

**Fixed Hour Prayer**  
**Wednesday of Holy Week (April 8)**

**The Morning Office      to be observed between 6 and 9 a.m.**

*The Call to Prayer*

O God, you are my God, I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name. (Psalm 63: 1-4)

*The Request of Presence*

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me. O Lord, make haste to help me! (Psalm 70:1)

*The Greeting*

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from His glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Colossians 1:11-14)

*The Refrain for the Morning Lesson*

Summon your might, O God; show your strength, O God, as you have done for us before. (Psalm 68:28)

*A Reading from John 13: 21-32*

After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, "Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me." The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining next to him; Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So while reclining next to Jesus, he

asked him, “Lord, who is it?” Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.” So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, “Do quickly what you are going to do.” Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him.

Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, “Buy what we need for the festival”; or, that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night. When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.”

#### *The Refrain for the Morning Lesson*

Summon your might, O God; show your strength, O God, as you have done for us before. (Psalm 68:28)

#### *The Morning Psalm*

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me. O Lord, make haste to help me! Let those be put to shame and confusion who seek my life. Let those be turned back and brought to dishonor who desire to hurt me. Let those who say, “Aha, Aha!” turn back because of their shame. Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you. Let those who love your salvation say evermore, “God is great!” But I am poor and needy; hasten to help me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O Lord, do not delay! (Psalm 70)

*The Hymn: Ah, Holy Jesus*

Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended  
that we to judge thee have in hate pretended?  
By foes derided, by thine own rejected, O most afflicted.

Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?  
Alas my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.  
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee. I crucified thee.

Therefore, kind Jesus since I cannot pay thee,  
I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee;  
Think on thy pity and thy love unswerving, not my deserving.

*The Lord's Prayer*

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. Lead us not into temptation and deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

*Concluding Prayer of the Day*

Almighty God, your Son our Savior suffered at human hands and endured the shame of the cross. Grant that we may walk in the way of His cross and find it the way of life and peace, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## **The Midday Office**

**to be observed between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.**

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### *The Call to Prayer*

Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name. (Psalm 100: 3-4)

### *The Request for Presence*

O Lord, what are human beings that you regard them, or mortals that you think of them? They are like a breath; their days are like a passing shadow. Bow your heavens, O Lord, and come down; touch the mountains so that they smoke. (Psalm 144:3-5)

### *The Greeting*

But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. For this purpose He called you through our proclamation of the good news, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So, then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter. Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word. (2 Thessalonians 2:13-17)

### *The Refrain for the Midday Lesson*

The Lord is just in all His ways, and kind in all His doings. The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth. (Psalm 145:17-18)

### *A Reading from Isaiah 50: 4-9a*

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher,  
that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.  
Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as  
those who are taught.

The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did  
not turn backward.

I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to  
those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult  
and spitting.

The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not  
be put to shame;

he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us  
stand up together.

Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.

It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

### *The Refrain for the Midday Lesson*

The Lord is just in all His ways, and kind in all His doings. The  
Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth.  
(Psalm 145:17-18)

### *The Cry of the Church*

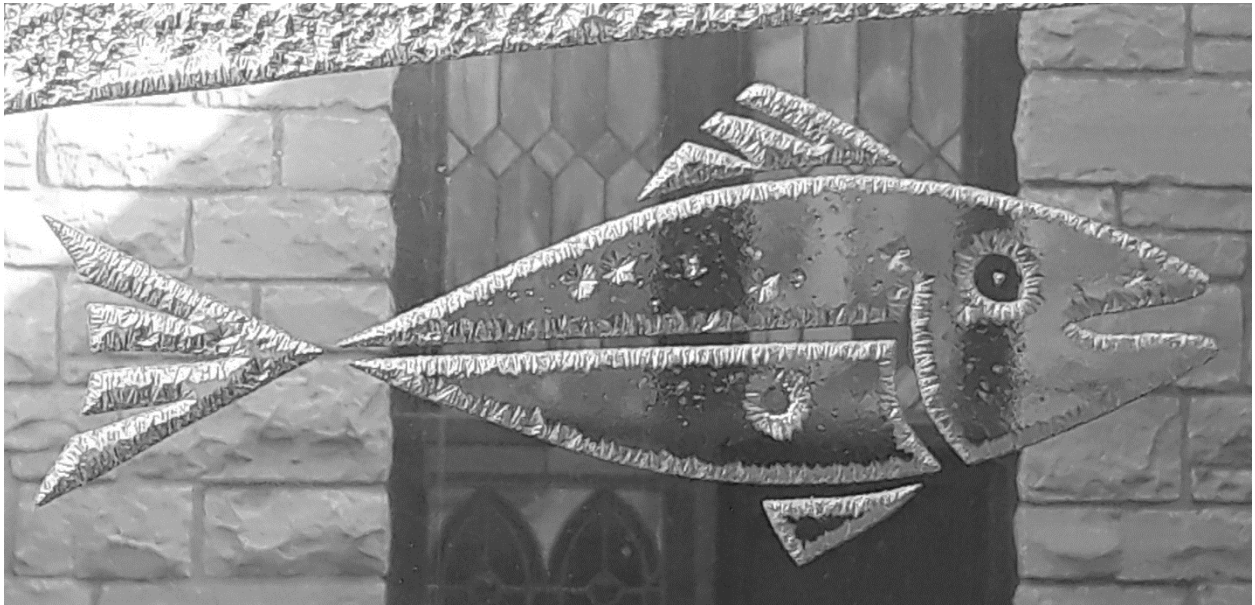
Give ear to my words, O Lord; give heed to my sighing. Listen to  
the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for to you I pray.  
(Psalm 5: 1-2)

### *The Lord's Prayer*

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. Lead us not into  
temptation and deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and  
the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

### *Concluding Prayer of the Day*

Almighty God, your Son our Savior suffered at human hands and endured the shame of the cross. Grant that we may walk in the way of His cross and find it the way of life and peace, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



*The Call to Prayer*

O Lord my God, in you I take refuge; see me from all my pursuers, and deliver me. (Psalm 7:1)

*The Request for Presence*

Be still and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth. (Psalm 46:10)

*The Hymn: Now The Day is Over*

Now the day is over; night is drawing nigh;  
shadows of the evening steal across the sky.

Comfort every sufferer watching late in pain;  
those who plan some evil, from their sin restrain.

Glory to the Father, glory to the Son;  
and to you blest Spirit, while the ages run.

*Vesper's Psalm*

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before Him. For dominion belongs to the Lord, and He rules over the nations. To Him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before Him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for Him. Posterity will serve Him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim His deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that He has done it. (Psalm 22: 27-31)

*The Lord's Prayer*

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. Lead us not into temptation and deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

*The Concluding Prayer*

Eternal God, the hours both of day and night are yours, and to you the darkness is no threat. Be present, we pray, with those who labor in these hours of night, especially those who watch and work on behalf of others. Grant them diligence in their watching, faithfulness in their service, courage in danger, and competence in emergencies. Help them to meet the needs of others with confidence and compassion; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

