



**THE LITURGY**

**OF**

**GOOD FRIDAY**

Good Friday is the most solemn day of the Church's year. On this day, we enter into the darkness and dereliction of the cross as we contemplate the man who cried out, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'

At the same time it is also a celebration of divine love poured out. Christ's victory in the cross is not the requirement of an angry God. It is more the proof demanded by stubborn humanity of the depth of the Creator's love.

At the heart of this service stands the passion account of St John, for the cross of Jesus is, supremely, his throne, from where, 'lifted up', he reigns in glory as king. 'It is finished' he cries – not in despair, but in triumph as he accomplishes the work of salvation his Father sent him to perform.

The service attempts to capture these two aspects of Good Friday. It offers the opportunity to take time to ponder the mystery of Christ crucified. We are invited to hear the scriptures read, to keep silence, offer prayer, and enter into the meaning of the cross. The service falls into four parts:

A: The Ministry of the Word in which the cross is set forth through scripture and dramatic reading of the passion.

B: The Proclamation of the Cross enabling the worshipper to respond to the ministry of the word by an act of devotion and adoration before the cross.

C: The Solemn Intercession offered at the foot of the cross, in which the church prays for the unity of all Christians through the death of Christ, and for the healing of the whole human family for which he died.

D: A Conclusion in which we pray both 'Father forgive' and 'your kingdom come.'

# The Ministry of the Word

*An anthem may be sung.*

*The ministers enter in silence and the congregation kneels.*

*The President*

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 hand 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.**

*Everyone sits.*

**The Old Testament Lesson**

**Psalm 22**

**The New Testament Lesson**

**Hymn**

*We stand to sing our Hymn:*

*it is traditional to remain standing for the whole of the Passion Gospel if possible. However, please do sit if you need to.*

## The Passion Gospel

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*The reading of the Passion Gospel follows.*

*At the end* This is the Passion of the Lord.

*No response is made. Please sit when invited to do so.*

Sermon

*A sermon may be preached.*

## The Proclamation of the Cross

*We stand as the cross is carried into the church. We remain standing until the cross is in place at the front of the church.*

*We respond each time this is said:*

The cross of Christ

**The cross on which the Saviour of the world was hung.**

Saviour of the world, what have you done to deserve this?

And what have we done to deserve you?

Strung up between criminals, cursed and spat upon,  
you wait for death, and look for us,  
for us whose sin has crucified you.

To the mystery of the undeserved suffering,  
you bring the deeper mystery of unmerited love.

Forgive us for not knowing what we have done;  
open our eyes to what we are doing now,  
as, through wood and nails you disempower our wrong doing  
and transform us by your grace. **Amen.**

## The Reproaches

*The Reproaches are sung.*

*At the end of the Reproaches we are invited to approach the cross, kneel, pray and touch this symbol of Jesus amongst us.*

*An anthem may be sung.*

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

This is the wood of the cross, on which hung the saviour of the world. **Come let us worship.**

O Saviour of the world,  
who by your cross and precious blood have redeemed us,  
**save us and help us we humbly pray.**

Hymn

*We stand to sing our Hymn:*

*At the end of the hymn we kneel if able for our intercessions.*

## The Solemn Intercession

God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Therefore we pray to our heavenly Father for people everywhere according to their needs.

*This response is used:*

Lord hear us,  
**Lord graciously hear us.**

***At the end of the intercessions:***

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light,  
look favourably on your whole Church,  
that wonderful and sacred mystery.

By your providence, carry out in peace your plan of salvation.  
Let the whole world feel, 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 perfection by him,  
through whom all things were made,  
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Hymn**

***We stand to sing our Hymn:***

***At the end of the hymn we kneel if able to pray:***

## **The Conclusion**

Let us pray for the coming of the kingdom in the words our  
Saviour taught us:

**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.

*We remain kneeling as we sing:*

Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom.

## The Litany of Reconciliation

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.  
The hatred which divides nation from nation,  
race from race, class from class. **Father, forgive.**

*Silence is kept.*

The covetous desires of people and nations  
to possess what is not their own. **Father, forgive.**

*Silence is kept.*

The greed which exploits the work of human hands  
and lays waste the earth. **Father, forgive.**

*Silence is kept.*

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others.  
**Father, forgive.**

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned,  
the homeless, and the refugee. **Father, forgive.**

*Silence is kept.*

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women,  
and children. **Father, forgive.**

*Silence is kept.*

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God.  
**Father, forgive.**

***Silence is kept.***

Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another,  
as God in Christ forgave you.

***The concluding prayer is said by the President***

Most merciful God,  
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ  
delivered and saved us all,  
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross,  
we may triumph in the power of his victory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***The service ends in silence.***

***Thank you for being with us today. You are warmly invited to  
join us again on for one of our Easter Day services.***

Acknowledgements:

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