

**THE LITTLE OFFICE OF THE
PASSION OF OUR LORD**



**BY SAINT BONAVENTURE,
FRANCISCAN MINISTER-GENERAL,
CARDINAL BISHOP OF ALBANO,
AND SERAPHIC DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH**

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INTRODUCTION

There are several approved Little Offices of the Sacred Passion of our Lord. The one presented here is that written by St. Bonaventure (1221-1274), the Franciscan Minister-General known as the Seraphic Doctor of the Church. It is designed for private use and for devotion during the Quarant'ore. A longer one was written by St. Francis of Assisi (1181/2-1226), the famous Founder of the Order of Friars Minor. Neither of these was indulgenced at any time during the twentieth century. The only one that was indulgenced was that of the Congregation of the Passion (Passionists). A grant was issued for it in 1921. This indulgence is continued under the new norms of 1968 (Grant #36). The Passionist Office is much longer than the other two mentioned here.

The purpose of this present edition of the Office written by St. Bonaventure is to cultivate meditation on the Passion of our Lord, especially during Lent (and particularly during Passiontide). As it is designed for the private use of people who pray in sacral English, the text is presented only in that language and does not include musical notation or markings.

The text presented here is a lightly-edited version of that given in English by the Franciscan Herald Press. That version was given an imprimatur by George William Cardinal Mundelein [Archbishop of Chicago from 1915 to 1939] but no date or notice of copyright was printed in it by the publisher.

This “Little Office of the Passion” consists of the night office and all seven day hours; that is, unlike some little offices, it includes both Lauds and Prime. There are no seasonal variations in this Office. The opening of Matins includes Psalm 94 and a Hymn. Following this is only one Nocturn, which includes Psalm 2 and three lessons. Psalm 12 is recited near the beginning of Lauds and is followed by a Little Chapter, a Hymn consisting of six stanzas, the Canticle of Zachary (*Benedictus*) and a final Collect. Each of the little hours has a short Hymn (three stanzas), a psalm, a little chapter and a closing oration. The psalms of the little *horæ* are as follows: Prime, 42; Tierce, 63; Sext, 115; and None, 141. Vespers includes Psalm 29, a Capitulum and a Hymn consisting of six stanzas, the Magnificat and a final Collect. Compline opens with Psalm 87 and a short Hymn and short Capitulum. This is followed by the *Nunc Dimittis* (Canticle of Simeon) and a Collect.

Versicle and Response symbols have been included in this edition for use of more than one suppliant. Text to be uttered only by a cleric (when one is present) have been rendered in squared brackets, as have texts which are addressed to a cleric.

The text which has been edited is approved by Holy Church as follows:

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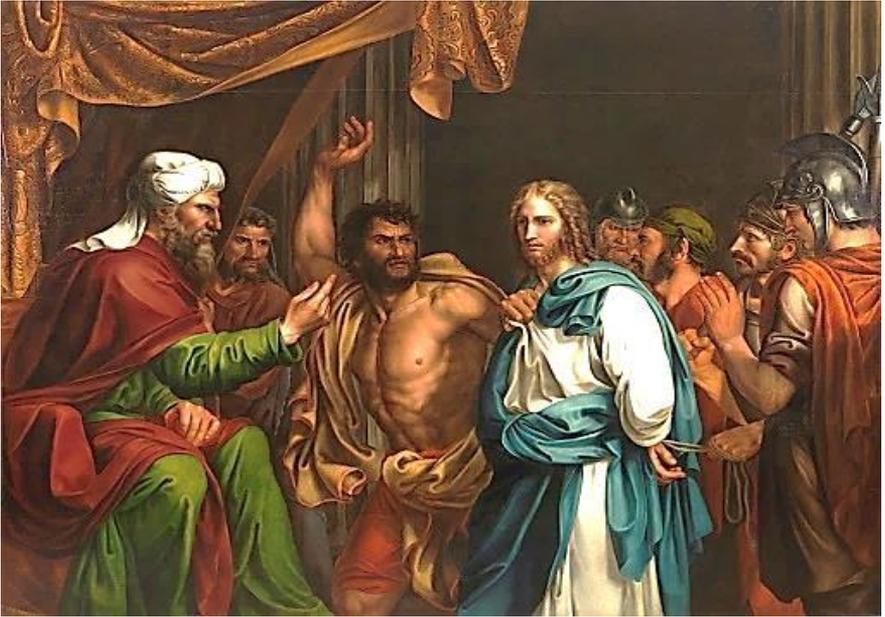
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–MATINS–



∇. Thou shalt open ✕ my lips, O Lord.

℞. And my mouth shall shew forth Thy praise.

∇. Incline ✕ unto mine aid, O God.

℞. O Lord, make haste to help me.

∇. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,

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

Praise be to Thee, O Lord, King of everlasting glory.

INVITATORY

∇. Christ is captured and put to scorn, scourged and crucified.
Oh, come, let us adore Him!

℞. Christ is captured and put to scorn, scourged and crucified.
Oh, come, let us adore Him!

Psalm XCIV

Come, let us praise the Lord with joy; let us joyfully sing to God our Saviour. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise to Him with psalms.

Christ is captured and put to scorn, scourged and crucified. Oh, come, let us adore Him!

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. For in His hand are all the ends of the earth; and the heights of the mountains are His.

Oh, come, let us adore Him!

For the sea is His, and He made it: and His hands formed the dry land. Come, let us adore and fall down: and weep before the Lord that made us. For He is the Lord our God; and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.

Christ is captured and put to scorn, scourged and crucified. Oh, come, let us adore Him!

Today, if you shall hear His voice, harden not your hearts: as in the provocation, according to the day of temptation in the wilderness: where your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works.

