

## The Good Friday Liturgy



*The priest and ministers go to the altar. They genuflect and prostrate themselves, or kneel. All pray silently for a while.*

Lord,  
by the suffering of Christ your Son  
you have saved us all from the death  
we inherited from sinful Adam.  
By the law of nature we have borne  
the likeness of his manhood.  
May the sanctifying power of grace  
help us to put on the likeness of our Lord in heaven,  
who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

### FIRST PART: LITURGY OF THE WORD

#### FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

See, my servant will prosper, he shall be lifted up, exalted, rise to great heights. As the crowds were appalled on seeing him - so disfigured did he look that he seemed no longer human - so will the crowds be astonished at him, and kings stand speechless before him; for they shall see something never told and witness something never heard before: 'Who could believe what we have heard, and to whom has the power of the Lord been revealed?'

Like a sapling he grew up in front of us, like a root in arid ground. Without beauty, without majesty (we saw him), no looks to attract our eyes; a thing despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and familiar with suffering, a man to make people screen their faces; he was despised and we took no account of him. And yet ours were the sufferings he bore, ours the sorrows he carried. But we, we thought of him as someone punished, struck by God, and brought low. Yet he was pierced through for our faults, crushed for our sins. On him lies a punishment that brings us peace, and through his wounds we are healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, each taking his own way, and the Lord burdened him with the sins of all of us. Harshly dealt with, he bore it humbly, he never opened his mouth, like a lamb that is led to the slaughterhouse, like a sheep that is dumb before its shearers never opening its mouth. By force and by law he was taken; would anyone plead his cause? Yes, he was torn away from the land of the living; for our faults struck down in death. They gave him a grave with the wicked, a tomb with the rich, though he had done no wrong and there had been no perjury in his mouth. The Lord has been pleased to crush him with suffering. If he offers his life in atonement; he shall see his heirs, he shall have a long life and through him what the Lord wishes will be done.

His soul's anguish over he shall see the light and be content. By his sufferings shall my servant justify many, taking their faults on himself.

Hence I will grant whole hordes for his tribute, he shall divide the spoil with the mighty, for surrendering himself to death and letting himself be taken for a sinner, while he was bearing the faults of many and praying all the time for sinners.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Father into your hands I commend my spirit.**

In you, O Lord, I take refuge.

Let me never be put to shame.

In your justice, set me free.

Into your hands I commend my spirit.

It is you will redeem me, Lord.

**Father into your hands I commend my spirit.**

In the face of all my foes  
I am a reproach,  
an object of scorn to my neighbours  
and of fear to my friends.

**Father into your hands I commend my spirit.**

Those who see me in the street  
run far away from me.  
I am like a dead man,  
forgotten in men's hearts,  
like a thing thrown away.

**Father into your hands I commend my spirit.**

But as for me, I trust in you, Lord,  
I say: 'You are my God.'  
My life is in your hands, deliver me  
from the hands of those who hate me.

**Father into your hands I commend my spirit.**

Let your face shine on your servant.  
Save me in your love.  
Be strong, let your heart take courage,  
all who hope in the Lord.

**Father into your hands I commend my spirit.**

#### SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Since in Jesus, the Son of God, we have the supreme high priest who has gone through to the highest heaven, we must never let go of the faith that we have professed. For it is not as if we had a high priest who was incapable of feeling our weaknesses with us; but we have one who has been tempted in every way that we are, though he is without sin. Let us be confident, then, in approaching the throne of grace, that we shall have mercy from him and find grace when we are in need of help. During his life on earth, he offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Glory and praise to you, O Christ!**

**Christ was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross.**

**But God raised him high and gave him the name  
which is above all names. Glory and praise to you, O Christ!**

#### THE GOSPEL

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**Glory to you, Lord.**

Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kedron valley. There was a garden there, and he went into it with his disciples. Judas the traitor knew the place well, since Jesus had often met his disciples there, and he brought the cohort to this place together with a detachment of guards sent by the chief priests and the Pharisees, all with lanterns and torches and weapons. Knowing everything that was going to happen to him, Jesus then came forward and said, 'Who are you looking for?' They answered, '**Jesus the Nazarene.**' He said, 'I am he.' Now Judas the traitor was standing among them. When Jesus said, 'I am he', they moved back and fell to the ground. He asked them a second time, 'Who are you looking for?' They said, '**Jesus the Nazarene.**' Jesus replied, 'I have told you that I am he. If I am the one you are looking for, let these others go.' This was to fulfil the words he had spoken, 'Not one of those you gave me have I lost.'

