

The Divine Office

**Vespers for Friday in Holy Week
(Good Friday)**

OPENING VERSICLES

When signaled, stand and say these prayers silently while the Officiant and servers say them kneeling at the altar:

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. Amen.

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee: Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners; now, and at the hour of our death. Amen

Vespers are begun at once with the first Antiphon, without musical note:

PSALMS

Antiphon 1

I will receive † the cup of salvation, and call upon the Name of the Lord.

Psalm 115. *Credidi*

*I believed, and therefore will I speak; but I was sore troubled. **

Be Seated.

I said in my haste, All men are liars.

¹¹ What reward shall I give unto the Lord *
for all the benefits that he hath done unto me?

¹² I will receive the cup of salvation, *
and call upon the Name of the Lord.

¹³ I will pay my vows now in the presence of all his people: *
right dear in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

¹⁴ Behold, O Lord, how that I am thy servant; *
I am thy servant, and the son of thine handmaid. Thou hast broken my
bonds in sunder.

¹⁵ I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, *
and will call upon the Name of the Lord.

¹⁶ I will pay my vows unto the Lord, in the sight of all his people, *

Stand.

in the courts of the Lord's house, even in the midst of thee, O
Jerusalem. Praise the Lord.

Antiphon 1

I will receive † the cup of salvation, and call upon the Name of the Lord.

Antiphon 2

I labor for peace † but when I speak unto them thereof, they make them
ready to battle.

Psalm 120. Ad Dominum

*When I was in trouble, I called upon the Lord, **

Be Seated.

and he heard me.

² Deliver my soul, O Lord, from lying lips, *
and from a deceitful tongue.

³ What reward shall be given or done unto thee, thou false tongue? *
Even mighty and sharp arrows, with hot burning coals.

⁴ Woe is me, that I am constrained to dwell with Meshech, *
and to have my habitation among the tents of Kedar!

⁵ My soul hath long dwelt among them *
that are enemies unto peace.

⁶ I labour for peace; but when I speak unto them thereof, *

Stand.

they make them ready to battle.

Antiphon 2

I labor for peace † but when I speak unto them thereof, they make them
ready to battle.

Antiphon 3

Preserve me † O Lord, from the wicked men.

Psalm 139. Eripe me, Domine

*Deliver me, O Lord, from the evil man, **

Be Seated.

and preserve me from the wicked man,

² who imagine mischief in their hearts, *
and stir up strife all the day long.

³ They have sharpened their tongues like a serpent; *
adder's poison is under their lips.

⁴ Keep me, O Lord, from the hands of the ungodly; *
preserve me from the wicked men, who are purposed to overthrow
my goings.

⁵ The proud have laid a snare for me, † and spread a net abroad with
cords, *
yea, and set traps in my way.

⁶ I said unto the Lord, Thou art my God; *
hear the voice of my prayers, O Lord.

⁷ O Lord God, thou strength of my health; *
thou hast covered my head in the day of battle.

⁸ Let not the ungodly have his desire, O Lord; *
let not his mischievous imagination prosper, lest they be too proud.

⁹ Let the mischief of their own lips fall upon the head of them *
that compass me about.

¹⁰ Let hot burning coals fall upon them; *
let them be cast into the fire, and into the pit, that they never rise up
again.

¹¹ A man full of words shall not prosper upon the earth; *
evil shall hunt the wicked person to overthrow him.

¹² Sure I am that the Lord will avenge the poor, *
and maintain the cause of the helpless.

¹³ The righteous also shall give thanks unto thy Name; *

Stand.

and the just shall continue in thy sight.

¹⁰ **Make me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.**

¹¹ **Cast me not away from thy presence, *
and take not thy holy Spirit from me.**

¹² **O give me the comfort of thy help again, *
and stablish me with thy free Spirit.**

¹³ **Then shall I teach thy ways unto the wicked, *
and sinners shall be converted unto thee.**

¹⁴ **Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, † thou that art the
God of my health; *
and my tongue shall sing of thy righteousness.**

¹⁵ **Thou shalt open my lips, O Lord, *
and my mouth shall shew thy praise.**

¹⁶ **For thou desirest no sacrifice, † else would I give it thee; *
but thou delightest not in burnt-offerings.**

¹⁷ **The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit: *
a broken and contrite heart, O God, shalt thou not despise.**

¹⁸ **O be favourable and gracious unto Sion; *
build thou the walls of Jerusalem.**

¹⁹ **Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifice of righteousness, †
with the burnt-offerings and oblations; *
then shall they offer young bullocks upon thine altar.**

Almighty God, we beseech thee graciously to behold this thy family, for
which our Lord Jesus Christ was contented to be betrayed, and given up
into the hands of wicked men, and to suffer death upon the cross: who
with thee, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, liveth and reigneth God,
world without end.

