



# The Liturgy of Good Friday

The central theme of any Good Friday service is the Cross of Christ. The narration of the events leading up to the crucifixion – historically taken from the Gospel of Saint John – lies at the heart of the service.

The practice is that people receive Holy Communion today, from the elements consecrated at last evening's Eucharist, which commemorated the Lord's Last Supper, proclaiming Christ's death – until he comes.

**The Good Friday Liturgy** is a continuation of the service that begun on Maundy Thursday. It is divided into four main parts:

- The hearing the Word
- The proclamation of the Cross
- The Prayers of Intercession - for the world Jesus died to save
- The Sharing of Holy Communion

There is a simplicity and austerity to the liturgy with silence playing an important part. Yet, for all the solemnity and deep emotion, there is also a quiet confidence and a hint of glory. As we wait for Easter, we do so knowing that, even as we recall Jesus' death on the cross, victory has already been won and death has been defeated.

**Before the service**

**Silence should be kept before the service.**

**At the end**

This is the second part of one service that began on Maundy Thursday and concludes at Easter. There is no formal ending with a blessing and dismissal, therefore.

**At the end of the service, please leave in silence.**

# **The Gathering**

*Silence is kept before the service.*

*All stand at the ringing of the Sacristy bell and the Ministers enter in silence.*

*When the ministers kneel, you are invited to kneel or remain seated for a time of silent prayer.*

*When the Ministers stand, please stand*

## **The Collect**

Eternal God,  
in the cross of Jesus  
we see the cost of our sin  
and the depth of your love:  
in humble hope and fear  
may we place at his feet  
all that we have and all that we are,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

*All sit for the reading from the Old Testament*

### **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.

This is the word of the Lord.

*All:* **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence is kept*

## **Psalm 22:1 – 11**

***Refrain: Be not far from me, O Lord.***

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me,  
and are so far from my salvation,  
from the words of my distress?

O my God, I cry in the daytime,  
but you do not answer;  
and by night also, but I find no rest.

Yet you are the Holy One,  
enthroned upon the praises of Israel.  
Our forebears trusted in you;  
they trusted, and you delivered them.

They cried out to you and were delivered;  
they put their trust in you and were not confounded.

***Refrain: Be not far from me, O Lord.***

But as for me, I am a worm and no man,  
scorned by all and despised by the people.

All who see me laugh me to scorn;  
they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,  
'He trusted in the Lord; let him deliver him;  
let him deliver him, if he delights in him.'

But it is you that took me out of the womb  
and laid me safe upon my mother's breast.

On you was I cast ever since I was born;  
you are my God even from my mother's womb.

Be not far from me, for trouble is near at hand  
and there is none to help.

***Refrain: Be not far from me, O Lord.***

*Silence is kept.*

*Please stand.*

### **The Solemn Reading of the Passion**

*The congregation may be seated until the verse which **mentions the arrival at Golgotha (John 19:17) at which time all stand.** A moment of silence is kept at Christ's death.*

*The term "the Jews" in St. John's Gospel whilst generally at that time a title for Judeans, applies in this context to particular individuals rather than the whole Jewish people. Insofar as we ourselves turn against Christ; we are responsible for his death.*

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
*No response is made*

John 18:1 – end of 19

*The reading of the Passion Gospel ends without a response.*

*Silence is kept.*

## **Reflective music**

*Reflective music is played*

## **The Proclamation of the Cross**

*A cross is brought into church. As it is carried in you are invited to kneel.*

*The following response is said or sung three times*

The cross of Christ

**All The cross on which the Saviour of the world was hung.**

*Once the cross is in place, you are encouraged to focus on the cross during the following devotion.*

Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow which was brought upon me, which the Lord inflicted on the day of his fierce anger.

**All Holy God, holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

O my people, O my Church, what have I done to you, or in what have I offended you? Testify against me. I led you forth from the land of Egypt, and delivered you by the waters of baptism, but you have prepared a cross for your Saviour.

**All Holy God, holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**



I led you through the desert forty years, and fed you with manna.