Oh, come, let us adore Him!

Forty years long was I offended with that generation, and I said: These always err in their hearts. And these men have not known My ways: so I swear in My wrath that they shall not enter into My rest.

Christ is captured and put to scorn, scourged and crucified. Oh come, let us adore Him!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

℞. Oh, come, let us adore Him!

℣. Christ is captured and put to scorn, scourged and crucified.

℞. Oh, come, let us adore Him!

Hymn

Oh, may the Passion of the Lord,
Whereby salvation is restored,
The mind with love for Him inspire,
Our solace and our hearts' desire.

In memory, let us ever hold,
Christ's thorny crown, His pains untold,
The bitter cross whereon He died,
The nails, the lance that pierced His Side.

And may we constantly recall
The reed, the vinegar, the gall,
The anguish of that last dread hour,
Those Sacred Wounds whence graces shower.

O, may these thoughts our souls imbue
With sweetness of celestial dew,
'Til, fostered by His tender care,
The glorious fruits of grace they bear.

O crucified, we worship Thee
And beg with all our hearts that we
May be united through Thy love
With all the saints in Heav'n above.

To Christ, the Lord of Majesty,
Betrayed and sold to set us free,
Who suffered on the cruel tree,
Be praise and honour endlessly.

Amen.

NOCTURN

Antiphon. Men without mercy rose up against Me, and they spared not my life.

Psalm II

Why have the Gentiles raged, and the people devised vain things?

The kings of the earth stood up, and the princes met together against the Lord, and against His Christ.

Let us break their bonds asunder, and let us cast away their yoke from us.

He that dwelleth in Heaven shall laugh at them: and the Lord shall deride them.

Then shall He speak to them in His anger, and trouble them in His rage.

But I am appointed King by Him over Sion, His holy mountain, preaching His commandment.

The Lord hath said to Me: Thou art My Son. This day have I begotten Thee.

Ask of Me and I will give Thee the Gentiles for Thine inheritance, and the utmost parts of the earth for Thy possession.

Thou shalt rule them with a rod of iron, and shall break them in pieces, like a potter's vessel.

And now, O ye kings, understand: receive instruction, you that judge the earth.

Serve ye the Lord with fear: and rejoice unto Him with trembling.

Embrace discipline, lest, at any time, the Lord be angry, and you perish from the just way.

When His wrath shall be kindled in a short time, blessed are all they that trust in Him.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Antiphon. Men without mercy rose up against Me, and they spared not my life.

℣. I have forsaken my house; I have left mine inheritance.

℞. I have given my dear soul into the hands of sinners.

Pater.

Absolution

℣. May the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ bring us to the joys of Paradise.

℞. Amen. [Pray, Father, a blessing.]

Blessing

℣. Through His holy Passion, may our Lord grant unto us His benediction.

℞. Amen.

First Lesson (St. John 19. 1-3)

Pilate took Jesus, and scourged Him. And the soldiers, plating a crown of thorns, put it upon His head: and they put on Him a purple garment. And they came to Him and said: Hail, King of the Jews. And they buffeted Him and, spitting upon Him, they took the reed and struck His Head. But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

℞. Thanks be to God.

℣. The ancients consulted together, that, by subtlety, they might apprehend Jesus and put Him to death. They went out, as it were to a robber, with swords and clubs.

[℞. Pray, Father, a blessing.]

Blessing

℣. Through the might of His Holy Cross, may our Lord bring us to the joys of light and truth.

℟. Amen.

Second Lesson (St. John 19. 16-18; St. Luke 23. 34)

But the soldiers took Jesus and led Him forth, and, bearing His own cross, He went forth to that place which is called Calvary but, in Hebrew, Golgotha, where they crucified Him and, with Him, two others, one on each side, and Jesus in the midst. And Jesus said: Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do. But Thou, Lord, have mercy upon us.

℟. Thanks be to God.

℣. You are come out, as it were, to a robber, with swords and clubs, to apprehend Me.

℣. I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and you laid not hands on Me, and lo!, you scourge Me and lead Me to be crucified.

℟. And when they had laid hands on Jesus and taken Him, He said to them:

℣. I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and you laid not hands on Me, and lo!, you scourge Me and lead Me to be crucified.

[℟. Pray, Father, a blessing.]

Blessing

℣. May the sprinkling of Christ's Blood be our everlasting health and protection.

℟. Amen.

Third Lesson (St. John 19. 28-30)

Afterwards, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said: I thirst. Now there was a vessel set there full of vinegar. And they, putting a sponge full of vinegar about hyssop, put it to His mouth. Jesus, therefore, when He had taken the vinegar, said: It is consummated. And, bowing His head, He gave up the ghost. But Thou, Lord, have mercy upon us.

℞. Thanks be to God.

℣. Darkness covered the earth, whilst the Jews crucified Jesus.

And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out with a loud voice:

℣. My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me? And, bowing down His head, He gave up the ghost.

℞. Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said: Father, into Thy hands I commend My Spirit.

℣. And, bowing down His head, He gave up the ghost.

℞. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,

℣. And, bowing down His head, He gave up the ghost.

—LAUDS—



℣. Incline ✠ unto mine aid, O God.

℞. O Lord, make haste to help me.

✠. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
✠. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen.
Praise be to Thee, O Lord, King of everlasting glory.

Antiphon. Reproaches and terrors have I suffered at their hands;
and the Lord is with me as a mighty warrior.

Psalm XII

How long, O Lord, wilt Thou forget me unto the end? How long
dost Thou turn away Thy face from me?

How long shall I take counsels in my soul, sorrow in my heart all
the day?

