**Preparation**

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end. **Amen.**

Brethren, be sober, be vigilant; for your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he ma devour: whom resist, steadfast in the faith.

But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Thanks be to God.**

O God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord make haste to help us.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.** **Amen.**

Praise ye the Lord.

**The Lord’s name be praised.**

**Psalm** **91** *Qui habitat.*

1 Whoso dwelleth under the defence of the most High: ▪ shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

2 I will say unto the Lord, Thou art my hope, and my strong hold: ▪ my God, in him will I trust.

3 For he shall deliver thee from the snare of the hunter: ▪ and from the noisome pestilence.

4 He shall defend thee under his wings, and thou shalt be safe under his feathers : ▪ his faithfulness and truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

5 Thou shalt not be afraid for any terror by night: ▪ nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

6 For the pestilence that walketh in darkness: ▪ nor for the sickness that destroyeth in the noon-day.

7 A thousand shall fall beside thee, and ten thousand at thy right hand: ▪ but it shall not come nigh thee.

8 Yea with thine eyes shalt thou behold: ▪ and see the reward of the ungodly.

9 For thou, Lord, art my hope: ▪ thou hast set thine house of defence very high.

10 There shall no evil happen unto thee: ▪ neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee: ▪ to keep thee in all thy ways.

12 They shall bear thee in their hands: ▪ that thou hurt not thy foot against a stone.

13 Thou shalt go upon the lion and adder : ▪ the young lion and the dragon shalt thou tread under thy feet.

14 Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: ▪ I will set him up, because he hath known my Name.

15 He shall call upon me, and I will hear him: ▪ yea I am with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and bring him to honour.

16 With long life will I satisfy him : ▪ and shew him my salvation.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.** **Amen.**

**Reading**

Hear the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St Matthew

*N1 Ailbhe* When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.  Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him

*P1 Charlie*Are you the King of the Jews?

*J1 Victor*:You say so.

*N2 Ailbhe* But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer.

*P2 Charlie*: Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?

*N3 Ailbhe* But Jesus gave Pilate no answer, not even to a single charge, so that Pilate was greatly amazed.

  Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. **16** At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas.  So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them:

*P3 Charlie*:Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?

*N4 Ailbhe* For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests and elders had handed Jesus over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him,

*PW Jean*Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.

*N5 Ailbhe*  Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed.

*P4 Charlie*: Which of the two do you want me to release for you?

*All 1*Barabbas

*P5 Charlie*: Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?

*All 2*Let him be crucified!

*P6 Charlie*:Why, what evil has he done?

*N6 Emma*But they shouted all the more,

*All 3*Let him be crucified!

*N7 Emma*So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying,

*P7 Charlie*:I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.

*All 4*His blood be on us and on our children!

*N8 Emma*So Pilate released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying,

*Soldiers:*Hail, King of the Jews!

*N9 Emma*They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head.  After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull),  they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots;  then they sat down there and kept watch over him.  Over his head they put the charge against him, which read,

*P8 Charlie*:This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.

*N10 Emma*Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.

*N11 Georgina*In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,

*Ian, Jen 1*He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him.  He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said,

*J2 Victor*I am God's Son.

*N12 Georgina*The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice,

*J3 Victor*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

*N13 Georgina*When some of the bystanders heard it, they said: This man is calling for Elijah.

*N14 Georgina*At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.

*N15 Georgina*Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split.  The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised.  After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said,

*C1 Mike*Truly this man was God's Son!

HYMN 247 *verse 1*

When I survey the wondrous cross

On which the prince of glory died

My richest gain I count but loss

And pour contempt on all my pride.

Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

**For thou hast redeemed me, O Lord, thou God of truth.**

Keep me as the apple of an eye.

**Hide me under the shadow of thy wings.**

**Preserve us, O Lord, while waking, and guard us while sleeping, that awake, we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.**

**Nunc dimittis** The Song of Simeon

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant de|part in | peace: ▪

 ac|cording | to thy | word.

 For mine eyes have seen | thy sal|vation ▪

 which thou hast prepared be|fore the | face of ~ all | people;

 To be a light to | lighten ~ the | Gentiles ▪ and to be the glory of thy | people | Isra|el.

Glory | be to the Father, ▪ and to the Son | and to the | Holy Spirit;

**As it** | **was in the be** | **ginning,** ▪ **is now and ever shall be, world without** | **end.** **Amen.**

**Preserve us, O Lord, while waking, and guard us while sleeping, that awake, we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.**

**The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and e**a**rth;**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Lord be with you

**and with thy Spirit.**

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**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.**

Blessed art thou, Lord God of our fathers,

**To be praised and glorified above all for ever;**

Let us bless the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**Let us praise him and magnify him for ever.**

Blessed art thou, O Lord, in the firmament of heaven

**To be praised and glorified above all for ever.**

**Confession**

**We confess to God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, that we have sinned in thought, word and deed, through our own grievous fault. Where we pray God to have mercy upon us.**

**Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us all our sins, deliver us from all evil, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and bring us to life everlasting; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May the Almighty and merciful Lord grant unto you pardon and remission of all your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Wilt thou not turn again and quicken us

**That thy people may rejoice in thee?**

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us

**And grant us thy salvation.**

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin.

**O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.**

O Lord, hear our prayer,

**And let our cry come unto thee.**

Let us pray.

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the silent hours of this night, so that we, who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world, may repose upon thy eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, who at this evening hour didst rest in the sepulchre, and didst thereby sanctify the grave to be a bed of hope to thy people; Make us so to abound in sorrow for our sins which were the cause of thy passion, that when our bodies lie in the dust our souls may live with thee; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

**Prayer for Good Friday and the Holy Land**

Lord God, on this day, your Son was lifted on the Cross and walked no more as a man among men in the Holy Land.

Look with compassion on the people who live in that land today, on Jew, on Christian and on Muslim.

Send to them your spirit of love and peace, so that each may learn that evil can never drive out evil. Give to all such overwhelming love, that peace may return and that your name may be glorified.

We ask it in the name of the Prince of peace, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**Lonely, in pain**

Lord Jesus, we beseech thee by the loneliness of thy suffering on the Cross, be nigh unto them that are desolate and in pain or sorrow today; and let thy presence transform their loneliness into comfort, consolation, and holy fellowship with thee, Lord Jesus, thou merciful Saviour. Amen.

We will lay us down in peace and take our rest.

**For it is thou, Lord, only, that makest us dwell in safety.**

The Lord be with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The Almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us this night and for evermore. **Amen.**