



## Friday 2 April 2021

- The Liturgy of the Passion comprises two services: Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, usually with a vigil (or vigils) between. That's why the Maundy Thursday series does not close with a blessing. That blessing occurs at the end of this service.
- The hymns are Youtube links. To hear the hymns please hover the mouse over each link, press Ctrl and then return.
- To see service transcripts from previous weeks, please visit the page, <http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/resources/index.htm>

## The Welcome

**HYMN 1** [Were you there?](#)

(please click on this link to hear the hymn)

In the name of the Father and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit

**All Amen**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**All And also with you.**

O Lord open our lips:

**All and our mouth shall proclaim your praise:**

Let us worship the Lord:

**All all praise to his name.**

**All Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit:**

**as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and shall be for ever.**

**Amen.**

## Prayers of preparation and penitence

God our Father, we come to you in sorrow for the sins that placed you on the Cross:

Your feet were nailed to the Cross. We confess those sins which occurred when we trespassed from the paths of love. Father, forgive us:

**All Save us and help us**

Your hands were nailed to the Cross. We confess those sins which occurred when we used our hands for self and not for your Kingdom,

Father, forgive us:

**All Save us and help us**

Your head was pierced with a crown of thorns. We confess those sins which occurred when we allowed our minds to turn inward on self rather than outward to our neighbours. Father, forgive us:

**All Save us and help us**

Your side was pierced with a lance. We confess those sins which occurred when we allowed our hearts to love the world, the flesh and the devil. Father, forgive us:

**All Save us and help us**

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May God who loved the world so much  
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour  
forgive us our sins  
and make us holy to serve him in the world,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen**

## Praise and thanksgiving

**All Loving Lord, fill us with your life-giving,  
joy-giving, peace-giving presence,  
that we may praise you now with our lips  
and all the day long with our lives,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

This Good Friday, we thank Christ for taking our sins,  
Lord of heaven:

**All we give you thanks and praise.**

This Good Friday, we thank Christ for His Cross,  
Lord of heaven:

**All we give you thanks and praise.**

This Good Friday, we thank Christ for winning our salvation,  
Lord of heaven:

**All we give you thanks and praise.**

Because of Good Friday, we thank God that we can know Him,  
Lord of heaven:

**All we give you thanks and praise.**

Because of Good Friday, we can be filled with the Holy Spirit,  
Lord of heaven:

**All we give you thanks and praise.**

Because of Good Friday, the Holy Spirit can help us become Christlike,  
Lord of heaven:

**All we give you thanks and praise.**

As Good Friday people, we thank God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—for our  
salvation,

Lord in heaven:

**All we give you thanks and praise.**

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**HYMN 2 He was pierced for our transgressions** ([click on the link for the hymn](#))

## The Ministry of the Word

### The Collect

Eternal God,  
in the cross of Jesus  
we see the cost of 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**

### First reading

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah

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,

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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. *Isaiah 52:13–53:end*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

## Second reading

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

[The Holy Spirit says] ‘This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.’ He also adds, ‘I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.’ Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. *Hebrews 10:16–25*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN 3 How deep the Father’s love for us** [\(click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

## Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

**All    Glory to you O Lord.**

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 fulfill 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 fulfill 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. *John 19:16b-30*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**All    Praise to you O Christ.**

## Sermon

Good Friday is one of the sizable conundrums of Christianity. It tells a story of such great power, yet popular culture doesn't know what to do with it.

Most Christian holidays have their religious side – Christmas has the birth of Jesus, Joseph and Mary, an Innkeeper, the shepherds and that great big shining star – but the pop-culture has added Santa Claus, Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer and countless stories that have now become much loved traditions.

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The Easter talks about grieving women walking to a tomb at sunrise, disbelieving disciples, and the glorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. But modern culture has added the Easter Bunny, colourful eggs, hatching fluffy chicks, and of course, copious amounts of chocolate. Often the pop culture story has only the thinnest connection to the religious story.

I find it interesting that when we, as Christians come to Good Friday, there is only the Son of God hanging from the nails that hold him to the cross. Pop culture doesn't know how to commercialise it: true, we do have hot cross buns which we traditionally eat on Good Friday. Hot Cross Buns with their combination of spicy, sweet and fruity flavours have long been an Easter tradition, with the pastry cross on top of the buns symbolising and reminding Christians of the cross that Jesus was killed on. But there are no special sales in the shops, no chocolates, no cards to open, and no common greeting, like 'Merry' or 'Happy.' Nobody wishes you a 'Happy, Good Friday!'

