

Canticle

Antiphon

- P** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
C and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Magnificat

- C** My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior; for He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.

For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed. For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name; and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away. He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his ̄ seed forever.

Prayer

Kyrie and Lord's Prayer

- C** Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.
Our Father . . .

Salutation and Collects

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And with your spirit.

Collect of the Day

- P** Merciful and everlasting God, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all to bear our sins upon the cross. Grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him that we fear not the power of sin, death, and the devil; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

Additional Collect (Collect for Control of the Tongue)

- P** We pray You, O Lord, to keep our tongues from evil and our lips from speaking deceit, that as Your holy angels continuously sing praises to You in heaven, so may we at all times glorify You on earth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

- C** Amen.

Collect for Peace

- P** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

Benedicamus

- P** Let us bless the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

Benediction

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus ̄ Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C** Amen.

Vespers

Holy Wednesday

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(All stand when the pastor stands to begin prayer)

Opening Versicles

- P** O Lord, open my ̄ lips,
C and my ̄ mouth will declare Your praise.
P Make haste, O God, to deliver ̄ me;
C make haste to help ̄ me, O Lord.
C Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

Psalmody

Antiphon

Psalm 89

- P** He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth
C and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

**For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever;
in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness."**

You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:

**'I will establish your offspring forever,
and build your throne for all generations.'"**

Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,
your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

For who in the skies can be compared to the LORD?

Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD,
a God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones,
and awesome above all who are around him?

**O LORD God of hosts,
who is mighty as you are, O LORD, with your faithfulness all around you?**

You rule the raging of the sea;
when its waves rise, you still them.

**You crushed Rahab like a carcass;
you scattered your enemies with your mighty arm.**

The heavens are yours; the earth also is yours;
the world and all that is in it, you have founded them.

**The north and the south, you have created them;
Tabor and Hermon joyously praise your name.**

You have a mighty arm;
strong is your hand, high your right hand.

**Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;
steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.**

Blessed are the people who know the festal shout,
who walk, O LORD, in the light of your face,

**who exult in your name all the day
and in your righteousness are exalted.**

For you are the glory of their strength;
by your favor our horn is exalted.

**For our shield belongs to the LORD,
our king to the Holy One of Israel.**

Of old you spoke in a vision to your godly one, and said: "I have granted help
to one who is mighty; I have exalted one chosen from the people.

**I have found David, my servant;
with my holy oil I have anointed him,**
so that my hand shall be established with him;
my arm also shall strengthen him.

**The enemy shall not outwit him;
the wicked shall not humble him.**

I will crush his foes before him
and strike down those who hate him.

**My faithfulness and my steadfast love shall be with him,
and in my name shall his horn be exalted.**

I will set his hand on the sea
and his right hand on the rivers.

**He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father,
my God, and the Rock of my salvation.'**

And I will make him the firstborn,
the highest of the kings of the earth.

**My steadfast love I will keep for him forever,
and my covenant will stand firm for him.**

I will establish his offspring forever
and his throne as the days of the heavens.

**If his children forsake my law
and do not walk according to my rules,**

if they violate my statutes
and do not keep my commandments,

**then I will punish their transgression with the rod
and their iniquity with stripes,**

but I will not remove from him my steadfast love
or be false to my faithfulness.

**I will not violate my covenant
or alter the word that went forth from my lips.**

Once for all I have sworn by my holiness;
I will not lie to David.

**His offspring shall endure forever,
his throne as long as the sun before me.**

Like the moon it shall be established forever,
a faithful witness in the skies."

**But now you have cast off and rejected;
you are full of wrath against your anointed.**

You have renounced the covenant with your servant;
you have defiled his crown in the dust.

**You have breached all his walls;
you have laid his strongholds in ruins.**

All who pass by plunder him;
he has become the scorn of his neighbors.

**You have exalted the right hand of his foes;
you have made all his enemies rejoice.**

You have also turned back the edge of his sword,
and you have not made him stand in battle.

**You have made his splendor to cease
and cast his throne to the ground.**

You have cut short the days of his youth;
you have covered him with shame.

**How long, O LORD? Will you hide yourself forever?
How long will your wrath burn like fire?**

Remember how short my time is!

For what vanity you have created all the children of man!
What man can live and never see death?

Who can deliver his soul from the power of Sheol?

Lord, where is your steadfast love of old,

which by your faithfulness you swore to David?
**Remember, O Lord, how your servants are mocked,
and how I bear in my heart the insults of all the many nations,**

with which your enemies mock, O LORD,
with which they mock the footsteps of your anointed.

**Blessed be the LORD forever!
Amen and Amen.**

Antiphon

P He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth
C and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Sit

Office Hymn: 700 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Readings

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 31:1-8

New Testament Reading: John 15:12-17

After each reading:

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory—Lent

P Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

C Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

P In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.

C Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

P Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

C Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

Homily

St. Augustine

Stand