How long shall mine enemy be exalted over me? Consider, and
hear me, O Lord my God.

Enlighten mine eyes, that I never sleep in death, lest, at any time,
mine enemy say: I have prevailed against him.

They that trouble me will rejoice when I am moved: but I have
trusted in Thy mercy.

My heart shall rejoice in Thy salvation: I will sing to the Lord,
Who giveth me good things: yea, I will sing to the name of the
Lord, the Most High.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without
end. Amen.

Antiphon. Reproaches and terrors have I suffered at their hands;
and the Lord is with me as a mighty warrior.

Little Chapter (Lamentations 4. 20)

The breath of our mouth, Christ the Lord, is taken in our sins, to
Whom we said: Under Thy shadow, we shall live among the
Gentiles.

✠. Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Now let us all with one accord
To Christ our Captain anthems raise,
Whose conquering cross our life restored,--
Let Heaven resound with songs of praise.

O, may Thy dreadful agony
With true contrition rend our breast,
And make us ever seek for Thee,
O Jesus, our Redeemer blest.

Those blissful scars which Jesus bore,
The scourging, spitting, buffeting,
To us have won for evermore
Th'eternal gifts of Christ our King.

Let not Thy Blood be shed in vain
But to our hearts its power apply.
And wash them clean from every stain,
Creator of the starry sky.

The gifts from which Thy Passion flow
Grant us, O Saviour, of Thy grace.
And, in Thy faithfulness bestow,
The Heavenly vision of Thy Face.

To Christ, the Lord of Majesty,
Betrayed and sold to set us free,
Who suffered on the cruel tree,
Be praise and honour endlessly.

Amen.

℣. He gave His cheek to him that struck Him.

℞. He was filled with reproaches.

Antiphon. God spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up
for all.

Canticle of Zachary (St. Luke 1. 68-80)

Blessed be ✠ the Lord God of Israel: because He hath visited
and wrought the redemption of His people:

And hath raised up a horn of salvation to us, in the house of His
servant, David:

As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, who are from
the beginning:

Salvation from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us:

To perform mercy to our fathers, and to remember His holy
testament,

The oath which He swore to Abraham our father, that He would
grant unto us.

That, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, we may
serve Him without fear.

In holiness and justice before Him, all the days of our life.

And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for
thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways:

To give knowledge of salvation to His people, unto the
remission of their sins:

Through the bowels of the mercy of our God, in which the
Orient from on high hath visited us:

To enlighten them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of
death: to direct our feet into the way of peace.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,

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

Antiphon. God spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up
for all.

℣. Lord, have mercy.

℟. Christ, have mercy.

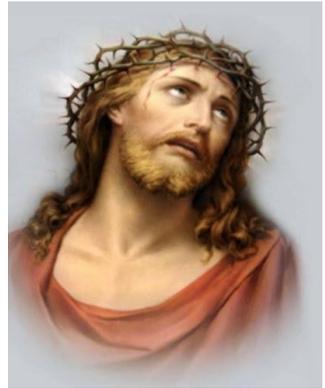
℣. Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Who, at the hour of Matins, didst will to be betrayed, captured, bound, scourged, buffeted and spit upon for the salvation of mankind: make us, we beseech Thee, to receive reproaches and injuries with joy for the glory of Thy Name, and so to keep the memory of Thy most holy Passion ever in mind, that we may be deserve to be made partakers in Thy Resurrection, Who livest and reignest, world without end.

℞. Amen.

—PRIME—



∩. Incline ✠ unto mine aid, O God.

℞. O Lord, make haste to help me.

∩. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,

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

Praise be to Thee, O Lord, King of everlasting glory.

Hymn

O Sun of Justice, Thou Whose rays,
By sinful hands, were veiled from gaze,
O Thou Who, mocked on bended knee,
Was scourged for us most piteously.

With fervent love, O Lord, we pray,
Have mercy on our souls today;
And lead us from this dark world's night
To see in Heaven Thy glorious light.

To Christ, the Lord of Majesty,
Betrayed and sold to set us free,
Who suffered on the cruel tree,
Be praise and honour endlessly.

Amen.

Antiphon. I turned not away My face from them that rebuked
Me and spat upon Me.

Psalm XLII

Judge me, O God, and distinguish my cause from the nation that
is not holy: deliver me from the unjust and deceitful man.

For Thou art God my strength: why hast Thou cast me off? and
why do I go sorrowful whilst the enemy afflicteth me?

Send forth Thy light and Thy truth: they have conducted me, and
brought me unto Thy holy hill, and into Thy tabernacles.

And I will go in to the Altar of God: to God Who giveth joy to my
youth.

To Thee, O God, my God, I will give praise upon the harp: Why
art thou sad, O my soul? And why dost Thou disquiet me?

Hope thou in God, for I will still give praise to Him: the salvation
of my countenance, and my God.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without
end. Amen.

Antiphon. I turned not away My face from them that rebuked
Me and spat upon Me.

Little Chapter (Hebrews 12. 3)

Think diligently upon Him that endured such opposition from sinners against Himself, that you be not wearied, fainting in your minds.

℞. Thanks be to God.

℣. When He was reviled, He did not revile.

℞. And when He suffered, He threatened not.

℣. Lord, have mercy.

℞. Christ, have mercy.

℣. Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Judge of all judges, Who, at the first hour of the day, wast brought before the governor Pilate for us sinners, and didst there receive a most severe sentence: we humbly beseech Thee to succour us when we shall be arraigned before Thee, that, in that Last Judgement, we may not be condemned to eternal punishment, but may be found worthy to have fellowship with Thy faithful in Heaven, Who livest and reignest, world without end.

℞. Amen.