Because 'What is good about this Good Friday?' What is good about a day that someone was innocently sentenced to death and crucified? A day that we are not to celebrate; a day we are asked to abstain from all the goods of life; a day when Jesus was crucified, and a day when hope is shattered.

As we grow up, we are taught about right and wrong, taught about sin, in so many of our church traditions, we have heard that we are sinners; that we are guilty and in need of forgiveness. Indeed, the feeling of guilt can be overwhelming, each week we confess our sins:

**We have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault.**

We are taught and believe, Jesus died so that our sins could be forgiven. To reinforce that understanding, each week we repent and say sorry for those sins:

**We are truly sorry  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past.**

If that is our interpretation and understanding, that Jesus died for our sins, thanks be to God! Pop-culture has no idea how to profit from that.

There is another way to think about Good Friday. That's by setting aside fear in order to live by faith. Fear is a natural part of life. Fear of change, fear of loss, fear of death, fear of anything that's going to cause pain.

But scriptures keep saying ...

'Fear not, for I am with you;'

'Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.'

'God will calm your fears.'

'Do not be afraid or terrified;'

'God will calm your fears.'

These are spoken almost as often as Jesus saying, 'Love one another.'

So, what if, instead of looking at Jesus as dying to save us from our sins, we see Jesus as an example of trusting God and setting aside all fear?

God's messengers have always said, 'Love one another'; and 'Fear not.' So, when Jesus disregarded convention and healed people on the sabbath, when he talked freely with a woman accused of sinful behaviour, when he looked right past someone's disease, he was setting his own fear aside.

On Good Friday, Jesus did not fear the religious or imperial authorities. He did not fear the stress of being interrogated. He did not fear being tied up and whipped. He did not fear being rejected by the crowds. He did not fear being nailed to a cross. By setting aside fear, he was able to risk everything on behalf of Love.

Most of us know that Jesus died to save us from our sins. And a few of us know that in life and in death, he held faithfully to the character that God gave him. Jesus would not turn his back on Character, neither should we.

There are no greeting cards, no presents, no cartoon animals to soften the image of Jesus living out the authentic character that God gave him. This is the one holiday of the Christian Year that strikes so deep in the human heart, that to learn from it is to sample eternity. Amen.

## **A Statement of Christian Belief**

I now ask you to stand and declare the profession of Christian faith into which you were baptised, and into which you live and grow:

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
the source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

**All We believe and trust in him.**



Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**All This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**Amen.**

## **The Prayers**

Jesus, though crucified, is raised from the dead and now draws alongside us as we offer prayers to God for the world, the church and all for whom Jesus died on the cross. Today we pray for ...

Lord in your mercy

**All Hear our prayer**

We pray for the church of God on this Good Friday that all who are disciples of Jesus will be given the grace and strength they need to walk in the way of the cross, speaking words of love and truth in places of hatred and lies. Today we pray for ...

Lord in your mercy

**All Hear our prayer**

We pray for God's world on this Good Friday that the dying Jesus on the cross and the living Jesus of resurrection will draw all people to himself, the source of eternal reconciliation and salvation. Today we pray for ...

Lord in your mercy

**All Hear our prayer**

We pray for the communities in which we live, work and worship that bonds of love within families and between friends will be healed where they are broken and strengthened where they are weak. Today we pray for ...

Lord in your mercy

**All Hear our prayer**

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We pray for all those who are experiencing their own Good Friday darkness that all who suffer pain of body or mind will be held by the hands of Jesus which bear the marks of his pain and the promise of restoration and resurrection. Today we pray for ...

Lord in your mercy

**All Hear our prayer**

Heavenly Father, at the foot of the cross on which Jesus died we offer you these prayers in hope, trusting in your promise to hear us and in your power which raised Jesus from the dead. Let your grace, mercy, love and peace surround us and all those for whom we have prayed in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Today we pray for ...

Lord in your mercy

**All Hear our prayer**

We gather together all these prayers using the words that Jesus himself taught us:

**All Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

## **The Peace**

The Lord Jesus Christ said to his Apostles,  
'My peace I leave you, my peace I give you.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**All and also with you.**

**HYMN 4 Hallelujah for the Cross**

[\(click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

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## **The conclusion and dismissal**

**All**    **Eternal God,  
giver of love and life,  
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us  
into all the world  
to preach the gospel of the Kingdom.  
Confirm us in his mission,  
and help us to live the good news we proclaim,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

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 the blessing of God the Almighty,  
Father Son and Holy Spirit,  
be with us and remain with us always.

**All**    **Amen**

**HYMN 5** [Amazing grace](#)

(please click on this link to hear the hymn)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

**All**    **In the name of Christ. Amen**