

Friday 15 April 2022

Good Friday

(Service for the whole Church family)



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.

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Bible readings © The publishers of the NRSV translation.

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

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.

HYMN 1 **Halleluia!**

(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

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.

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, 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 2 [When I survey the wondrous cross](#) (click on this link to hear the hymn)
or [Jesus, remember me](#) (please 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

Today on Good Friday we celebrate or commemorate the Good Friday of our Lord's Passion, the moment when Jesus our Lord was condemned to death by Pontius Pilate at the instigation of His opponents, he was put to suffer and he was tortured, made to bear the heavy wooden cross, and eventually he was crucified on that

cross, and died. This is what we remember today, the day when our Lord Himself died for our sake.

Our experience of John's Gospel in today's reading is heightened by everything around us. There is a profound sense of loss, of absence, in the church right now. No Joyous music. No flowers. A bare altar. A bare chancel. This is the only day in the Church calendar when the Eucharist is not and should not be celebrated. We are almost in a state of suspended animation. All we can do is remember once more what was given for us.

We reflect. We relive it. We grieve.

I don't think we can ever really understand Good Friday in a logical or intellectual sense, we can't make any sense of the whole situation. But that's OK, maybe we're allowed to not understand. For example, each Sunday we say, 'Great is the *mystery* of faith...' In context, this phrase, spoken or sung, refers to 'the entire mystery of salvation through Christ's death, resurrection and ascension, which is made present in the celebration of the Eucharist' and it's true: how can an immortal God not be immortal?!

The best way to try to 'understand' these supernatural paradoxes is to re-live them—to remember in the sense of reversing any prior *dis-membering*. We put the story back together again but in a supernatural way. It's best to do so through the lens of love rather than mere incomplete fact. And we do this in love because God *is* love.

So how do we re-assemble, in love? First, we relearn the sheer sinfulness of sin: it's a refusal to accept the claims of God's love. Then we must learn the sheer holiness of God who, because of that holiness, cannot co-exist with sin. Love is like that. Finally, we re-learn the lovingness of God, who by very nature of that love will do absolutely anything to get past our sin to re-enter into relationship with us His children.

Hence the incarnation is the kickstarting of God's chosen means toward atonement. And that atonement is Good. It's *Good* Friday because it re-establishes that relationship of love.

At Easter we join Christ as we celebrate his passion, death, and resurrection. God is revealing to us a truth, a powerful truth, the single truth, Himself. Yesterday we met Christ at the Last Supper, we travelled with Him to the Garden of Gethsemane, we waited with Him and prayed with Him and tried to stay awake with Him.

Today we die with Him.

Today is a quiet day. A day to reflect on death—not only the death of Jesus but in many ways our own. We die at the end of our mortal span. But we can also die to self and to sin ... but where does the power to enact that death to self come from? So today becomes a day to reflect on our sin and what is cost for God to do away with it, to rid *us* of *our* sin. A day to reflect on where we would be if Christ was not

in our lives. Today we reflect on the great sacrifice Christ made for us. On the things in our lives that required Him to make that sacrifice for us.

Today is 'Good' because we know the end of the story, we know about Christ's Glorious Resurrection, we know about the difference Christ makes in our daily lives. We don't reach Easter without going through the Triduum -- no death = no new life. The Easter Triduum (by which we mean the time from Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday) is about the whole journey with Christ: and today as we start that three-day journey we must walk past and experience the cross.

The Cross that Christ was nailed to, the Cross that he was lifted on for all to see, the Cross he was slowly and painfully crucified on, the Cross which Jesus our saviour died on.

The last words of the Lord in John's Gospel today are, 'it is finished.' A short and simple phrase like, 'the end' at the conclusion of a film. But John and all the gospel writers make one thing perfectly clear. The last words of Jesus were not spoken in gasping resignation and defeat. They were not the words of a man dying without a cause. 'It is finished' was the signal from the Saviour that salvation is assured. All he came to do is surely done. 'It is finished!' The word in all of its parts is now fulfilled. In John's view, these words of Christ were spoken in triumph from the cross and were meant to be his signal of victory to the entire world and to everyone. 'It is finished.' Your sins are forgiven. And that's final!

Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN 3 Lamb of God [\(click on the link for the hymn\)](#)

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

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 Nearer my God to thee (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

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 Were you there?

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

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

All In the name of Christ. Amen