



Good Friday 2020

Katrina's Copy

*St Matthew's Anglican Church, Guildford
Recorded Service April 2020*

SOLEMN LITURGY OF THE PASSION AND DEATH OF THE LORD

Almighty God, look with mercy on us, for whom Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and to be given into the hands of sinners and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

You may like to pause at this point to sing along to or listen to a hymn (as suggestion if you have it at home is: **I Will Sing the Wondrous Story.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

The Old Testament Reading from Isaiah, chapter 52 beginning at verse 13

52 ¹³ See, my servant will act wisely; he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted. ¹⁴ Just as there were many who were appalled at him— his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being and his form marred beyond human likeness—
¹⁵ so he will sprinkle many nations, and kings will shut their mouths because of him. For what they were not told, they will see, and what they have not heard, they will understand.

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The New Testament Reading:

The New Testament reading is Hebrews Chapter 10 beginning at verse 16

¹⁶ “This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord.

I will put my laws in their hearts,
and I will write them on their minds.”

¹⁷ Then he adds:

“Their sins and lawless acts
I will remember no more.”

¹⁸ And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary.

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hear the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke chapter 22 beginning at verse 39 – chapter 23 verse 55

³⁹ Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. ⁴⁰ On reaching the place, he said to them, “Pray that you will not fall into temptation.” ⁴¹ He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, ⁴² “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” ⁴³ An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. ⁴⁴ And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

⁴⁵ When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. ⁴⁶ “Why are you sleeping?” he asked them. “Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.”

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, ⁴⁸ but Jesus asked him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

⁴⁹ When Jesus’ followers saw what was going to happen, they said, “Lord, should we strike with our swords?” ⁵⁰ And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

⁵¹ But Jesus answered, “No more of this!” And he touched the man’s ear and healed him.

⁵² Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? ⁵³ Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns.”

⁵⁴ Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. ⁵⁵ And when some there had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them. ⁵⁶ A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, “This man was with him.”

⁵⁷ But he denied it. “Woman, I don’t know him,” he said.

⁵⁸ A little later someone else saw him and said, “You also are one of them.”

“Man, I am not!” Peter replied.

⁵⁹ About an hour later another asserted, “Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean.”

⁶⁰ Peter replied, “Man, I don’t know what you’re talking about!” Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹ The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times.” ⁶² And he went outside and wept bitterly.

⁶³ The men who were guarding Jesus began mocking and beating him.

⁶⁴ They blindfolded him and demanded, “Prophecy! Who hit you?” ⁶⁵ And they said many other insulting things to him.

⁶⁶ At daybreak the council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and the teachers of the law, met together, and Jesus was led before them.

⁶⁷ “If you are the Messiah,” they said, “tell us.”

Jesus answered, “If I tell you, you will not believe me,⁶⁸ and if I asked you, you would not answer.⁶⁹ But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God.”

⁷⁰ They all asked, “Are you then the Son of God?”

He replied, “You say that I am.”

⁷¹ Then they said, “Why do we need any more testimony? We have heard it from his own lips.”

Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate.² And they began to accuse him, saying, “We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Messiah, a king.”

³ So Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

“You have said so,” Jesus replied.

⁴ Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, “I find no basis for a charge against this man.”

⁵ But they insisted, “He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here.”

⁶ On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean.⁷ When he learned that Jesus was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

⁸ When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform a sign of some sort.⁹ He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer.¹⁰ The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him.¹¹ Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate.¹² That day Herod and Pilate became friends—before this they had been enemies.

¹³ Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people,¹⁴ and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion.

I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. ¹⁵ Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. ¹⁶ Therefore, I will punish him and then release him.” ^[17]

¹⁸ But the whole crowd shouted, “Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!” ¹⁹ (Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.)

²⁰ Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. ²¹ But they kept shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

²² For the third time he spoke to them: “Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore, I will have him punished and then release him.”

²³ But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed. ²⁴ So Pilate decided to grant their demand. ²⁵ He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will.

²⁶ As the soldiers led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷ A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him.

²⁸ Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹ For the time will come when you will say, ‘Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ ³⁰ Then

“they will say to the mountains, “Fall on us!”
and to the hills, “Cover us!””

³¹ For if people do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

³² Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. ³³ When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left.

³⁴ Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

³⁵ The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.”

³⁶ The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar ³⁷ and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”

³⁸ There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

³⁹ One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

⁴⁰ But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹ We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

⁴³ Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

⁴⁴ It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵ for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last.

⁴⁷ The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, “Surely this was a righteous man.” ⁴⁸ When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. ⁴⁹ But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

⁵⁰ Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, ⁵¹ who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea, and he himself was waiting for the kingdom of God. ⁵² Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus’ body. ⁵³ Then he

took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid. ⁵⁴ It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin.

⁵⁵ The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. ⁵⁶ Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

THE SERMON

Today is Good Friday, a time of reflection and great and day when we remember with great sadness the suffering that Jesus went through for us.

One of the challenges of being isolated as we are at the moment, is that when we hear or recall sad or disturbing news we may not have our friends and/or family with us to encourage us or to give us a hug.

Perhaps for you today is one of those days as we reflect on how Jesus was treated by the human race. Even though today we are reminded of the death of Jesus, we also know that we are never alone because His Spirit is always with us, the comforter, the God of grace and mercy.

What happened 2000 years ago was horrendous, a cruel, painful, and utterly shameful execution. Paul the apostle says it best when he holds up the horror of the actual cross, *"We preach Christ crucified."*

You may recall the movie the Passion of Christ, when the movie first came out there was some controversy regarding who killed the Son of God. Some say the Jews.

Some say the Romans. But if you read the Bible, I think you can only come to one conclusion. It was all of us, our sin, that is the very reason Jesus came to live among us; to save us from ourselves.

