heart, Lord God, is holiness. Increase, then, your gifts of divine grace in us, so that, as in your Son's death you made us hope for what we believe, you may likewise, in his resurrection, make us come to you, our final end. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, 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

---

*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**