—TIERCE—



℣. Incline ✠ unto mine aid, O God.

℞. O Lord, make haste to help me.

℣. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,

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

Praise be to Thee, O Lord, King of everlasting glory.

Hymn

Thou, Who, at this third hour, wast led
For guilty man, Thy Blood to shed,
Bearing the cross they laid on Thee,
The weight of this world's misery.

O fill our hearts with love, and bless
Our life, with fruits of holiness.
Until, when strife is o'er, we stand
Before Thee in the Heavenly land.

To Christ, the Lord of Majesty,
Betrayed and sold to set us free,
Who suffered on the cruel tree,
Be praise and honour endlessly.

Amen.

Antiphon. The Lord was led as a sheep to the slaughter,
and He opened not His mouth.

Psalm LXIII

Hear, O God, my prayer, when I make supplication to Thee:
deliver my soul from the fear of the enemy.

Thou hast protected me from the assembly of the malignant, from
the multitude of the workers of iniquity.

For they have whetted their tongues like a sword: they have bent
their bow a bitter thing, to shoot in secret the undefiled.

They will shoot at him on a sudden, and will not fear: they are resolute in wickedness.

They have talked of hiding snares. They have said: Who shall see them?

They have searched after iniquities: they have failed in their search.

Man shall come to a deep heart: and God shall be exalted.

The arrows of children are their wounds: and their tongues against them are made weak.

All that saw them were troubled: and every man was afraid.

And they declared the works of God: and understood His doings.

The just shall rejoice in the Lord, and shall hope in Him: and all the upright in heart shall be praised.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Antiphon. The Lord was led as a sheep to the slaughter,
and He opened not His mouth.

Little Chapter (I Peter 2. 21-22)

Christ suffered for us, leaving you an example that you should follow His steps, Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth.

℞. Thanks be to God.

℣. He was offered because it was His own will.

℞. And He Himself bore our iniquities.

℣. Lord, have mercy.

℞. Christ, have mercy.

℣. Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, Who, at the third hour of the day, wast led forth to the torment of the cross for the salvation of the whole world: we humbly beseech Thee that, by the power of Thy most holy Passion, Thou mayest blot out all our sins, and bring us, in Thy mercy, to the glory of Thine everlasting bliss, Who livest and reignest, world without end.

℞. Amen.

—SEXT—



℣. Incline ✠ unto mine aid, O God.

℞. O Lord, make haste to help me.

℣. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,

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

Praise be to Thee, O Lord, King of everlasting glory.

Hymn

Jesus was hanged upon the tree,
And thirsted in His agony,
In hands and feet He deigned to bear
The cruel nails that held Him there.

Honour and blessing ever be,
O Jesus crucified, to Thee,
Who, by Thy death and bitter pain,
Didst bring us exiles home again.

To Christ, the Lord of Majesty,
Betrayed and sold to set us free,
Who suffered on the cruel tree,
Be praise and honour endlessly.

Amen.

Antiphon. They put over His Head His cause, written, Jesus
of Nazareth, King of the Jews.

Psalm CXV

I have believed: therefore, have I spoken; but I have been humbled
exceedingly.

I said in my excess: Every man is a liar.

What shall I render to the Lord: for all the things that He hath
rendered to me?

I will take the chalice of salvation: and I will call upon the name
of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord before all His people: precious in
the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

O Lord, for I am Thy servant: I am Thy servant, and the son of
Thy handmaid.

Thou hast broken my bonds: I will sacrifice to Thee the sacrifice
of praise, and I will call upon the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord in the sight of all His people: in
the courts of the house of the Lord, in the midst of thee, O
Jerusalem.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without
end. Amen.

Antiphon. They put over His Head His cause, written, Jesus of
Nazareth, King of the Jews.

Little Chapter (I Peter 2. 23-24)

He delivered Himself to him that judged Him unjustly, Who His own Self bore our sins in His Body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live to justice; by Whose stripes we were healed.

℞. Thanks be to God.

℣. He was offered because it was His own will.

℞. And He Himself bore our iniquities.

℣. Lord, have mercy.

℞. Christ, have mercy.

℣. Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Who, at the sixth hour of the day, didst mount upon the gibbet of the cross and, thirsting for our salvation, didst suffer gall and vinegar to be given Thee to drink: we humbly beseech Thee to enkindle Thy fire in our hearts, and make us to thirst for the chalice of Thy Passion, Who livest and reignest, world without end.

℞. Amen.

—NONE—



℣. Incline ✠ unto mine aid, O God.

℞. O Lord, make haste to help me.

℣. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,

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

Praise be to Thee, O Lord, King of everlasting glory.

Hymn

May Christ's most blessed Passion win
Deliverance from death and sin,
Whereby, to man, the hope is given
Of everlasting joys in Heaven.

Glory to Christ, our Lord on high,
Who, with one last trumpet cry,
Gave up His soul upon the cross
And saved the world from endless loss.

To Christ, the Lord of Majesty,
Betrayed and sold to set us free,
Who suffered on the cruel tree,
Be praise and honour endlessly.

Amen.

Antiphon. When Jesus had taken the vinegar, He said: It is consummated. And bowing His Head, He gave up the ghost.

Psalm CXLI

I cried to the Lord with my voice: with my voice, I made supplications to the Lord.

In His sight, I pour out my prayer; and before Him, I declare my trouble.

When my spirit failed me, then Thou knewest my paths.
In this way wherein I walked, they have hidden a snare for me.
I looked on my right hand, and beheld, and there was no one
that would know me.

Flight hath failed me: and there is no one that hath regard to my
soul.

I cried to Thee, O Lord. I said: Thou art my hope, my portion
in the land of the living.