I brought you through tribulation and penitence, and gave you my body, the bread of heaven, but you prepared a cross for your Saviour.

**All Holy God, holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

What more could I have done for you that I have not done?  
I planted you, my chosen and fairest vineyard,  
I made you the branches of my vine;  
but when I was thirsty, you gave me vinegar to drink,  
and pierced with a spear the side of your Saviour.

**All Holy God, holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

I went before you in a pillar of cloud, and you have led me to the judgement hall of Pilate. I scourged your enemies and brought you to a land of freedom, but you have scourged, mocked and beaten me.

I gave you the water of salvation from the rock,  
but you have given me gall and left me to thirst.

**All Holy God, holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

I gave you a royal sceptre, and bestowed the keys of the kingdom, but you have given me a crown of thorns. I raised you on high with great power, but you have hanged me on the cross.

**All Holy God, holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

My peace I gave, which the world cannot give, and washed your feet as a sign of my love, but you draw the sword to strike in my name, and seek high places in my kingdom. I offered you my body and blood, but you scatter and deny and abandon me.

**All Holy God, holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

I sent the Spirit of truth to guide you, but you cast lots for my clothing.

**All Holy God, holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

I came to you as the least of your brothers and sisters; I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.

**All Holy God, holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

**All Father, hear our prayer and forgive us.  
Unstop our ears, that we may receive  
the gospel of the cross.**

**Lighten our eyes, that we may see your glory  
in the face of your Son.  
Penetrate our minds,  
that your truth may make us whole.  
Irradiate our hearts with your love,  
that we may love one another for Christ's sake.  
Father, forgive us.**

### **Acclamations**

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.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

*The president introduces the prayers*

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.

*The deacon continues with these biddings, the president saying the Collect at the end of each section.*

Let us pray for the Church of God throughout the world:  
for unity in faith, in witness and in service,  
for bishops and other ministers, and those whom they serve,  
for *David*, our bishop, and the people of this diocese,  
for all Christians in this place,  
for those to be baptized,  
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.*

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 they may serve you in  
holiness and truth to the glory of your name;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

**All Amen.**

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.*

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 peace which is founded on justice may be established throughout the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

Let us pray for God's ancient people, the Jews, the first to hear his word: for greater understanding between Christian and Jew, for the removal of our blindness and bitterness of heart, that God will grant us grace to be faithful to his covenant and to grow in the love of his name.

*Silence is kept.*

Lord, hear us.

**All Lord, graciously hear us.**

*President*

Lord God of Abraham, bless the children of your covenant, both Jew and Christian; take from us all blindness and bitterness of heart, and hasten the coming of your kingdom, when the Gentiles shall be gathered in, all Israel shall be saved, and we shall dwell together in mutual love and peace under the one God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**All Amen.**

Let us pray for those who do not believe the gospel of Christ: for those who have not heard the message of salvation, for all who have lost faith, for the contemptuous and 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.*

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.**

Let us pray for all those who suffer: for those who are deprived and oppressed, for all who are sick, for those in darkness, in doubt and in despair, in loneliness and in fear, for prisoners, captives and refugees, for the victims of false accusations and violence, for all 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.*

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.**

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

*Silence is kept.*

Lord, hear us.

**All Lord, graciously hear us.**

*President*

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light,  
look favourably on your whole Church,  
that wonderful and sacred mystery,  
and by the tranquil operation of your perpetual providence  
carry out the work of our salvation:  
and let the whole world feel and see  
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 returning to perfection  
through him from whom they took their origin,  
even Jesus Christ our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

Lord, hear us.

**All Lord, graciously hear us.**

## **The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

*We keep silence as the Altar is covered with a fair linen cloth.*

*The ministers go solemnly to the Chapel and bring the consecrated elements to the Altar.*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Standing at the foot of the cross,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught you.

**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.**

## **Giving of Communion**

Jesus is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be  
healed.**

*The president and people receive communion in silence.*

## **The Conclusion**

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.**

*All depart in silence.*



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