All Kneel

The Antiphon

Christ † for our sake, became obedient unto death. Even the death of the cross.

The Our Father is said silently by 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. Amen.

Then, aloud but quietly is said:

Psalm 50. Miserére

*HAVE mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness; **
according to the multitude of thy mercies do away mine offences.

² **Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness, ***
and cleanse me from my sin.

³ **For I acknowledge my faults, ***
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴ **Against thee only have I sinned, † and done this evil in thy sight; ***
that thou mightest be justified in thy saying, and clear when thou art judged.

⁵ **Behold, I was shapen in wickedness, ***
and in sin hath my mother conceived me.

⁶ **But lo, thou requirest truth in the inward parts, ***
and shalt make me to understand wisdom secretly.

⁷ **Thou shalt purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; ***
thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸ **Thou shalt make me hear of joy and gladness, ***
that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.

⁹ **Turn thy face from my sins, ***
and put out all my misdeeds.

Antiphon 3

Preserve me † O Lord, from the wicked men.

Antiphon 4

Keep me † from the snare that they have laid for me, and from the traps of the wicked doers.

Psalm 140. Domine, clamavi

*Lord, I call upon thee; haste thee unto me, **

Be Seated.

and consider my voice when I cry unto thee.

² Let my prayer be set forth in thy sight as the incense; *
and let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice.

³ Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, *
and keep the door of my lips.

⁴ O let not mine heart be inclined to any evil thing; *
let me not be occupied in ungodly works with the men that work wickedness, lest I eat of such things as please them.

⁵ Let the righteous rather smite me friendly, *
and reprove me.

⁶ But let not their precious balms break my head; *
yea, I will pray yet against their wickedness.

⁷ Let their judges be overthrown in stony places, *
that they may hear my words, for they are sweet.

⁸ Our bones lie scattered before the pit, *
like as when one breaketh and heweth wood upon the earth.

⁹ But mine eyes look unto thee, O Lord God; *
in thee is my trust. O cast not out my soul.

¹⁰ Keep me from the snare that they have laid for me, *
and from the traps of the wicked doers.

¹¹ Let the ungodly fall into their own nets together, *

Stand.

and let me ever escape them.

Antiphon 4

Keep me † from the snare that they have laid for me, and from the traps of the wicked doers.

Antiphon 5

I looked also † upon my right hand, and saw there was no man that would know me.

Psalm 141. Voce mea ad Dominum

*I cried unto the Lord with my voice; **

Be Seated.

yea, even unto the Lord did I make my supplication.

² I poured out my complaints before him, *
and showed him of my trouble.

³ When my spirit was in heaviness, thou knewest my path; *
in the way wherein I walked have they privily laid a snare for me.

⁴ I looked also upon my right hand, *
and saw there was no man that would know me.

⁵ I had no place to flee unto, *
and no man cared for my soul.

⁶ I cried unto thee, O Lord, and said, *
Thou art my hope, and my portion in the land of the living.

⁷ Consider my complaint; *
for I am brought very low.

⁸ O deliver me from my persecutors; *
for they are too strong for me.

⁹ Bring my soul out of prison, † that I may give thanks unto thy Name; *

Stand.

which thing if thou wilt grant me, then shall the righteous resort unto my company.

Antiphon 5

I looked also † upon my right hand, and saw there was no man that would know me.

THE MAGNIFICAT

The Antiphon

As they were eating † Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to his disciples.

*„ My soul doth magnify the Lord, **
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

**For he hath regarded *
the lowliness of his handmaiden.**

**For behold, from henceforth *
all generations shall call me blessed.**

For he that is mighty hath magnified me; *

Bow the head.

and holy is his Name.

**And his mercy is on them that fear him *
throughout all generations.**

**He hath shewed strength with his arm; *
he hath scatter-ed the proud in the imagination of their hearts.**

**He hath put down the mighty from their seat, *
and hath exalted the humble and meek.**

**He hath filled the hungry with good things; *
and the rich he hath sent empty away.**

**He remembering his mercy † hath holpen his servant Israel; *
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.**

The Antiphon

As they were eating † Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to his disciples.