Simon Peter, who carried a sword, drew it and wounded the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, 'Put your sword back in its scabbard; am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?'

The cohort and its captain and the Jewish guards seized Jesus and bound him. They took him first to Annas, because Annas was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had suggested to the Jews, 'It is better for one man to die for the people.'

Simon Peter, with another disciple, followed Jesus. This disciple, who was known to the high priest, went with Jesus into the high priest's palace, but Peter stayed outside the door. So the other disciple, the one known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who was keeping the door and brought Peter in. The maid on duty at the door said to Peter, 'Aren't you another of that man's disciples?' He answered, 'I am not.' Now it was cold, and the servants and guards had lit a charcoal fire and were standing there warming themselves; so Peter stood there too, warming himself with the others.

The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. Jesus answered, 'I have spoken openly for all the world to hear; I have always taught in the synagogue and in the Temple where all the Jews meet together: I have said nothing in secret. But why ask me? Ask my hearers what I taught; they know what I said.' At these words, one of the guards standing by gave Jesus a slap in the face, saying, 'Is that the way to answer the high priest?' Jesus replied, 'If there is something wrong in what I said, point it out; but if there is no offence in it, why do you strike me?' Then Annas sent him, still bound, to Caiaphas the high priest.

As Simon Peter stood there warming himself, someone said to him, 'Aren't you another of his disciples? He denied it saying, 'I am not.' One of the high priest's servants, a relation of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, said, 'Didn't I see you in the garden with him?' Again Peter denied it; and at once a cock crew.

They then led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the Praetorium. It was now morning. They did not go into the Praetorium themselves or they would be defiled and unable to eat the passover. So Pilate came outside to them and said, 'What charge do you bring against this man?' They replied, '**If he were not a criminal, we should not be handing him over to you.**' Pilate said, 'Take him yourselves, and try him by your own Law.' The Jews answered, '**We are not allowed to put a man to death.**' This was to fulfil the words Jesus had spoken indicating the way he was going to die.

So Pilate went back into the Praetorium and called Jesus to him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' he asked. Jesus replied, 'Do you ask this of your own accord, or have others spoken to you about me?' Pilate answered, 'Am I a Jew? It is your own people and the chief priests who have handed you over to me: what have you done?' Jesus replied, 'Mine is not a kingdom of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, my men would have fought to prevent my being surrendered to the Jews. But my kingdom is not of this kind.' Pilate said, 'So you are a king then?' Jesus answered, 'It is you who say it. Yes, I am a king. I was born for this, I came into the world for this; to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.' Pilate said, 'Truth? What is that?' And with that he went out again to the Jews and said, 'I find no case against him. But according to a custom of yours I should release one prisoner at the Passover; would you like me, then, to release the king of the Jews?' At this they shouted: '**Not this man, but Barabbas.**' Barabbas was a brigand.

Pilate then had Jesus taken away and scourged; and after this, the soldiers twisted some thorns into a crown and put it on his head, and dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him and saying, '**Hail, king of the Jews!**' and they slapped him in the face.

Pilate came outside again and said to them, 'Look, I am going to bring him out to you to let you see that I find no case.' Jesus then came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said, 'Here is the man.' When they saw him the chief priests and the guards shouted, '**Crucify him! Crucify him!**' Pilate said, 'Take him yourselves and crucify him: I can find no case against him.' The Jews replied '**We have a law, and according to the Law he ought to die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.**' When Pilate heard them say this his fears increased. Re-entering the Praetorium, he said to Jesus, 'Where do you come from?' But Jesus made no answer. Pilate then said to him, 'Are you refusing to speak to me? Surely you know I have power to release you and I have power to crucify you?' Jesus replied 'You would have no power over me if it had not been given you from above; that is why the one who handed me over to you has the greater guilt.'