Attend to my supplication: for I am brought very low.

Deliver me from my persecutors: for they are stronger than I.

Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise Thy name: the
just wait for me until Thou rewardest me.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen.

Antiphon. When Jesus had taken the vinegar, He said: It is
consummated. And bowing His Head, He gave up
the ghost.

Little Chapter (Hebrews 2. 10)

It became Him for Whom are all things and by Whom are all
things, Who had brought many children into glory, to perfect
the Author of their salvation by His Passion.

℞. Thanks be to God.

℣. He hath delivered His Soul unto death.

℞. And He was reputed with the wicked.

℣. Lord, have mercy.

℞. Christ, have mercy.

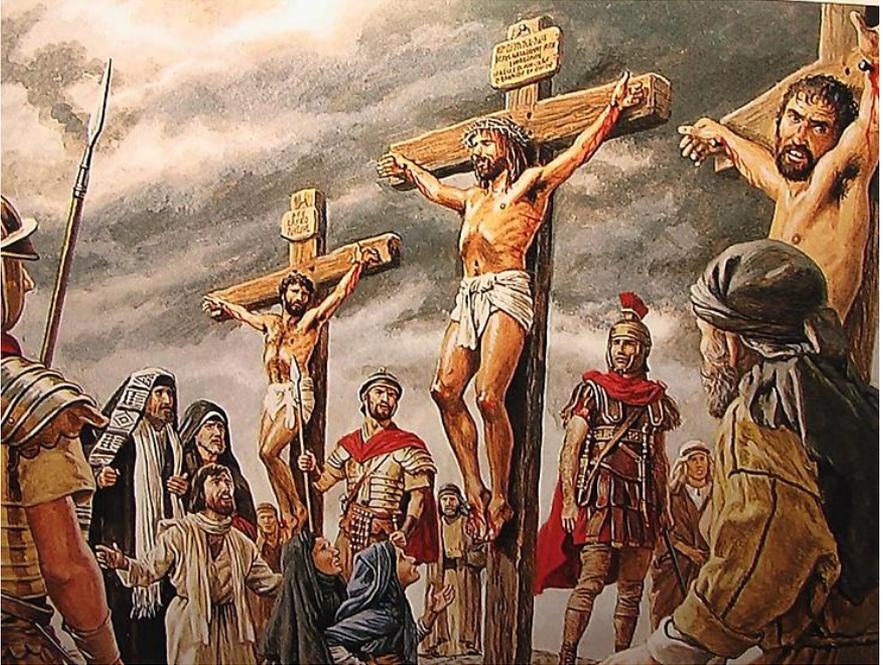
℣. Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Who, with arms outstretched on the cross and head bowed down, didst, at the ninth hour of the day, yield up Thy Spirit to God Thy Father and, with the key of Thy death, didst vouchsafe to unlock the gates of Paradise, grant to us, Thy unworthy suppliants, that, in the hour of our death, our souls, through Thy mercy, may attain to Thee Who art the true Paradise, Who livest and reignest, world without end.

℞. Amen.

—VESPERS—



∇. Incline ✕ unto mine aid, O God.

℞. O Lord, make haste to help me.

∇. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,

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

Praise be to Thee, O Lord, King of everlasting glory.

Antiphon. Thou art worthy, O Lord, to take the book and to open the seven seals thereof, because Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God in Thy Blood.

Psalm XXIX

I will extol Thee, O Lord, for Thou hast upheld me: and hast not made mine enemies to rejoice over me.

O Lord, my God, I have cried to Thee: and Thou hast healed me.

Thou hast brought forth, O Lord, my soul from Hell: Thou hast saved me from them that go down into the pit:

Sing to the Lord, O ye His saints: and give praise to the memory of His holiness.

For wrath is in His indignation: and life, in His good will.

In the evening, weeping shall have place; and, in the morning, gladness.

And, in mine abundance, I said: I shall never be moved.

O Lord, in Thy favour, Thou gavest strength to my beauty.

Thou turnest away Thy face from me, and I became troubled.

To Thee, O Lord, will I cry: and I will make supplication to my God.

What profit is there in my blood, whilst I go down to corruption?

Shall dust confess to Thee, or declare Thy truth?

The Lord hath heard, and hath had mercy on me: the Lord became my helper.

Thou hast turned for me my mourning into joy: Thou hast cut my sackcloth, and hast compassed me with goodness:

To the end that my glory may sing to Thee, and I may not regret:

O Lord my God, I will give praise to Thee forever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,

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

Antiphon. Thou art worthy, O Lord, to take the book and to open the seven seals thereof, because Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God in Thy Blood.

Little Chapter (Hebrews 2. 9)

We see Jesus, for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that, through the grace of God, He might taste death for all.

℞. Thanks be to God.

Hymn

O Thou Who, through death's agony,
For man, didst break sin's barrier down,
Bring us to find true peace in Thee,
Jesus, Who art the virgin's crown.

A bitter potion Thou didst drain
'Mid cruel scorn and suffering
Thou spotless Lamb, for sinners slain,
O Lord most High, eternal King.

To all Thy faithful, who, this day,
Thy Sacred Passion bear in mind:
Give saving health and grace to pray,
Jesus, Redeemer of mankind.

Upon the altar of the tree
Flowed forth, in streams, Thy Blood divine:
O Jesus, King of clemency,
In Whom the Father's light doth shine.

O Blood of Christ, Whose glorious might
Did strike the demon with despair:
Grant we may come in robes of white
The Lamb's great marriage feast to share.

To Christ, the Lord of Majesty,
Betrayed and sold to set us free,
Who suffered on the cruel tree,
Be praise and honour endlessly.
Amen.

