

Prime Liturgy

6am Friday

Invocation:

Leader: The night was dark and long; this man did not deserve to be hit and spat upon- denied, forsaken, mocked. All this before the cock crowed.

All: Crucify him! Crucify him!

Leader: This is the hardest part of the journey- Jesus before Pilate, dragged off to Herod, returned to Pilate again. Beaten, rejected, a crown of thorns pressed on his brow, the crowd given a choice: Jesus or Barabbas? Not Jesus. Crucify him.

All: Crucify him! Crucify him!

Leader: Head bowed down, condemned to die, the Lord of life, creator of all, condemned a felon, condemned to die.

O Lord, was this for us?

All: Nailed to a tree, agony upon agony. Father, forgive them, they know not what they do. Woman, behold your son. Temple veil torn top to bottom. Silence. The journey is done. It is finished.

Leader: Friends, this day we gather and observe these- the last hours of Jesus' life. Let us continue this morning with his words in our hearts.

All: A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, as I have loved you.

Leader: Lord, be with us this day, within us to purify us; above us to draw us up; beneath us to sustain us; before us to lead us; behind us to restrain us; around us to protect us.

All: If we say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,' even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

Morning Prayer:

**O Lord, You have brought us safely into this new day
Preserve us with your mighty hand that we may not fall
into sin nor be overcome by adversity, and in all that
we do, direct us back to Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Prime Refrain:

**Give ear to my words, O Lord; consider my meditation
Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King and my God
For unto Thee will I pray, my voice shalt Thou hear
In the morning; O Lord, in the morning
Will I direct my prayer unto Thee, and will look up**

Prime Psalm: Psalm 121:3-8

He will not let your foot be moved.

He who keeps us will not slumber.

He who keeps Israel will neither slumber or sleep.

The Lord is your Keeper,

The Lord is our shade at our right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day,

Nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil,

He will keep our lives.

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in,

From this time forth and forever more.

Readings:

Isaiah 53:8-12

Matthew 27:1-23

John 19:1-16

Silent Prayer

Closing Prayer:

**Almighty and everlasting God, who willed that our
Savior should take on flesh and suffer death upon the
cross, that all humankind should follow the example of
his great humility, mercifully grant that we may both
follow the example of his patience and also be made a
partaker of his resurrection. Through the same Jesus
Christ, Amen.**