

Holy Saturday: Morning Prayer

Adapted from "The Morning Service" from Iona Abbey Worship Book

Opening Responses

Leader: The world belongs to God,
All: The Earth and all its people.

Leader: How good it is, how wonderful,
All: To live together in unity.

Leader: Love and faith come together
All: Justice and peace join hands.

Leader: If Christ's disciples keep silent
All: These stones would shout aloud.

Leader: Open our lips, O God,
All: And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

Leader: Let us pray
All: O God, Creator of heaven and earth: Grant that, as the crucified body of your dear Son was laid in the tomb and rested on this holy Sabbath, so we may await with him the coming of the third day, and rise with him to newness of life; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Confession

Leader: Holy God, Maker of all
All: Have mercy on us.

Leader: Jesus Christ, Servant of the poor
All: Have mercy on us.

Leader: Holy Spirit, Breath of life
All: Have mercy on us.

Leader: Let us in silence confess our faults and admit our frailty.

Silence

Leader: Before God, with the people of God,
I confess to my brokenness:
To the ways I wound my life,
The lives of others,

And the life of the world.
All: May God forgive you, Christ renew you, and the spirit enable you to grow in love. Amen.

All: Before God, with the people of God, we confess to our brokenness: to the ways we wound our lives, the lives of others, and the life of the World.

Leader: May God forgive you, Christ renew you, and the Spirit enable you to grow in love. Amen.

Prayer for God's help

Leader: Move among us, O God; give us life:

All: Let your people rejoice in you.

Leader: Make our hearts clean within us:

All: Renew us in mind and in spirit.

Leader: Give us again the joy of your help:

All: With your spirit of freedom sustain us.

Leader: And now, as Jesus taught us we say:

**All: Our Father in Heaven
Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done on earth as in heaven,
Give us today our daily bread,
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us,
Save us in the time of trial
And deliver us from evil,
For the kingdom, the power
And the glory are yours,
Now and for ever. Amen.**

Affirmation

Leader: With the whole church

**All: We affirm
That we are made in God's image,
Befriended by Christ, empowered by the Spirit.**

Leader: With people everywhere

**All: We affirm
God's goodness at the heart of humanity,
Planted more deeply than all that is wrong**

Leader: With all creation
All: **We celebrate
The miracle and wonder of life;
The unfolding purposes of God,
Forever at work in ourselves and in the world.**

Psalm: 130

- 1 Out of the depths have I called to
you, O LORD; LORD, hear my
voice; let your ears consider well
the voice of my supplication.
- 2 If you, LORD, were to note what is
done amiss, O LORD, who could
stand?
- 3 For there is forgiveness with you;
therefore you shall be feared.
- 4 I wait for the LORD; my soul waits
for him; in his word is my hope.
- 5 My soul waits for the LORD, more
than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the
morning.
- 6 O Israel, wait for the LORD, for
with the LORD there is mercy;
- 7 With him there is plenteous
redemption, and he shall redeem
Israel from all their sins.

The Reading for the Day: Matthew 27:57-66

Reader: This morning's reading comes from Matthew. Listen now for the Word of God.

57 When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. **58** He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. **59** So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth **60** and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. **61** Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

62 The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate **63** and said, "Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive,

‘After three days I will rise again.’ **64** Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, ‘He has been raised from the dead,’ and the last deception would be worse than the first.” **65** Pilate said to them, “You have a guard[t] of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.”[u] **66** So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

Reader: For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us.

All: Thanks be to God.

Prayers of Gratitude and Concern

Please offer your prayers either silently or aloud.

Leader: O God, set your blessing on us
As we begin this day together.
Confirm us in the truth by which we rightly live;
Confront us with the truth from which we wrongly turn.
We ask not for what we want,
But for what you know we need,
As we offer this day and ourselves for you and to you,
Through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Silence

Closing Responses

Leader: This is the day that God has made;
All: We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Leader: We will not offer to God
All: Offerings that cost us nothing.

Leader: Go in peace to love and to serve;
All: We will seek peace and pursue it.

Leader: In the name of the Trinity of Love,
All: God in community, holy and one.