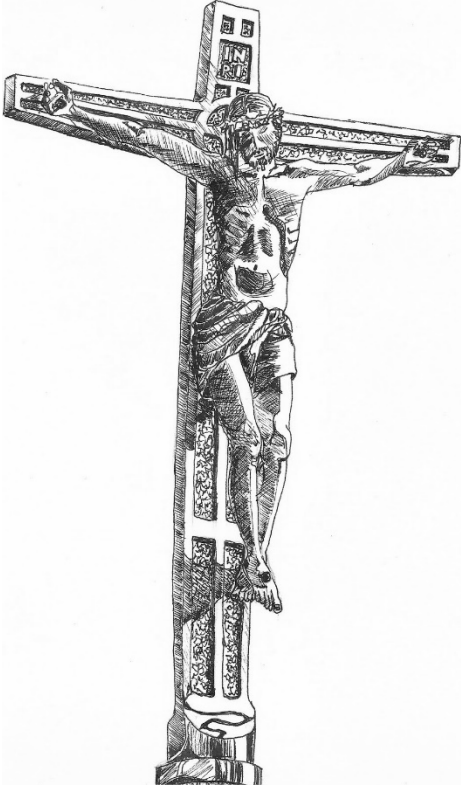


The Liturgy of the Lord's Death

On Good Friday



We welcome you to the Church of the Ascension and to this service. We hope this commemoration of our Lord's death is a meaningful part of your observance of Holy Week and Easter.

Good Friday is the second day of the "Great Three Days" (in Latin, *Triduum sacrum*), and it is the most somber and desolate day of the Christian calendar. The people kneel at the beginning of the liturgy. The sanctuary is completely bare. The liturgical color is black, the color of mourning and death, for Good Friday is the day when we remember Jesus' death. Good Friday reminds us that we must die with Jesus, who died for us.

The Good Friday liturgy is one of mourning, watching and waiting, and the components of the service are very ancient. The readings, especially the Passion; the Solemn Prayers; the veneration of the Cross; and the reception of Holy Communion from the consecrated Bread and Wine from the previous day were recounted in Egeria's diary. Egeria described the veneration of the Cross, which was held by the bishop for the faithful to kiss.¹ In our own day, the practice of veneration has broadened to include touching with the hand or a simple bow; but all three actions are signs of reverence and thanksgiving for our Lord's sacrifice on our behalf.

Traditionally in the Church in the West, Good Friday and Holy Saturday are the only two days on which the Eucharist (the Greek word for Thanksgiving) may not be celebrated. Only after sundown on Holy Saturday does the time become "Easter Eve" and the Eucharist is celebrated again. Yet for many centuries Christians have desired that intimacy with Jesus on Good Friday, which only the Holy Communion brings. So, the practice arose of administering Communion from the Bread and Wine that was consecrated on Maundy Thursday. This is the same Blessed Sacrament before which we kept watch last night.

Christ our victim
 whose beauty was disfigured
 and whose body torn upon the cross;
 Open wide your arms
 to embrace our tortured world,
 that we may not turn away our eyes,
 but abandon ourselves to your mercy;
 for you live and love with the Father
 and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

¹ Egeria. *Diary of a Pilgrimage*, Translated & Annotated by George E. Gingras, Ph.D., (Newman Press, New York, 1970), p. 111.

The Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Death

Presider: The Rev. Peter Doddema, *Priest* The Rev. Dr. William G. Brown, *Assisting Priest Emeritus*
Deacons: The Rev. Deacon Rebecca Saager, *Curate* The Rev. Deacon Susan Kurtz **Organist:** John Martin

All stand as the altar party enters in silence, then all kneel and join in silent prayer.

The Celebrant says: Blessed be our God

All: For ever and ever. Amen.

The Collect

The First Reading Hebrews 10:16-25

After the Reading, the Reader says: The Word of the Lord
ALL *Thanks be to God.*

The Gradual Psalm Psalm 22:1-21

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? *
and are so far from my cry
and from the words of my distress?
O my God, I cry in the daytime,
but you do not answer; *
by night as well, but I find no rest.