From that moment Pilate was anxious to set him free, but the Jews shouted '**If you set him free you are no friend of Caesar's; anyone who makes himself king is defying Caesar.**' Hearing these words, Pilate had Jesus brought out, and seated himself on the chair of judgement at a place called the Pavement, in Hebrew Gabbatha. It was Passover Preparation Day, about the sixth hour. Pilate said to the Jews, 'Here is your king.' They said, '**Take him away, take him away! Crucify him!**' Pilate said, 'Do you want me to crucify your king?' The chief priests answered, '**We have no king except Caesar.**'

So in the end Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

They then took charge of Jesus, and carrying his own cross he went out of the city to the place of the skull or, as it was called in Hebrew, Golgotha, where they crucified him with two others, one on either side with Jesus in the middle. Pilate wrote out a notice and had it fixed to the cross; it ran: 'Jesus the Nazarene, King of the Jews.' This notice was read by many of the Jews, because the place where Jesus was crucified was not far from the city, and the writing was in Hebrew, Latin and Greek. So the Jewish chief priests said to Pilate, **'You should not write "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 finished crucifying Jesus they took his clothing and divided it into four shares, one for each soldier. His undergarment was seamless, woven in one piece from neck to hem; so they said to one another, **'Instead of tearing it, let's throw dice to decide who is to have it.'** In this way the words of scripture were fulfilled:

They shared out my clothing among them. They cast lots for my clothes.

This is exactly what the soldiers did.

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. Seeing his mother and the disciple he loved standing near her, Jesus said to his mother, 'Woman, this is your son.' Then to the disciple he said, 'This is your mother.' And from that moment the disciple made a place for her in his home.

After this, Jesus knew that everything had now been completed, and to fulfil the scripture perfectly he said: 'I am thirsty'.

A jar full of vinegar stood there, so putting a sponge soaked in the vinegar on a hyssop stick they held it up to his mouth. After Jesus had taken the vinegar he said, 'It is accomplished'; and bowing his head he gave up the spirit.

*All kneel and pause a moment*

It was Preparation Day, and to prevent the bodies remaining on the cross during the sabbath - since that sabbath was a day of special solemnity - the Jews asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken away. Consequently the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with him and then of the other. When they came to Jesus, they found he was already dead, and so instead of breaking his legs one of the soldiers pierced his side with a lance; and immediately there came out blood and water. This is the evidence of one who saw it - trustworthy evidence, and he knows he speaks the truth - and he gives it so that you may believe as well. Because all this happened to fulfil the words of scripture: Not one bone of his will be broken, and again, in another place scripture says: They will look on the one whom they have pierced. After this, Joseph of Arimathaea, who was a disciple of Jesus - though a secret one because he was afraid of the Jews - asked Pilate to let him remove the body of Jesus. Pilate gave permission, so they came and took it away. Nicodemus came as well - the same one who had first come to Jesus at night-time - and he brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, following the Jewish burial custom. At the place where he had been crucified there was a garden, and in this garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been buried. Since it was the Jewish Day of Preparation and the tomb was near at hand, they laid Jesus there.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## **GENERAL INTERCESSIONS**

### **1. For the Church**

Let us pray, dear friends,  
for the holy Church of God throughout  
the world,  
that God the almighty Father  
guide it and gather it together  
so that we may worship him  
in peace and tranquillity.

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God,  
you have shown your glory to all nations  
in Christ, your Son.  
Guide the work of your Church.

Help it to persevere in faith,  
proclaim your name,  
and bring your salvation to people everywhere.

## **2. For the Pope**

Let us pray  
for our Holy Father, Pope Leo  
that God who chose him to be bishop  
may give him health and strength  
to guide and govern God's holy people.  
*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God,  
you guide all things by your word,  
you govern all Christian people.  
In your love protect the Pope you have chosen for us.  
Under his leadership deepen our faith  
and make us better Christians.

## **3. For the clergy and laity of the Church**

Let us pray  
for our bishop,  
for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
for all who have a special ministry in the Church  
and for all God's people.  
*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God,  
your Spirit guides the Church  
and makes it holy.  
Listen to our prayers  
and help each of us  
in his own vocation  
to do your work more faithfully.

