

The Service of Matins

Service of Daily Prayer — Treasury of Daily Prayer, pg. O-43



INVOCATION

M In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.¹

C Amen.

M Christ became obedient to death, even death on a cross.

C O come, let us worship him.

RESPONSORY

M (*antiphon*) He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth

C and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:7,6

M He was despised and rejected by men;

C a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief.

Isaiah 53:3

M He was oppressed, and He was afflicted,

C yet He opened not His mouth

Isaiah 53:7

M He poured out His soul to death

C and was numbered with the transgressors.

Isaiah 53:12

M He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death,

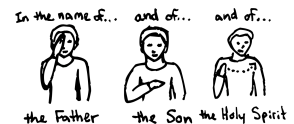
C even death on a cross.

Philippians 2:8

M (*antiphon*) He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth

C and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

¹ The Sign of the Cross (☩) may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism. Martin Luther wrote in his Small Catechism, "In the morning when you get up, make the sign of the holy cross and say, 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.'"



READING — *Holy Friday**Isaiah 52:13–53:12*

¹³ Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. ¹⁴ As many were astonished at you—his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—¹⁵ so shall he sprinkle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand. ^{53:1} Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ² For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. ³ He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. ⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? ⁹ And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. ¹¹ Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. ¹² Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

M The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to you, O Lord.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 22:1-11, 14-21

M My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

C Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

M O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,

C and by night, but I find no rest.

M Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

C In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.

M To you they cried and were rescued;

C in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

M But I am a worm and not a man,

C scorned by mankind and despised by the people.

M All who see me mock me;

C they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;

M "He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him;

C let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"

M Yet you are he who took me from the womb;

C you made me trust you at my mother's breasts.

M On you was I cast from my birth,

C and from my mother's womb you have been my God.

M Be not far from me, for trouble is near,

C and there is none to help.

[M] I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint;
[C] **my heart is like wax; it is melted within my chest;**
[M] my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws;
[C] **you lay me in the dust of death.**
[M] For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me;
[C] **they have pierced my hands and feet—**
[M] I can count all my bones—they stare and gloat over me;
[C] **they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.**
[M] But you, O Lord, do not be far off!
[C] **O you my help, come quickly to my aid!**
[M] Deliver my soul from the sword,
[C] **my precious life from the power of the dog!**
[M] Save me from the mouth of the lion!
[C] **You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!**

CONFESSONAL READING

Absolution Theses (1860), 1, 3-5, 8

1. Absolution of sins is, according to Luther's teaching, the Gospel, whether it is proclaimed to many or to the individual.
3. The steward and dispenser of absolution in the public office are the preachers of the Gospel; but otherwise all Christians, because the entire Church is the original holder of the Keys; however He who forgives sins through their ministry is the triune God.
4. Absolution does not consist of a judicial judgment of the confessor, of an empty proclamation or wishing of the forgiveness of sins, but of a powerful announcement of the forgiveness of sins.
5. The effect of absolution is not based on man's repentance, confession and satisfaction. Absolution calls for faith, it works and strengthens faith. Absolution is of no use to mankind without faith, even though it is not a faulty key.

8. Confession is not commanded by God, but nevertheless is highly useful. Therefore it is not to be compelled as necessary, but where it is used, it is to be preserved. Where it has fallen into disuse, it is to be recovered through recommending and praising its benefits.

LORD'S PRAYER

C 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

MORNING PRAYER

M Almighty God, merciful Father, who created and completed all things, on this day when the work of our calling begins anew, we implore you to create its beginning, direct its continuance, and bless its end, that our doings may be preserved from sin, our life sanctified, and our work this day be well pleasing to you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

C I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

BLESSING

M Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

Now, go joyfully about your work of the day.