
CATHEDRAL BASILICA *of* SAINTS PETER AND PAUL
AND THE SHRINE *of* SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

GOOD FRIDAY 2026

THREE HOURS *of* PRAYER

in preparation for the Solemn Celebration of the Passion of the Lord



† Confessions will be heard from 12:30 until 2:30 PM,
in English and Spanish, in the confessionals on both
sides of the Basilica


† A Collection will follow the conclusion of the
prayers at each hour:

*Offering for the Preservation of the Sacred Places
in the Holy Land*

- *Please silence your cell phone
before the Sacred Liturgy begins.*
- *Keep your personal belongings with you
when you leave your pew.*
- *If someone approaches you for money or assistance,
please direct him/her to any of the parish priests.*

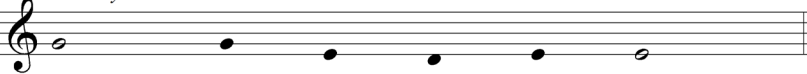
INTRODUCTION

Presider:



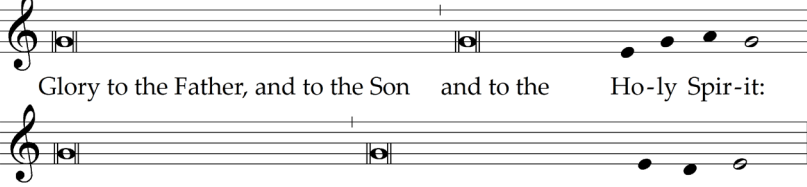
O God, ✠ come to my as - sist - ance.

Assembly:



Lord, make haste to help me.

All:



Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ev-er. A - men.





1. Sing, my tongue, in ex - ul - ta - tion of our ban - ner
 2. For, when Ad - am first of - fend - ed, eat - ing that for -
 3. Thus the tempt - er was out - wit - ted by a wis - dom
 4. So the Fa - ther, out of ___ pit - y for our self - in -
 5. So he came, the long - ex - pect - ed, not in glo - ry,
 6. Wis - dom, pow'r, and ad - o - ra - tion to the bless - ed



1. and de - vice! Make a sol - emn proc - la - ma - tion
 2. bid - den ___ fruit, not all hopes of glo - ry ___ end - ed
 3. deep - er ___ still: rem - e - dy and ail - ment fit - ted,
 4. flict - ed ___ doom, sent him from the heav'n - ly ___ cit - y
 5. not to ___ reign; on - ly born to be re - ject - ed,
 6. Trin - i - ty for re - demp - tion and sal - va - tion



1. of a tri - umph and its ___ price: how the Sav - ior of
 2. with the ser - pent at the ___ root: bro - ken na - ture would
 3. means to cure and means to ___ kill; that the world might be
 4. when the ho - ly time had ___ come: he, the Son and the
 5. choos - ing hun - ger, toil, and ___ pain, till the scaf - fold was
 6. through the Pas - chal Mys - ter - y, now, in ev - 'ry gen -



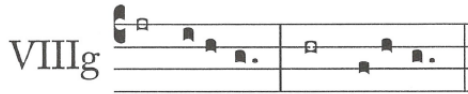
1. cre - a - tion con - quered by his sac - ri - fice!
 2. be mend - ed by a sec - ond tree and ___ shoot.
 3. ac - quit - ted, Christ would do his Fa - ther's will.
 4. Al - might - y, took our flesh in Mar - y's ___ womb.
 5. e - rect - ed and the Pas - chal Lamb was ___ slain.
 6. er - a - tion, and for all e - ter - ni - ty.



6. A - men.

PSALMODY

Antiphon 1 Earthly kings rise up, *in* revolt; *
princes conspire together against the Lord and *his* Anointed.



Psalm 2

The Messiah, king and conqueror

The rulers of the earth joined forces to overthrow Jesus, your anointed Son (Acts 4:27).

Why this tumult *among* the nations, *
among peoples this *useless* murmuring?
They arise, the kings *of* the earth, *
princes plot against the Lord and *his*
Anointed.

