

The Way of the Cross

A Service for Good Friday



Friday 10 April 2020
12 noon

The Gathering

The ministers enter in silence. The congregation remains seated.

All sit or kneel for a time of silent prayer.

President Almighty Father,
 look with mercy on this your family,
 for which our Lord Jesus Christ
 was content to be betrayed
 and given up into the hands of sinners
 and to suffer death upon the cross;
 who is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 52. 13-53. 12

See, my servant shall prosper;
he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high.
Just as there were many who were astonished at him
— so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of mortals —
so he shall startle many nations;
kings shall shut their mouths because of him;
for that which had not been told them they shall see,
and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

Who has believed what we have heard?
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

He was despised and rejected by others;
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;
and as one from whom others hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him of no account.
Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases;
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.
But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have all turned to our own way,
and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.
He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.
By a perversion of justice he was taken away.
Who could have imagined his future?
For he was cut off from the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people.
They made his grave with the wicked
and his tomb with the rich,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.
Yet it was the will of the Lord to
crush him with pain.
When you make his life an offering for sin,
he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;
through him the will of the Lord shall prosper.
Out of his anguish he shall see light;
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.
The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.
Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;

because he poured out himself to death,
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

New Testament Reading

Hebrews 4.14-16; 5.7-9

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him,

The Passion Gospel

John 19. 1 - 37

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' and striking him on the face. Pilate went out again and said to them, 'Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him.' So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, 'Here is the man!' When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, 'Crucify him! Crucify him!' Pilate said to them, 'Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him.' The Jews answered him, 'We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God.'

Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever.

He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, 'Where are you from?' But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, 'Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?' Jesus answered him, 'You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me

over to you is guilty of a greater sin.’ From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, ‘If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor.’

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge’s bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, ‘Here is your King!’ They cried out, ‘Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!’ Pilate asked them, ‘Shall I crucify your King?’ The chief priests answered, ‘We have no king but the emperor.’ Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, ‘Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.’ Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, ‘Do not write, “The King of the Jews”, but, “This man said, I am King of the Jews.”’ Pilate answered, ‘What I have written I have written.’ When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, ‘Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.’ This was to fulfil what the scripture says,

‘They divided my clothes among themselves,
and for my clothing they cast lots.’

And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, ‘Woman, here is your son.’ Then he said to the disciple, ‘Here is your mother.’ And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfil the scripture), 'I am thirsty.' A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, 'It is finished.' Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe.

His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, 'None of his bones shall be broken.' And again another passage of scripture says, 'They will look on the one whom they have pierced.'

Silence is kept.

The Proclamation of the Cross

President We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
All **because by your holy cross**
 you have redeemed the world.

 This is the wood of the cross,
 on which hung the Saviour of the world.
All **Come, let us worship.**
 O Saviour of the world,
 who by your cross and precious blood have redeemed us,
All **save us and help us, we humbly pray.**

Please sit

The Ministers lead the congregation in silent prayer before the cross.

The Solemn Prayers

President God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Therefore we pray to our heavenly Father for people everywhere according to their needs.

Minister Let us pray for the Church of God throughout the world – for unity in faith, witness and service for bishops and other ministers, and those whom they serve, for our bishops and the people of this diocese, for all Christians in this place, for those to be baptized and confirmed, for those who are mocked and persecuted for their faith - that God will confirm his Church in faith, increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.

Silence is kept

Minister Lord, hear us.
All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

President Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people; that in their vocation and ministry each may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Minister Let us pray for the nations of the world and their leaders – for Elizabeth our Queen and the Parliaments of this land, for those who administer the law and all who serve in public office, for all who strive for justice and reconciliation - that by God's help the world may live in peace and freedom.

Silence is kept

Minister Lord, hear us.
All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

President Most gracious God and Father,
in whose will is our peace:
turn our hearts and the hearts of all to yourself,
that by the power of your Spirit,
the love which is founded on justice
may be established throughout the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Minister Let us pray for those who do not believe the Gospel of Christ –
for those who have not heard the message of salvation,
for the contemptuous and the scornful,
for those who are enemies of Christ
and persecute those who follow him,
for all who deny the faith of Christ crucified -
that God will open their hearts to the truth
and lead them to faith and obedience.

Silence is kept

Minister Lord, hear us.
All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

President Merciful God,
creator of all the people of the earth,
have compassion on all who do not know you,
and by the preaching of your Gospel with grace and power,
gather them into the one fold of the one Shepherd,
Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Minister Let us pray for those who suffer –
for all who are sick,
for those in darkness, doubt, despair or fear,
for prisoners, captives and refugees,
for the victims of false accusation and violence,
for those at the point of death
and those who watch beside them –
that God in his mercy will sustain them
with the knowledge of his love.

Silence is kept

Minister Lord, hear us.
All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

President Almighty and everlasting God,
the comfort of the sad, the strength of those who suffer;
hear the prayers of your children who cry out of any trouble;
and to every distressed soul grant mercy,
relief, and refreshment;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Minister Let us commend ourselves and all God's children
to his unfailing love,
and pray for the grace of a holy life,
that we may come to the fullness of eternal life
and the joy of the resurrection.

President O God of unchangeable power and eternal light,
look favourably on your whole Church,
that wonderful and sacred mystery.
By the effectual working of your providence,
carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation.
Let the world see and know
that things which were cast down are being raised up,
and things which had grown old are being made new,
and that all things are being brought to their perfection
by him through whom all things were made,
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Ministry of the Sacrament

President Lord Jesus, remember us when you come into your Kingdom,
and teach us to pray.

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

President My brothers and sisters in Christ,
last night we called to mind the last supper of our blessed Lord.
We kept our solemn watch with Jesus and today,
the day on which the body was broken,
I invite you to share in the broken body of Christ.

God's Holy Gifts for God's Holy People.

All **Jesus Christ is Holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

*The consecrated bread is from the Maundy Thursday Watch of last night, reminding us
that these three great days are all one celebration.*

Prayer

President O Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of the living God,
set your passion, cross and death
between your judgement and our souls,
now and in the hour of our death.

Grant mercy and grace to the living,
rest to the departed,
to your Church peace and concord
and to us sinners forgiveness,
and everlasting life and glory;
for, with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
you are alive and reign,
God, now and for ever.

All

Amen.

The Conclusion

Clergy remain in place. The West doors are shut, symbolising the closing of the tomb.

*The dark nails pierce him and the sky turns black
We watch him as he labours to draw breath
He takes our breath away to give it back,
Return it to it's birth through his slow death.
We hear him struggle breathing through the pain
Who once breathed out his spirit on the deep,
Who formed us when he mixed the dust with rain
And drew us into consciousness from sleep.
His spirit and his life he breathes in all
Mantles his world in his one atmosphere
And now he comes to breathe beneath the pall
Of our pollutions, draw our injured air
To cleanse it and renew. His final breath
Breathes us, and bears us through the gates of death”.*

“Stations of the Cross” by Malcolm Guite

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