Yet you are the Holy One, *
enthroned upon the praises of Israel.
Our forefathers put their trust in you; *
they trusted, and you delivered them.
They cried out to you and were delivered; *
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.

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 rescue him, if he delights in him."
Yet you are he who took me out of the womb, *
and kept me safe upon my mother's breast.
I have been entrusted to you ever since I was
born; *
you were my God when I was still in my
mother's womb.

All say

Be not far from me, for trouble is near, *
and there is none to help.
Many young bulls encircle me; *
strong bulls of Bashan surround me.
They open wide their jaws at me, *
like a ravening and a roaring lion.
I am poured out like water;
all my bones are out of joint; *
my heart within my breast is melting wax.

My mouth is dried out like a pot-sherd;
my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; *
and you have laid me in the dust of the grave.
Packs of dogs close me in,
and gangs of evildoers circle around me; *
they pierce my hands and my feet;
I can count all my bones.
They stare and gloat over me; *
they divide my garments among them;
they cast lots for my clothing.

Be not far away, O Lord; *you are my strength;
hasten to help me. Save me from the sword, *
my life from the power of the dog.
Save me from the lion's mouth, *
my wretched body from the horns of wild bulls.
I will declare your Name to my brethren; *
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Read by John Martin and Clergy

In lieu of a homily, there will be a period of silent contemplation.

The Solemn Collects

BCP 277

All standing, the Deacon says to the people

Dear People of God: Our heavenly Father sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved; that all who believe in him might be delivered from the power of sin and death, and become heirs with him of everlasting life. We pray, therefore, for people everywhere according to their needs.

Let us pray for the holy catholic Church of Christ throughout the world;
For its unity in witness and service,
For all bishops and other ministers and the people whom they serve,
For Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop;
Mark, our Bishop; and all the people of this diocese,
For all Christians in this community,

Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL say That God will confirm his Church in faith, increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.

Silence

The Celebrant then says:

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Deacon says:

Let us pray for all nations and peoples of the earth, and for those in authority among them;
For Donald, the President of the United States,
For the Congress and the Supreme Court,
For the Members and Representatives of the United Nations,
For all who serve the common good,
Especially those who serve in our country's Armed Services,

Let us pray to the Lord

ALL say That by God's help they may seek justice and truth, and live in peace and concord.

Silence

The Celebrant then says:

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquility your dominion may increase, until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Deacon says:

Let us pray for all who suffer and are afflicted in body or in mind;
For the hungry and the homeless,
the destitute and the oppressed
For the sick, the wounded, and the crippled
For those in loneliness, fear, and anguish
For those who face temptation, doubt, and despair
For the sorrowful and bereaved
For prisoners and captives, and those in mortal danger

Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL say That God in his mercy will comfort and relieve them, and grant them the knowledge of his love, and stir up in us the will and patience to minister to their needs.

Silence

The Celebrant then says:

Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: Let the cry of those in misery and need come to you, that they may find your mercy present with them in all their afflictions; and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them for the sake of him who suffered for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Deacon says:

Let us pray for all who have not received the Gospel of Christ;

For those who have never heard the word of salvation,

For those who have lost their faith,

For those hardened by sin or indifference,

For the contemptuous and the scornful,

For those who are enemies of the cross of Christ and persecutors of his disciples,

For those who in the name of Christ have persecuted others,

Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL say That God will open their hearts to the truth, and lead them to faith and obedience.

Silence

The Celebrant then says:

Merciful God, Creator of all the peoples of the earth and lover of souls: Have compassion on all who do not know you as you are revealed in your Son Jesus Christ; let your Gospel be preached with grace and power to those who have not heard it; turn the hearts of those who resist it; and bring home to your fold those who have gone astray; that there may be one flock under one shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Deacon says:

Let us commit ourselves to our God, and pray for the grace of a holy life, that, with all who have departed this world and have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to God alone, we may be accounted worthy to enter into the fullness of the joy of our Lord, and receive the crown of life in the day of resurrection.