℣. The chastisement of our sins was upon Him.

℞. For, by His stripes, we were healed.

Antiphon. Our Shepherd, the fountain of living water, is gone:
for He laid down His life for His sheep, and
vouchsafed to die for His flock.

The Magnificat (St. Luke 1. 46-55)

My soul ✕ doth magnify the Lord. And my spirit hath rejoiced
in God my Saviour.

Because He hath regarded the humility of His handmaid. For
behold, from henceforth, all generations shall call me
blessed.

Because He that is mighty hath done great things to me: and
holy is His name.

And His mercy is from generation unto generations, unto them
that fear Him.

He hath shown might in His arm: He hath scattered the proud
in the conceit of their heart.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted
the humble.

He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich He hath
sent empty away.

He hath received Israel His servant, being mindful of His
mercy:

As He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his seed forever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,

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

∇. Lord, have mercy.

℞. Christ, have mercy.

∇. Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Who, according to the pious belief of the faithful, didst, at the hour of Vespers, will to be taken down from the cross and laid dead in the arms of Thy mother: grant, we beseech Thee, that, laying aside the burden of our sins, we may be presented in the sight of Thy divine Majesty, Who livest and reignest, world without end.

℞. Amen.

–COMPLINE–



∇. Convert ☩ us, O God our Saviour,

℞. And turn away Thine anger from us.

∇. Incline ☩ unto mine aid, O God.

℞. O Lord, make haste to help me.

∇. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,

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

Praise be to Thee, O Lord, King of everlasting glory.

Antiphon. They shall mourn for Him as for an only son:
because the innocent Lord is slain.

Psalm LXXXVII

O Lord, the God of my salvation: I have cried before Thee in the
day, and also in the night.

Let my prayer come in before Thee: incline Thine ear to my
petition.

For my soul is filled with evils: and my life hath drawn nigh to
Hell.

I am counted among them that go down to the pit: I am become as
a man without help, free among the dead.

Like the slain sleeping in the sepulchres, whom Thou
rememberest no more: and they are cast off from Thy land.

They have laid me in the lower pit: in the dark places, and in the
shadow of death.

Thy wrath is strong over me: and all Thy waves Thou hast brought
in upon me.

Thou hast put away Thine acquaintance far from me: they have
set me an abomination to themselves.

I was delivered up, and came not forth: mine eyes languished
through poverty.

All the day I cried to Thee, O Lord: I stretched out my hands to
Thee.

Wilt Thou show wonders to the dead: or shall physicians raise to
life, and give praise to Thee?

Shall anyone in the sepulchre declare Thy mercy: and Thy truth,
in destruction?

Shall Thy wonders be known in the dark: and Thy justice, in the
land of forgetfulness?

But I, O Lord, have cried to Thee: and, in the morning, my prayer
shall prevent Thee.

Lord, why castest off my prayer: why turnest Thou away Thy
face from me?

I am poor, and in labours from my youth: and, being exalted,
have been humbled and troubled.

Thy wrath hath come upon me: and Thy terrors hath troubled me.
They have come round about me like water all the day: they
have compassed me about together.

Friend and neighbour Thou hast put far from me: and my
acquaintance, because of misery.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen.

Antiphon. They shall mourn for Him as for an only son:
because the innocent Lord is slain.

Hymn

O sinless King, Who, at the close
Of day, didst in the rock repose:
Do Thou our restless passions still
And win our hearts to do Thy will.

Lord, succour in the conflict dread
The soul for whom Thy Blood was shed;
And bring us when life's trials cease
To rest in Thine eternal peace.

To Christ, the Lord of Majesty,
Betrayed and sold to set us free,
Who suffered on the cruel tree,
Be praise and honour endlessly.

Amen.

Little Chapter (I Peter 4. 1)

Christ, having suffered in the flesh, be you also armed with the
same thought.

℞. Thanks be to God.

℣. And His place is in peace.

℞. And His abode in Sion.

Antiphon. Saviour of the world, save us, Thou Who didst redeem us by Thy Cross and Blood, succour us, we beseech Thee, O Lord our God.

The Canticle of Simeon (St. Luke 2. 29-32)

Now Thou ✠ dost dismiss Thy servant, O Lord, according to Thy word, in peace: because mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,

Which Thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples: a light to the revelation of the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Antiphon. Saviour of the world, save us, Thou Who didst redeem us by Thy Cross and Blood, succour us, we beseech Thee, O Lord our God.

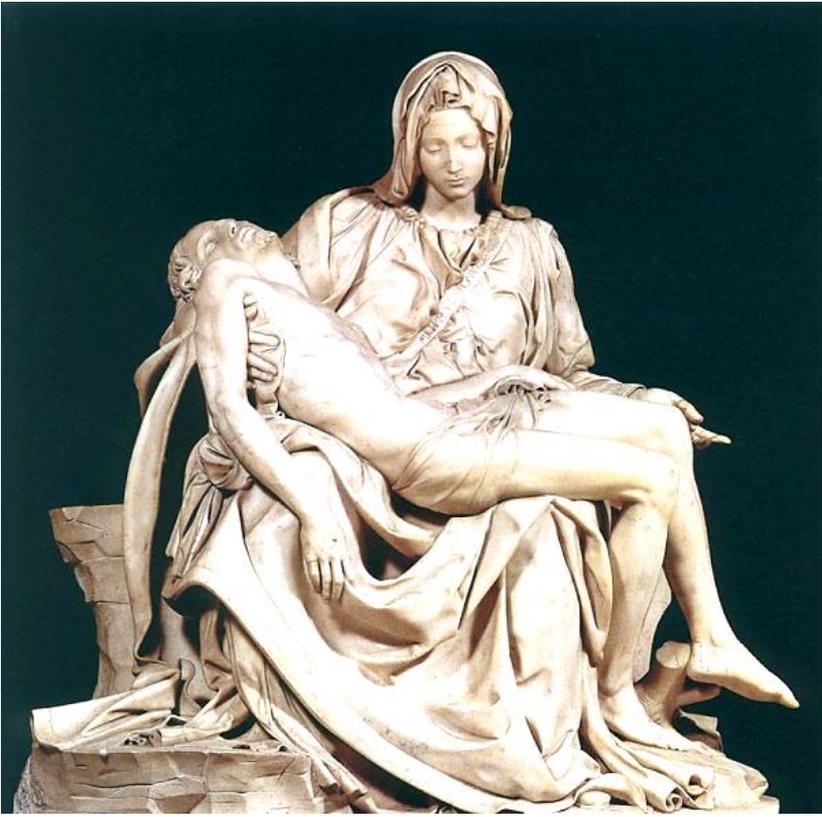
℣. Lord, have mercy.