“Come let us *break* their fetters, *
come, let us cast *off* their yoke.”

He who sits in the *heavens* laughs; *
the Lord is laughing *them* to scorn.
Then he will speak *in* his anger, *
his rage will strike *them* with terror.

“It is I who have set up my *king* on Zion, *
my *holy* mountain.”

I will announce the decree *of* the Lord: *
The Lord said to me: “You are my Son. †
It is I who have begotten *you* this day.
Ask and I shall bequeath *you* the nations, *
put the ends of the earth in *your*
possession.

Antiphon Earthly kings rise up, *in* revolt; *
princes conspire together against the Lord and *his* Anointed.

With a rod of iron *you* will break them, *
shatter them like a *potter's* jar.”
Now, O kings, understand, †
take warning, rulers *of* the earth; *
serve the Lord with *awe* and trembling,
pay him your homage lest he be angry *and*
you perish; *
for suddenly his anger will blaze.

Blessed are they *
who put their *trust* in God.

Glory to the Father, and *to* the Son *
and to the *Holy* Spirit:
as it was in the *beginning*, is now, *
and will be forever. Amen.

Antiphon 2 They divided my garments among them; * they cast lots for my clothing.



Psalm 22:2-23

God hears the suffering of his Holy One

Jesus cried with a loud voice: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? (Matthew 27:46).

My God, my God, why have you forsaken
me: *

You are far from my plea and the cry of my
distress.

O my God, I call by day and you give *no*
reply; *

I call by night and I find *no peace*.

Yet you, O *God*, are holy, *
enthroned on the praises of *Israel*.

In you our fathers *put* their trust; *
they trusted and you set them *free*.

When they cried to you, *they* escaped. *
In you they trusted and never in *vain*.

But I am a worm *and* no man, *
scorned by men, despised by the *people*.

All who see *me* deride me. *
They curl their lips, they toss their *heads*.
“He trusted in the Lord, *let* him save him; *
let him release him if this is his *friend*.”

Yes, it was you who took me *from* the
womb, *
entrusted me to my mother’s *breast*.

To you I was committed *from* my birth, *
from my mother’s womb you have been
my *God*.

Do not leave me alone in *my* distress; *
come close, there is none else to *help*.

Many bulls *have* surrounded me, *
fierce bulls of Bashan close me *in*.
Against me they open *wide* their jaws, *
like lions, rending and *roaring*.

Like water I *am* poured out, *
disjointed are all my *bones*.
My heart has become like wax, *
it is melted within my *breast*.

Parched as burnt clay *is* my throat, *
my tongue cleaves to my *jaw*.

Many dogs *have* surrounded me, *
a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands *and* my feet *
and lay me in the dust of *death*.

I can count every one *of* my bones. *
These people stare at me and *gloat*;
they divide my *clothing* among them. *
They cast lots for my *robe*.

I will tell of your name *to* my brethren *
and praise you where they are *assembled*.



Glory to the Father, and *to* the Son, *
and to the Holy *Spirit*:
as it was in the *beginning*, is now, *
and will be forever. *Amen*.

Antiphon They divided my *garments* among them; * they cast lots for my *clothing*.

Antiphon 3 They sought *to take* * my *life* by violence.



Psalm 38

A sinner in extreme danger prays earnestly to God
All his friends were standing at a distance (Luke 23:49).

O Lord, do not rebuke me in *your* anger; *
do not punish me, Lord *in* your rage.
Your arrows have sunk deep *in* me; *
your hand has come *down* upon me.

Through your anger all my body *is* sick: *
through my sin, there is no health *in* my
limbs.

My guilt towers higher than *my* head; *
it is a weight too heavy to bear.

My wounds are foul *and* festering, *
the result of *my* own folly.

I am bowed and brought to *my* knees. *
I go mourning all *the* day long.

All my frame burns *with* fever; *
all my body *is* sick.

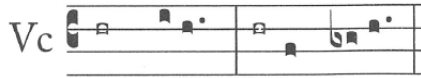
Spent and utterly crushed, *
I cry aloud in *anguish* of heart.

