

Good Friday, March 25

Today we recall our Lord Jesus Christ's shameful and painful death on the cross. On this day evil is conquered, and we are released from the guilt and power of sin. We are crucified with Christ so that we may live with him.

The Prayer of Confession

*Do not be far from me,
for trouble is near,
and there is none to help.*

Psalm 22:11

The Gospel Reading

So [Pilate] delivered him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, "They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots."

John 19:16–24

The Psalm of Response

*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? ...
All who see me mock me;
they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;
"He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him;
let him rescue him, for he delights in him!" ...
I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint;
my heart is like wax;
it is melted within my breast;
my strength is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;
you lay me in the dust of death.*

*For dogs encompass me;
a company of evildoers encircles me;
they have pierced my hands and feet—
I can count all my bones—
they stare and gloat over me;
they divide my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots.*

*But you, O LORD, do not be far off!
O you my help, come quickly to my aid!*

Psalm 22:1, 7-8, 14-19

The Prayer for the Day – of Praise

We praise you, O God,

we acknowledge you to be the Lord.
All creation worships you,
the Father everlasting.
To you all Angels cry aloud
the Heavens, and all the Powers therein.
To you Cherubim and Seraphim sin in endless praise:
Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God of power and might;
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
The glorious company of the Apostles praise you.
The noble fellowship of the Prophets praise you.
The white-robed army of Martyrs praise you.
Throughout the world, the holy Church acclaim you:
The Father of an infinite Majesty;
Your true and only Son, worthy of all honor;
Also the Holy Ghost, the Comforter.
You are the King of Glory, O Christ.
You are the everlasting Son of the Father.
When you took to yourself our flesh to set us free,
you humbly chose the Virgin's womb.
When you overcame the sting of death
you opened the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers.
You are seated at God's right hand in glory.
We believe that you shall come to be our Judge.
Come then, Lord and help your servants
whom you redeemed with your precious blood,
and bring us, together with your Saints,
to glory everlasting.

Te Deum, 4th Century

The Closing Psalm

You have answered me.
I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters:
all you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;
stand in awe of him, all your offspring of Israel.
He did not hide his face from me,
but heard when I cried to him.

adapted from Psalm 22:21-24