**Preparation**

O Lord, open our lips

**and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Let your ways be known upon earth,

**your saving power among the nations**.

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation,

to you be praise and glory for ever.

As a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief

your only Son was lifted up

that he might draw the whole world to himself.

May we walk this day in the way of the cross

and always be ready to share its weight,

declaring your love for all the world.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept.*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,

so may the light of your presence, O God,

set our hearts on fire with love for you;

now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**The Word of God**

***Psalm 22 – Psalm for the week***

**Refrain: Be not far from me, O Lord.**

1    My God, my God, why have you forsaken me,

and are so far from my salvation,

    from the words of my distress?

2    O my God, I cry in the daytime,

    but you do not answer;

and by night also, but I find no rest.

3    Yet you are the Holy One,

enthroned upon the praises of Israel.

4    Our forebears trusted in you;

they trusted, and you delivered them.

5    They cried out to you and were delivered;

they put their trust in you and were not confounded.

6    But as for me, I am a worm and no man,

scorned by all and despised by the people.

7    All who see me laugh me to scorn;

they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,

8    ‘He trusted in the Lord; let him deliver

him;

let him deliver him, if he delights in him.’

9    But it is you that took me out of the womb

and laid me safe upon my mother’s breast.

10  On you was I cast ever since I was born;

you are my God even from my mother’s womb.

11  Be not far from me, for trouble is near at hand

and there is none to help.

12  Mighty oxen come around me;

fat bulls of Bashan close me in on every side.

13  They gape upon me with their mouths,

as it were a ramping and a roaring lion.

14  I am poured out like water;

    all my bones are out of joint;

my heart has become like wax

    melting in the depths of my body.

15  My mouth is dried up like a potsherd;

    my tongue cleaves to my gums;

you have laid me in the dust of death.

16  For the hounds are all about me,

    the pack of evildoers close in on me;

they pierce my hands and my feet.

17  I can count all my bones;

they stand staring and looking upon me.

18  They divide my garments among them;

they cast lots for my clothing.

19  Be not far from me, O Lord;

you are my strength; hasten to help me.

20  Deliver my soul from the sword,

my poor life from the power of the dog.

21  Save me from the lion’s mouth,

    from the horns of wild oxen.

You have answered me!

22  I will tell of your name to my people;

in the midst of the congregation will I praise you.

23  Praise the Lord, you that fear him;

O seed of Jacob, glorify him;

    stand in awe of him, O seed of Israel.

24  For he has not despised nor abhorred the suffering of the poor;

    neither has he hidden his face from them;

but when they cried to him he heard them.

25  From you comes my praise in the great congregation;

I will perform my vows

    in the presence of those that fear you.

26  The poor shall eat and be satisfied;

those who seek the Lord shall praise him;

    their hearts shall live for ever.

27  All the ends of the earth

    shall remember and turn to the Lord,

and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

28  For the kingdom is the Lord’s

and he rules over the nations.

29  How can those who sleep in the earth

    bow down in worship,

or those who go down to the dust kneel before him?

30  He has saved my life for himself;

    my descendants shall serve him;

this shall be told of the Lord for generations to come.

31  They shall come and make known his salvation,

    to a people yet unborn,

declaring that he, the Lord, has done it.

**Refrain: Be not far from me, O Lord.**

Restless with grief and fear,

the abandoned turn to you:

in every hour of trial,

good Lord, deliver us,

O God most holy, God most strong,

whose wisdom is the cross of Christ.

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning is now**

**and shall be for ever. Amen.**

***After each reading, we will pause for reflection***

**Monday**

Old testament: Lamentations 1:1-12a

New Testament: Luke 22:1-23

**Wednesday**

Old testament: Jeremiah 11:18-20

New Testament: Luke 22:54-71

**Response**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you;

**by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.**

God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong.

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.**

We preach Christ crucified,

the power of God and the wisdom of God.

**By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.**

God forbid that I should glory,

save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you;**

**by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.**

cf 1 Corinthians 1 and Galatians 6

**Gospel Canticle**

1 Jesus, Saviour of the world,  
come to us in your mercy:   
we look to you to save and help us.

2 By your cross and your life laid down,  
you set your people free:   
we look to you to save and help us.

3 When they were ready to perish, you saved your disciples:   
we look to you to come to our help.

4 In the greatness of your mercy, loose us from our chains,   
forgive the sins of all your people.

5 Make yourself known as our Saviour and mighty deliverer;   
save and help us that we may praise you.

6 Come now and dwell with us, Lord Christ Jesus:   
hear our prayer and be with us always.

7 And when you come in your glory: •  
make us to be one with you  
and to share the life of your kingdom.

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning is now**

**and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Prayers**

*Following each prayer, the following may be said:*

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer**

**The Lord’s Prayer is said**

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,

as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.**

**Lead us not into temptation**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours**

**now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

**The Conclusion**

May Christ, who bore our sins on the cross,

set us free to serve him with joy.

**Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**