O Lord, you know all *my* longing: *
my groans are not hidden from you.
My heart throbs, my strength *is* spent; *
the very light has gone *from* my eyes.

My friends avoid me like *a* leper; *
those closest to me stand *afar* off.
Those who plot against my life *lay* snares; *
those who seek my ruin speak of harm, †
planning treachery all *the* day long.
But I am like the deaf who cannot hear, *
like the dumb *unable* to speak.

I am like a man who *hears* nothing, *
in whose mouth is *no* defense.

I count on you, O Lord: *
it is you, Lord God, *who* will answer.
I pray: “Do not let *them* mock me, *
those who triumph if my *foot* should
slip.”



For I am on the point *of* falling *
and my pain is *always* before me.
I confess that I *am* guilty *
and my sin fills me *with* dismay.

O Lord, do not *forsake* me! *
My God, do not stay *afar* off!
Make haste and come to *my* help, *
O Lord, my *God*, my savior!

My wanton enemies *are* numberless *
and my lying *foes* are many.
They repay me evil *for* good *
and attack me for seeking *what* is right.

Glory to the Father, and to *the* Son *
and to the *Holy* Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, *is* now, *
and will be forever. Amen.

Antiphon They sought to take * my *life* by violence.

VERSE

Cantor: They brought false evidence against me.

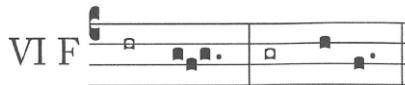
All: They were breathing out fury.

READINGS

First Reading

Hebrews 9:11-28

*By shedding of his own blood, Christ, the high priest,
entered the sanctuary once and for all.*



Responsory

See Isaiah 53:7, 12

Cantor: He was led like a lamb *to* the slaughter; *
no complaint from his lips against the evil done *to* him.

He was given *up* to death, *

All: to give his people life.

Cantor: He surrendered himself to death and was counted *among* the wicked.

All: To give his people life.

AT THE CROSS HER STATION KEEPING

STABAT MATER



1. At the cross her sta - tion keep - ing, Mar - y stood in
 2. While she wait - ed in her an - guish, See - ing Christ in
 3. With what pain and des - o - la - tion, With what no - ble
 4. Ev - er pa - tient in her yearn - ing, Though her tear - filled



- sor - row, weep - ing, When her Son was cru - ci - fied.
 tor - ment lan - guish, Bit - ter sor - row pierced her heart.
 res - ig - na - tion, Mar - y watched her dy - ing Son.
 eyes were burn - ing, Mar - y gazed up - on her Son.

5. Who, that sorrow contemplating,
 On that passion meditating,
 Would not share the Virgin's grief?
6. Christ she saw, for our salvation,
 Scourged with cruel acclamation,
 Bruised and beaten by the rod.
7. Christ she saw with life-blood failing,
 All her anguish unavailing,
 Saw him breathe his very last.
8. Mary, fount of love's devotion,
 Let me share with true emotion
 All the sorrow you endured.
9. Virgin, ever interceding,
 Hear me in my fervent pleading:
 Fire me with your love of Christ.
10. Mother, may this prayer be granted:
 That Christ's love may be implanted
 In the depths of my poor soul.
11. At the cross, your sorrow sharing,
 All your grief and torment bearing,
 Let me stand and mourn with you.
12. Fairest maid of all creation,
 Queen of hope and consolation,
 Let me feel your grief sublime.
13. Virgin, in your love befriend me,
 At the Judgment day defend me.
 Help me by your constant prayer.
14. Savior, when my life shall leave me,
 Through your mother's prayers receive me
 With the fruits of victory.
15. Let me to your love be taken,
 Let my soul in death awaken
 To the joys of Paradise.

2:00 PM

MEDITATION ON THE SEVEN LAST WORDS

LES SEPT PAROLES DE NOTRE SEIGNEUR JÉSUS-CHRIST SUR LA CROIX

CHARLES GOUNOD (1818-1893)

Cathedral Basilica Schola

Prologue

LUKE 23:34

1. Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.