And if Jesus came again today, we the people, Jew, gentile, slave or free, whatever our background or wherever we may live, Australia, Asia, Europe, would we do the same again? Would we place him on the cross of today

and reject him, because his words do not go along with what the world teaches.

Christ, the Son of God, comes to us and dies a real death, "*Wrapped in our Sins,*" says the Apostle Paul.

Actually, *wrapped in our sin, or bearing our sin* is not some abstract affair. The Cross and Jesus suffering, is a very real and public fact recorded in history. He was beaten, spat on, mocked as a king, crowned with thorns, tortured, forsaken (isolated from his family and friends), and in the end killed for **our** sins!

This was real event in time and history, is recorded in the bible and in other historical books of the time.

Today we still need to understand what the cross means in actual terms, to understand what Jesus has done for us. For YOU and for ME!

The death of Jesus on the Cross is horrendous and at the same time an amazing gift of love. God sent his Son to die for us, so that, by His grace and mercy, we might have the wonderful and amazing gift of eternal life with him.

In the cruelty of the cross God reveals his own innermost heart, a heart of mercy for His children.

The cross is what it costs God to remain a God of mercy. And this cross cannot and must not be simply woven into a seamless idea of our mind. Because it is a tear in the fabric of life itself. Matthew, Mark, and Luke talk about darkness at noon, "*the curtain of the temple was torn in two,*" the earth shook, and the rocks were split."

The cross is a wound that does not simply heal and leave no scar. And the cry, "*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*" Demands an answer.

And so, comes about his sacrifice. Jesus dies at our hands. But even in death he cries, "*Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.*" Forgive them – it is a powerful and incredible prayer, a call for grace and mercy!

Which has been answered...

Because Jesus Christ was crucified, because he had the audacity to forgive your sin. A forgiveness given by God You and You and You and You.

We are forgiven and set free by the power of the Cross of Christ. Praise be to God for the Power of the Cross that set us free.

Prayer:

Father, I thank you for the incredible gift you have given us in Your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. I pray that over this Easter season many will come to know you and love you as we are commanded to do. I pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen

Please feel free to pause the video to reflect or sing along as you listen to:

Were you there when they Crucified My Lord

CONFESSION

We come now to a time of confession

God shows great love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. Let us confess our sins.

**O Christ, we are stripped bare by your suffering.
You see our dreams, our fears,
and the secrets we keep even from ourselves.
Forgive all that needs to be forgiven,
heal all that needs to be healed,
awaken all the good that sleeps in us,
banish all the fears that paralyse us.
Put the power of your cross into our lives for ever,
and clothe us with hope and love.**

THE ABSOLUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. **Amen.** *1 Peter 2:24*

THE PRAYERS

God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but so that the world might be saved through him. So, let us bring the needs of the whole world to the foot of the cross of Christ.

Let us pray for the Church throughout the world, loving and gracious God guide the leaders of your church, give them wisdom especially during this time of pandemic, gather it in unity and peace.

(brief pause for silent prayer)

Heavenly Father, you have shown your glory to all nations in Christ your Son: help us to be connected at this time of isolation, thank you for technology that keeps us connected, we pray for all who do not have the opportunity to link into services, help us all to keep the faith, proclaim your Name, and bring your salvation to all people.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all God's people in their ministry and the mission of the church, for all who serve you around the world.

(pause for silent prayer)

Heavenly Father, by your Spirit enable and equip all who have opted to stay at their post, keep them safe, grant them peace and help each of them to do the work you have called them to.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who confess Christ crucified, that God will heal our divisions.

(pause for silent prayer)

Heavenly Father, in baptism you make us one in Christ: help us to persevere in faith, and make us one in love and service.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who do not know Jesus as their Saviour, and all who do not believe in God.

(pause for silent prayer)

Loving and gracious Father, draw us all closer to you that they may acknowledge you as the maker and saviour of us all, and that may know Christ's mercy and grace.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the peace of the world, for those in authority, and for all who shape our common life.

(pause for silent prayer)

Lord, you desire justice for all the earth: guide our leaders and guard all peoples in the way of righteousness, freedom and peace.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are sick, lonely in isolation, for the homeless, the hungry and the oppressed; for those in darkness and despair the dying and all in need.

(pause for silent prayer)

We praise you for all your servants whose lives have honoured Christ. Encourage us by their example, so that we may run with perseverance the race that lies before us and share with them the fullness of joy in your kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Most merciful God, we commit ourselves to you and thank you for the witness of all your saints, may we come to the fullness of eternal life, and the joy of the resurrection in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray

**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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

*You may like to sing or play a hymn, I suggest **When I Survey the Wonderful Cross** if you have a hymn book or a DVD.*

When I survey the wondrous cross

We come now to the final part of our service.

Let us pray...

Saviour of the world,
by your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us.

**Lord, we come before you, in all humility
and we thank you that you came to save and help us.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,
the story of your suffering is written on our hearts,
and the salvation of the world is in your outstretched hands.**

**Keep your victory always before our eyes,
your praise on our lips,
your peace in our lives. Amen**

PROCLAMATION OF THE CROSS

We are reminded at this time of the wood of the cross on which the Saviour of the world was hung.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, when he died darkness came over the world. Today we can give thanks that we are able to give Jesus the burdens that weigh us down, giving to him the darkness that can sometimes overcomes us!

Take a moment today to leave your burdens with Jesus at the foot of the cross. You may like to take a cross that you have in the house, perhaps an old palm cross or make a paper cross and place it in front of you, pause, do no rush, sit or kneel in close proximity to the cross, and leave your burdens with Jesus who died for you and hears you.

The Lord Bless You, keep you safe and grant you His peace. Amen