℟. Christ, have mercy.

℣. Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Who, at the last hour of the day, didst repose in the tomb, and wast lamented by Thy sorrowful mother and the other holy women: grant, we beseech Thee, that we may mourn for Thee with all the devotion of our hearts, and, abounding with tears of compunction, we may, with ardent desire, ever meditate upon Thy most glorious Passion, Who livest and reignest, world without end. ℟. Amen.



LITANY OF THE PASSION

(for private use)

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father of Heaven, *have mercy on us.*

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, *have mercy on us.*

God the Holy Ghost, *have mercy on us.*

Holy Trinity, One God, *have mercy on us.*

Jesus, the Eternal Wisdom, *have mercy on us.*

Jesus, sold for thirty pieces of silver, *have mercy on us.*

Jesus, prostrate on the ground in prayer, *have mercy on us.*

Jesus, strengthened by an angel, &c.
Jesus, in Thine agony bathed in a bloody sweat,
Jesus, betrayed by Judas with a kiss,
Jesus, bound by the soldiers,
Jesus, forsaken by Thy disciples,
Jesus, brought before Annas and Caiphas,
Jesus, struck in the face by a servant,
Jesus, accused by false witnesses,
Jesus, declared guilty of death,
Jesus, spat upon,
Jesus, blindfolded,
Jesus, smitten on the cheek,
Jesus, thrice denied by Peter,
Jesus, despised and mocked by Herod,
Jesus, clothed in a white garment,
Jesus, rejected for Barabbas,
Jesus, torn with scourges,
Jesus, bruised for our sins,
Jesus, esteemed a leper,
Jesus, covered with a purple robe,
Jesus, crowned with thorns,
Jesus, struck with a reed upon the Head,
Jesus, demanded for crucifixion by the Jews,
Jesus, condemned to an ignominious death,
Jesus, given up to the will of Thine enemies,
Jesus, loaded with the heavy weight of the Cross,
Jesus, led like a sheep to the slaughter,
Jesus, stripped of Thy garments,
Jesus, fastened with nails to the Cross,
Jesus, reviled by the malefactors,
Jesus, promising Paradise to the penitent thief,
Jesus, commending St. John to Thy mother as her son,
Jesus, declaring Thyself forsaken by Thy Father,
Jesus, in Thy thirst given gall and vinegar to drink,
Jesus, testifying that all things written concerning Thee
were accomplished,
Jesus, commending Thy spirit into the hands of Thy Father,

Jesus, obedient even to the death of the Cross,
Jesus, laid in the sepulchre,
Jesus, rising gloriously from the dead,
Jesus, ascending into Heaven,
Jesus, our Advocate with the Father,
Jesus, sending down on Thy disciples the Holy Ghost,
the Paraclete,
Jesus, exalting Thy mother above the choirs of angels,
Jesus, Who shall come to judge the living and the dead,

Be merciful, *spare us, O Lord.*

Be merciful, *graciously hear us, O Lord.*

From all evil, *Lord Jesus, deliver us.*

From all sin, *Lord Jesus, deliver us.*

From anger, hatred and every evil will, *Lord Jesus, deliver us.*

From war, famine and pestilence, *&c.*

From all dangers of mind and body,

From everlasting death,

Through Thy most pure Conception,

Through Thy miraculous Nativity,

Through Thy humble Circumcision,

Through Thy Baptism and holy fasting,

Through Thy labours and watchings,

Through Thy cruel scourging and crowning,

Through Thy thirst and tears and nakedness,

Through Thy precious death and Cross,

Through Thy glorious Resurrection and Ascension,

Through Thy sending forth the Holy Ghost, the Paraclete,

on the day of Judgement,

We sinners beseech Thee, *hear us.*

That Thou wilt spare us, *we beseech Thee, hear us.*

That Thou wilt pardon us, *we beseech Thee, hear us.*

That Thou wilt bring us to true penance, *&c.*

That Thou wilt mercifully pour into our hearts

the grace of the Holy Ghost,

That Thou wilt defend and propagate Thy holy Church,
That Thou wilt preserve and increase all societies
 assembled in Thy Holy Name,
That Thou wilt bestow upon us true peace,
That Thou wilt give us perseverance in grace
 and in Thy holy service,
That Thou wilt deliver us from unclean thoughts,
 from the temptations of the devil and
 from everlasting damnation,
That Thou wilt unite us to the company of Thy saints,
That Thou wilt graciously hear us,

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,
 spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,
 graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,
 have mercy on us.

✠ Christ, hear us.