Pater dimitte illis, non enim sciunt quid faciunt.

LUKE 23:43

2. Today you will be with me in paradise.

Hodie, mecum eris in Paradiso.

JOHN 19:26-27

3. Woman, behold, thy son! Behold, thy mother!

Mulier, ecce filius tuus. Deinde dicit discipulo: Ecce mater tua.

MATTHEW 27:46, MARK 15:34

4. My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

Deus meus, ut quid dereliquisti me?

JOHN 19:28

5. I thirst.

Sitio.

JOHN 19:30

6. It is finished.

Consummatum est.

LUKE 23:46

7. Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.

Pater in manus tuas.

THE ORDER FOR RECONCILING INDIVIDUAL PENITENTS

The Sacrament typically takes place in a confessional. When a confessional is not available, arrangements should provide for the penitent to remain anonymous. The penitent prepares for the Sacrament with prayer and a thorough examination of conscience.

THE RECEPTION OF THE PENITENT

When the penitent comes to confess his or her sins, the priest welcomes the penitent with kindness and greets him or her with friendly words. Then the penitent makes the sign of the cross, which the priest may make also, saying.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The priest invites the penitent to have trust in God, in these or similar words:

**May God, who has shone his light in our hearts
grant that you may truly know your sins and his mercy.**

The penitent replies: Amen.

Other forms of the invitation to trust in God may be chosen from the ritual book.

THE READING OF THE WORD OF GOD (Optional)

Then the priest or penitent reads or recites from memory a text of Sacred Scripture in which God's mercy is announced and people are called to conversion. Texts for this purpose can be found in the ritual book.

THE CONFESSION OF SINS AND THE ACCEPTANCE OF SATISFACTION

Next, the penitent confesses his or her sins, after first saying a general formula such as, I confess to Almighty God, or Forgive me, Father, or Bless me, Father. The penitent should also say how long it has been since the last confession and may mention his or her state in life. If necessary, the priest assists the penitent to make an integral confession, offers suitable counsel, and urges contrition for faults, reminding the penitent that through the Sacrament of Penance a Christian, by dying and rising with Christ, is renewed in the Paschal Mystery. Then the priest proposes a work of penance that the penitent accepts to make satisfaction for sin and to amend his or her life. The priest should also adapt to the penitent's circumstances in every way. It is helpful for the penitent to conclude the confession of sins by saying, I am sorry for these and all my sins.

From the Order of Penance, 2023/Office for Divine Worship/Archdiocese of Philadelphia

THE PRAYER OF THE PENITENT AND THE ABSOLUTION

The priest then invites the penitent to express his or her contrition, which the penitent may do in these or similar words:

**O my God,
I am heartily sorry for having offended you,
and I detest all my sins because of your just punishments,
but most of all because they offend you, my God,
who are all good and deserving of all my love.
I firmly resolve, with the help of your grace,
to sin no more
and to avoid the near occasions of sin. Amen.**

This is the preferred form of the Act of Contrition for schools and parish religious education programs in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The Act of Contrition must be prayed in the context of the Sacrament. Other prayers of the penitent may be chosen from the ritual book.

Then the priest, extending his hands over the penitent's head (or at least extending his right hand) says:

**God, the Father of mercies,
through the Death and Resurrection of his Son
has reconciled the world to himself
and poured out the Holy Spirit for the forgiveness of sins;
through the ministry of the Church
may God grant you pardon and peace,
AND I ABSOLVE YOU FROM YOUR SINS
IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, +
AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

The penitent replies: Amen.

THE PROCLAMATION OF PRAISE OF GOD AND THE DISMISSAL OF THE PENITENT

After the absolution, the priest continues:

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

The penitent concludes: His mercy endures for ever.

Then the priest dismisses the penitent who has been reconciled, saying:

The Lord has forgiven your sins. Go in peace.

Other dismissals may be chosen from the ritual book.

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Reverend Gerald Dennis Gill, *Rector*