Silence

The Celebrant concludes the Solemn Collects with this prayer:

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquillity the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know 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 being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE PROCESSION AND VENERATION OF THE CROSS

BCP 281

Veneration Meditation

Herzliebster Jesu, was hast du verbrochen

Helmut Walcha

(O dearest Jesus, what law hast thou broken)

When the cross is set in place and shrouded, the Celebrant says:

Behold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the Savior of the world.

All *Come, let us worship.*

A minister will lead the congregation in the Reproaches and the Anthems of the Cross.

Anthem 1

BCP 281

Minister We glory in your cross, O Lord,

All *and praise and glorify your holy resurrection;*

for by virtue of your cross joy has come to the whole world.

Minister May God be merciful to us and bless us,

show us the light of his countenance, and come to us.

All *Let your ways be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.*

Minister Let the peoples praise you, O God;

let all the peoples praise you.

All *We glory in your cross, O Lord, and praise and glorify your holy resurrection;*

for by virtue of your cross joy has come to the whole world.

Reproaches 1

Minister I am your Creator, the Lord of the universe; I have entrusted
this world to you, but you have created the means to destroy it.

All ***My people, what wrong have I done to you?
What good have I not done for you? Listen to me.***

Minister I made you in my image, but you have degraded body and
spirit and marred the image of your God.
You have deserted me and turned your backs on me.

All ***My people, what wrong have I done you?
What good have I not done for you? Listen to me.***

Minister I filled the earth with all that you need, so that
you might serve and care for one another, as
I have cared for you; but you have cared only
to serve your own wealth and power.

All

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: "Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,". The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us." The lyrics are written below the notes.

Minister I made my children of one blood to live in families,
rejoicing in one another; but you have embittered
the races and divided the nations.

All ***My people, what wrong have I done to you?
What good have I not done for you? Listen to me.***

Minister I commanded you to love your neighbor as yourself,
to love and forgive even your enemies; but you have
made vengeance your rule and hate your guide.

All ***My people, what wrong have I done to you?
What good have I not done for you? Listen to me.***

Anthem 2

BCP 281

Minister We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
All ***Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.***

Minister If we have died with him, we shall also live with him;
if we endure, we shall also reign with him.

All ***We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.***

Reproaches 2

Minister

In the fullness of time I sent you my Son, that in him you might know me, and through him find life and peace; but you put him to death on the cross.

All



Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

All

*My people, what wrong have I done to you?
What good have I not done for you? Listen to me.*

Minister

Through the living Christ, I called you into my Church to be my servants to the world, but you have grasped at privilege and forgotten my will.

All

*My people, what wrong have I done you?
What good have I not done for you? Listen to me.*

Minister

I have given you a heavenly gift and a share in the Holy Spirit; I have given you the spiritual energies of the age to come; but you have turned away and crucified the Son of God afresh.

All

*My people, what wrong have I done you?
What good have I not done for you? Listen to me.*

Minister

I have consecrated you in the truth; I have made you to be one in the unity of the Father and the Son, by the power of the Spirit; but you have divided my Church and shrouded my truth.

All



Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

All

Turn again, my people, listen to me.

Minister

Let your bearing to one another arise out of your life in Christ Jesus. He humbled himself and in obedience accepted the death of the cross. But I have bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow and every tongue confess, Jesus Christ is Lord.

All

*Turn again, my people; listen to me. 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.*

Anthem 3

Minister O Savior of the world, who by thy cross and precious blood hast redeemed us:
All **Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.** *(Silence)*

Post Veneration O sacred head

HOLY COMMUNION *The Blessed Sacrament is brought into the church in silence.*

All kneel

Confession and Absolution

BCP 360

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

All say

**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, and the power,
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

After Communion, there is a brief silence.

Then the Celebrant says this prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray you to set your passion, cross, and death between your judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living; pardon and rest to the dead; to your holy Church peace and concord; and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; for with the Father and Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

After the altar party has departed with the Blessed Sacrament, all leave in silence.

