

# The Liturgy of Good Friday

## The Collect

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. Amen.

## Old Testament Reading

### Isaiah 53: 1-12

<sup>1</sup>Who has believed our message  
and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?  
<sup>2</sup>He grew up before him like a tender shoot,  
and like a root out of dry ground.  
He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,  
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.  
<sup>3</sup>He was despised and rejected by mankind,  
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.  
Like one from whom people hide their faces  
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.  
<sup>4</sup>Surely he took up our pain  
and bore our suffering,  
yet we considered him punished by God,  
stricken by him, and afflicted.  
<sup>5</sup>But he was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,  
and by his wounds we are healed.  
<sup>6</sup>We all, like sheep, have gone astray,  
each of us has turned to our own way;  
and the LORD has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.  
<sup>7</sup>He was oppressed and afflicted,  
yet he did not open his mouth;  
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,  
and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.  
<sup>8</sup>By oppression<sup>[d]</sup> and judgment he was taken away.  
Yet who of his generation protested?  
For he was cut off from the land of the living;  
for the transgression of my people he was punished.<sup>[e]</sup>  
<sup>9</sup>He was assigned a grave with the wicked,  
and with the rich in his death,  
though he had done no violence,  
nor was any deceit in his mouth.  
<sup>10</sup>Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer,  
and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin,  
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,  
and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.  
<sup>11</sup>After he has suffered,  
he will see the light of life and be satisfied;  
by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many,  
and he will bear their iniquities.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,  
and he will divide the spoils with the strong,  
because he poured out his life unto death,  
and was numbered with the transgressors.  
For he bore the sin of many,  
and made intercession for the transgressors.

***Please take some time to reflect in silence on this reading***

### **Psalm 22**

<sup>1</sup>My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?  
Why are you so far from saving me,  
so far from my cries of anguish?  
<sup>2</sup>My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,  
by night, but I find no rest.  
<sup>3</sup>Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One;  
you are the one Israel praises.  
<sup>4</sup>In you our ancestors put their trust;  
they trusted and you delivered them.  
<sup>5</sup>To you they cried out and were saved;  
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.  
<sup>6</sup>But I am a worm and not a man,  
scorned by everyone, despised by the people.  
<sup>7</sup>All who see me mock me;  
they hurl insults, shaking their heads.  
<sup>8</sup>“He trusts in the LORD,” they say,  
“let the LORD rescue him.  
Let him deliver him,  
since he delights in him.”  
<sup>9</sup>Yet you brought me out of the womb;  
you made me trust in you, even at my mother’s breast.  
<sup>10</sup>From birth I was cast on you;  
from my mother’s womb you have been my God.  
<sup>11</sup>Do not be far from me,  
for trouble is near  
and there is no one to help.

***Please take some time to reflect in silence on this reading***

### **The Passion Reading**

**Mark 15:1-41**

#### ***Jesus before Pilate***

**15** Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate.  
<sup>2</sup>“Are you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate.  
“You have said so,” Jesus replied.  
<sup>3</sup>The chief priests accused him of many things. <sup>4</sup>So again Pilate asked him, “Aren’t you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of.”  
<sup>5</sup>But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.  
<sup>6</sup>Now it was the custom at the festival to release a prisoner whom the people requested. <sup>7</sup>A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. <sup>8</sup>The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did.  
<sup>9</sup>“Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate, <sup>10</sup>knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. <sup>11</sup>But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead.  
<sup>12</sup>“What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?” Pilate asked them.  
<sup>13</sup>“Crucify him!” they shouted.  
<sup>14</sup>“Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate.  
But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!”

<sup>15</sup> Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

### ***The Soldiers Mock Jesus***

<sup>16</sup> The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. <sup>17</sup> They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. <sup>18</sup> And they began to call out to him, "Hail, king of the Jews!" <sup>19</sup> Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. <sup>20</sup> And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

### ***The Crucifixion of Jesus***

<sup>21</sup> A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. <sup>22</sup> They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means "the place of the skull"). <sup>23</sup> Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. <sup>24</sup> And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.

<sup>25</sup> It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. <sup>26</sup> The written notice of the charge against him read: THE KING OF THE JEWS.

<sup>27</sup> They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>[28]</sup> <sup>29</sup> Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, <sup>30</sup> come down from the cross and save yourself!" <sup>31</sup> In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! <sup>32</sup> Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

### ***The Death of Jesus***

<sup>33</sup> At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>34</sup> And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").

<sup>35</sup> When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah."

<sup>36</sup> Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said.

<sup>37</sup> With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

<sup>38</sup> The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. <sup>39</sup> And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"

<sup>40</sup> Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome. <sup>41</sup> In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.

***Please take some time to reflect in silence on this reading***

## **Hymn**

***You might like to sing (or say) this well-known Passion hymn***

When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of Glory died;  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
Save in the death of Christ, my God;  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were an offering far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

## Prayers

- Please use this time to pray for **the world**, struggling with a virus which is destroying the norms of our society; bringing increased loneliness and suffering to many who are already vulnerable and isolated; throwing into turmoil the economic basis on which we operate; destabilising our certainties;
- a world which is suffering the effects of a climate crisis, with chaotic new weather patterns bringing drought to some, floods to others, destabilising our certainties.  
Help us to find the positives in uncertainty.
- Pray for our world in which injustice is so obvious: where some have wealth beyond anyone's needs and others are impoverished; where some have access to free health care and education, and others can barely imagine such luxury; where some can speak freely, fight for justice and a better world, but others are imprisoned if they speak out of turn or stand up for their neighbour.
- Pray for your **family, friends and neighbours** with their own joys and distresses;
- For all **who are ill** that they may find relief from pain and suffering and strength for the future;
- For all **who are bereaved**, and struggling to come to terms with loss and sorrow;
- And for yourself, whoever and wherever you are, precious to God, known to him by name and loved by him.

## The Lord's Prayer

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.

## Concluding 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