## **4. For those preparing for baptism**

Let us pray  
for those (among us) preparing for baptism,  
that God in his mercy  
make them responsive to his love,  
forgive their sins through the waters of new birth,  
and give them life in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God,  
you continually bless your Church with new members.  
Increase the faith and understanding  
of those (among us) preparing for baptism.  
Give them a new birth in these living waters .  
and make them members of your chosen family.

## **4. For the unity of Christians**

Let us pray  
for all our brothers and sisters  
who share our faith in Jesus Christ,  
that God may gather and keep together in one Church  
all those who seek the truth with sincerity.  
*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God,  
you keep together those you have united.  
Look kindly on all who follow Jesus your Son.

We are all consecrated to you by our common baptism.  
Make us one in the fullness of faith,  
and keep us one in the fellowship of love.

**6. For the Jewish people**

Let us pray  
for the Jewish people,  
the first to hear the word of God,  
that they may continue to grow in the love of his name  
and in faithfulness to his covenant.  
*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God,  
long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and his posterity.  
Listen to your Church as we pray  
that the people you first made your own  
may arrive at the fullness of redemption.

**7. For those who do not believe in Christ**

Let us pray  
for those who do not believe in Christ,  
that the light of the Holy Spirit  
may show them the way to salvation.  
*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God,  
enable those who do not acknowledge Christ  
to find the truth  
as they walk before you in sincerity of heart.  
Help us to grow in love for one another,  
to grasp more fully the mystery of your godhead,  
and to become more perfect witnesses of your love  
in the sight of men.

**8. For those who do not believe in God**

Let us pray  
for those who do not believe in God,  
that they may find him  
by sincerely following all that is right.  
*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God,  
you created mankind  
so that all might long to find you  
and have peace when you are found.  
Grant that, in spite of the hurtful things  
that stand in their way,  
they may all recognize in the lives of Christians  
the tokens of your love and mercy,  
and gladly acknowledge you  
as the one true God and Father of us all.

**9. For all in public office**

Let us pray  
for those who serve us in public office,  
that God may guide their minds and hearts,  
so that all men may live in true peace and freedom.  
*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God,  
you know the longings of men's hearts  
and you protect their rights.

In your goodness  
watch over those in authority,  
so that people everywhere may enjoy  
religious freedom, security, and peace.

**10. For those in special need**

Let us pray, dear friends,  
that God the almighty Father  
may heal the sick,  
comfort the dying,  
give safety to travellers,  
free those unjustly deprived of liberty,  
and rid the world of falsehood,  
hunger, and disease.

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty, ever-living God,  
you give strength to the weary  
and new courage to those who have lost heart.  
Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble  
that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need.

**SECOND PART: VENERATION OF THE CROSS**

*Priest:* This is the wood of the cross,  
on which hung the Saviour of the world.

*All:* **Come, let us worship.**

*He does this three times and after each response all kneel and venerate the cross.*

*The priest then places the cross in a suitable place and all the people approach it, making a simple genuflection or some other appropriate sign of reverence.*

*If the number of people present makes it impossible for everyone to venerate the cross individually, the priest may hold it up and invite everyone to worship in silence.*

**THIRD PART: COMMUNION**

*The Blessed Sacrament is brought from the Altar of Repose and the priest begins the Communion Rite.*

Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Saviour gave us:

**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.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,  
graciously grant peace in our days,  
that, by the help of your mercy,

we may be always free from sin  
and safe from all distress,  
as we await the blessed hope  
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory  
are yours now and for ever.**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
who said to your Apostles:  
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you;  
look not on our sins,  
but on the faith of your Church,  
and graciously grant her peace and unity  
in accordance with your will.

Who live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you always

**All: And with your spirit.**

Priest: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

**All: Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world:  
Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world:  
Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.**

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**All: Lord, I am not worthy  
that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word  
and my soul shall be healed.**

*Prayer after Communion*

Almighty and eternal God, you have restored us to life by the triumphant death and resurrection of Christ. Continue this healing work within us. May we who participate in this mystery never cease to serve you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Blessing:*

Lord, send down your abundant blessing upon your people who have devoutly recalled the death of your Son in the sure hope of the resurrection. Grant them pardon; bring them comfort. May their faith grow stronger and their eternal salvation be assured. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*All depart in silence.*

*The altar is stripped at a convenient time.*