✠ **Christ, graciously hear us.**

✠ (*Genuflecting*) We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

✠ **Because by Thy Holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.**

Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, Who didst appoint Thine only-begotten Son the Saviour of the world and willed to be appeased by His Blood, grant that we may so venerate this Price of our salvation and, by its might, be so defended upon earth from the evils of this present life, that, in Heaven, we may rejoice in its everlasting fruit. Through Christ our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, world without end. ✠ Amen.

ARMA CHRISTI

("Weapons of Christ", or the Instruments of the Passion)



Christ as Man of Sorrows between Four Angels, engraving by Master E. S., c. 1460

In the last three centuries of the Middle Ages, it was common in devotional art to present Jesus Christ as the Man of Sorrows, His Sacred Passion being figured for meditation by depiction of physical objects and persons which had been used to accomplish it. This presentation was a useful didactic tool for ordinary laymen, who were mostly illiterate and therefore relied on picturation as a mnemonic device. The *Arma Christi* are figures of heraldry (and are therefore sometimes inscribed into a shield), as Christ is a King Whose victories over the fiend on the battlefields of Gethsemane and Calvary are brought to mind by signs. The *Arma* are also the spiritual 'attributes' of Christ in a hagiographical sense, just as a saltire is the attribute of St. Andrew and a book, the attribute of St. Thomas Aquinas; that is, they are signs which remind one of the means by which God the Father has glorified His divine Son, the King of Saints.

Many of our commonest devotions come from the High Middle Ages, a period which also engendered the greatest number of memorable saints, especially doctors of the Church, the founders of monastic and mendicant orders, and devisers of devotions and prayers (*e.g.* St. Gertrude the Great [1256-1302]). Even our greatest devotions came from this time, the Ages of Faith. These include the Rosary, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, the Stations of the Cross, and the first little offices and psalters. The Little Office of the Passion is a good example of this. The first such Office was composed by St. Francis of Assisi (1181/2-1226); the second, by St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1221-1274).

It was common in the Middle Ages to think of Jesus as a jousting knight who defeated the devil from the 'chair' or 'throne' of the cross. Mankind had been tricked by the devil, disguised as a serpent, using the fruit of the tree in Paradise; and God, disguised under the flesh of a Man, tricked and also defeated in spiritual battle the devil by means of the Tree of the Cross, an apparently dead wood which nevertheless blossomed into spiritual life (as prefigured by Aaron's rod). The fruit of the Redemption is symbolised by the blood and water which flowed out of our Lord's Sacred Side when it was pierced by the lance of the Roman soldier, Longinus; and also by the Precious Blood of Christ which flowed down the trunk of the cross to the earth, from which new life could spring forth like flowers to life everlasting.

Over the course of this period, the instruments of the Passion grew in number in devotional art until they exceeded thirty. Only occasionally would the full complement appear in any image of the Passion.

Following is a list of these attributes or arms:

1. The Holy Cross itself, which is the Tree of Life;
2. The Crown of Thorns. It sometimes appears on the Head of Christ but, often, it is affixed to the shaft of the cross above its crossing.
3. The pillar at which Christ was scourged.
4. The whip, having thirty-nine lashes.
5. The holy sponge, affixed to the end of a reed.
6. The holy lance, which the Roman soldier Longinus thrust through the Sacred Side.
7. The three nails and the four wounds in Christ's hands and feet.
8. The Vernicle: the veil of Veronica.
9. The reed used by the soldiers to mock Christ. It is His sceptre.
10. The purple robe used to mock Christ's majesty.
11. The white robe used by Herod to mock Christ's purity.
12. The *titulus crucis*, on which Christ's title was inscribed in Latin, Greek and Hebrew.
13. The Holy Grail used at the Last Supper.
14. Christ's seamless robe, symbolising the unity of the Church.
15. The dice used by the four executioners to cast lots for Christ's garments.
16. The cock who crowed when St. Peter denied Christ.
17. The vessel used to contain the vinegar and gall that was given to Christ.
18. The ladder used at the Deposition of Christ from the Cross.
19. The hammer used to drive the nails into our Lord's hands and feet.
20. The pincers used to remove the same nails at our Lord's Deposition from the Holy Cross.
21. The vessel of myrrh used to anoint our Lord's body at the sepulchre.

22. The shroud and sudarium used to cover our Lord's body and His Holy Face.
23. The sun and moon appear over the cross to signal the eclipse which occurred at the death of Christ.
24. A money-bag to represent the thirty pieces of silver that Judas received to betray Christ.
25. A spitting face to call to mind the retainers of the High Priest, who blindfolded our Blessed Lord and spat upon His sacred Face.
26. A blindfold, used to blindfold Christ at His trial before the sanhedrin.
27. The hand of Annas's unjust servant, which slapped the face of Christ.
28. Chains or cords, used to bind Christ in prison as He awaited sentence.
29. A lantern, or else torches: those used by the servants of the High Priest in the evening, when he apprehended our divine Redeemer.
30. The sword of St. Peter, used to cut off the ear of the servant of the High Priest.
31. The ear of the servant of the High Priest, which St. Peter severed.
32. Heads of Judas, Pilate, Caiphas, Annas.
33. The hands of Pilate being washed.
34. The trumpet blown to mock Christ during the Carrying of the Cross.
35. Smaller crosses of Dismas and Gestas, the two thieves crucified with Christ.
36. Hyssop plants, symbols of purification watered by the Blood of Christ.

In addition, angels often appear to hold up various arms or to catch the Precious Blood in chalices.

... and on the third day He rose again from the Dead.



**Christus Vincit,
Christus Regnat,
Christus Imperat.**

This devotion booklet has been prepared by the *Una Voce Vancouver Island Association* (U.V.V.I.A.)

Rev. 0