



Good Friday

The liturgies of Good Friday are stark and unique, as befits the day on which that which could not happen came to pass - the Son of God died on a cross.

The service is all simplicity with the bare wood of the cross and the bare church reminding us of the bare tomb. To begin the service the clergy prostrate themselves (that is literally lie on their faces) - our only response to God, and especially to God's sacrifice for us can be awe and wonder.

The cross is carried in and venerated - the tree of shame becomes our focus and the tree of glory. There is no celebration of the Eucharist today but receiving Holy Communion, consecrated last night, helps us to know God's presence as we watch and wait.

At the conclusion of the service there is nothing left but to wait, as the first disciples waited.

***Please follow the directions to stand/sit,
no announcements will be given.***

Silence is kept before the service.

THE GATHERING

As the clergy enter, all kneel for a time of silent prayer.

The Collect

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.

Amen.

We sit.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 52.13-end & 53

New Testament Reading Hebrews 4.14-16; 5.7-9

After each reading:

O Saviour of the world,

**who by your cross and precious blood have redeemed us,
save us and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.**

We stand - those who are unable to stand for the whole Passion reading are welcome to sit.

The Passion Reading John 18 & 19 (*see separate booklet*)

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE CROSS

The president leaves the sanctuary. All stand and turn towards the West End as the cross is carried in.

The following is said three times as the cross is carried into church.
Behold the wood of the Cross, on which was hung the Saviour of the world.
Come, let us worship.

After the third proclamation, the cross is laid in its place. We kneel or sit.

The Reproaches

The following hymn is sung. During this any who wish may come forward for a moment of prayer beside the cross.

Tune: Finlandia, Be Still my soul

**I give you love, and how do you repay?
When you were slaves I strove to set you free;
I led you out from under Pharaoh's yoke,
but you led out your Christ to Calvary.
My people, tell me, what is my offence?
What have I done to harm you? Answer me!**

**For forty years I was your constant guide,
I fed you with my manna from on high.
I led you out to live in hope and peace,
but you led out my only Son to die.
My people, tell me...**

**With cloud and fire I marked the desert way,
I heard your cries of rage and calmed your fear.
I opened up the sea and led you through,
but you have opened Christ with nail and spear.
My people, tell me...**

**When in distress you cried to me for food,
I sent you quails in answer to your call,
and saving water from the desert rock,
but to my Son you offered bitter gall.
My people, tell me...**

**I gave you joy when you were in despair,
with songs of hope, I set your hearts on fire;
crowned you with grace, the people of my choice,
but you have crowned my Christ with thorny briar.
*My people, tell me...***

**When you were weak, exploited and oppressed,
I heard your cry and listened to your plea.
I raised you up to honour and renown,
but you have raised me on a shameful tree.
*My people, tell me...***

Text: Michael Forster (b 1946)

Silence is kept.

We kneel or sit.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each bidding, silence is kept and then this response is used

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

At the end of the intercessions:

We glory in your cross, O Lord

and praise you for your mighty resurrection;

for by virtue of your cross

joy has come into the world.

We stand and remain standing until the Lord's Prayer.

During the hymn the Blessed Sacrament is brought from the altar of repose.

My song is love unknown,

my saviour's love for me;

love to the loveless shown

that they might lovely be:
but who am I, that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

He came from his blest throne
salvation to bestow;
but they refused, and none
the longed-for Christ would know:
this is my friend, my friend indeed,
who at my need his life did spend.

Sometimes they strew his way
and his sweet praises sing,
resounding all the day
hosannas to their king:
then 'crucify' is all their breath,
and for his death they thirst and cry.

Why, what has my Lord done
what made this rage and spite?
he made the lame to run,
and gave the blind their sight:
sweet injuries! yet they at these
Themselves displease, and 'gainst him rise.

They rise and needs will have
my dear Lord made away;
a murderer they save,
the prince of life they slay!
Yet cheerful he, to suffering goes
that he his foes, from thence, might free.

Here might I stay and sing
no story so divine;;

never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine!
This is my friend in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

**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.**

The president invites the people to receive Communion:
Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

At the distribution of Communion:
The body of Christ, broken for you. **Amen.**
The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

*During the distribution we kneel/sit and **silence** is kept.
When all who wish to have received, the Blessed Sacrament is consumed,
the vessels are cleaned and the candles are extinguished.*

THE CONCLUSION

The service concludes with the following prayer.

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.

Amen.

All leave in silence.

**The church remains open
until 5pm for silent prayer.**

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