

A LITURGY FOR GOOD FRIDAY

From light to victim

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.

And so we pray

Glory be to you Almighty Father
for your limitless and pervasive love
with which we are confronted on the Cross.
We feel ashamed and unworthy to stand in your presence
and acknowledge our failure to respond
to your gracious act of sending your Son
to bring us back to you.
Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy

Glory be to you Lord Jesus Son of God
humiliated and crucified King of Kings
for your perfect obedience in going to the cross
to win us freedom from sin and death.
We feel sorrowful and contrite
at the sins which nailed you there
and ask you to forgive and restore us
to the path which leads to eternal life.
Christ have mercy.
Christ have mercy.

Glory be to you Holy Spirit of God
for your persistent troubling of our conscience
and your reassurance that on the cross
love has conquered the power of evil and death.
We feel joyful that your grace has won our forgiveness
and praise you for the hope which is set before us.

Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy

Through the cross of Christ
may God have mercy on us
pardon us and set us free
that we might be strengthened in faith
and kept in eternal life.
Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Verses from Isaiah 52

See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. Just as there were many who were astonished at him – so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals – so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate. Who has believed what we have heard?

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich; although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 22. 1-11

¹ My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

² O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;
and by night, but find no rest.
³ Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
⁴ In you our ancestors trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.
⁵ To you they cried, and were saved;
in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.
⁶ But I am a worm, and not human;
scorned by others, and despised by the people.
⁷ All who see me mock at me;
they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;
⁸ “Commit your cause to the LORD; let him deliver—
let him rescue the one in whom he delights!”
⁹ Yet it was you who took me from the womb;
you kept me safe on my mother’s breast.
¹⁰ On you I was cast from my birth,
and since my mother bore me you have been my God.
¹¹ Do not be far from me,
for trouble is near
and there is no one to help.

The Passion Reading

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

John 18. 1 - 19. 37

This is the Passion of the Lord.

No response is made

Silence is kept.

The Proclamation of the Cross

The cross of Christ.

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

You are worthy, O Lamb, for you were slain,
and by your blood you ransomed for God
saints from every tribe and language and nation;
you have made them to be a kingdom and priests
serving our God.

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

To him who loves us
and has freed us from our sins by his blood,
and made us a kingdom of priests
to stand and serve before our God.

**To him who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb
be praise and honour, glory and might,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

And so we pray

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.

Let us pray for the Church of God throughout the world:
for unity in faith, in witness and in service,
for bishops and other ministers and those whom they serve,
for James our bishop, and the people of this diocese,
for all Christians in this place,
for those to be baptised,
for those who are mocked or persecuted for their faith,
that God will confirm his Church in faith,
increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.

Silence is kept.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us pray for the nations of the world and their leaders:
for Elizabeth our Queen and the Parliaments of this land,
for those who administer the law and all who serve in public office,
for all who strive for justice and reconciliation,
that by God's help the world may live in peace and freedom.

Silence is kept.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us pray for God's ancient people, the Jews, the first to hear his word;
for a greater understanding between Christian and Jew,
for the removal of our blindness and bitterness of heart,
that God will grant us grace to be faithful to his covenant
and to grow in the love of his name.

Silence is kept.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us pray for those who do not believe the gospel of Christ:
for those who have not heard the message of salvation,
for all who have lost faith,
for the contemptuous and scornful,
for those who are enemies of Christ and persecute those who follow him,
for all who deny the faith of Christ crucified,
that God will open their hearts to the truth
and lead them to faith and obedience

Silence is kept.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us pray for all those who suffer:
for those who are deprived and oppressed,
for all who are sick,
for those in darkness, in doubt and in despair, in loneliness and in fear,
for prisoners, captives and refugees,
for victims of false accusations and violence,
for all at the point of death and those who watch beside them,
that God in his mercy will sustain them
with the knowledge of his love.

Silence is kept.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us commend ourselves and all God's children to his unfailing love,
and pray for the grace of a holy life,
that, with all who have died in the peace of Christ,
we may come to the fullness of eternal life
and the joy of the resurrection.

Silence is kept.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

The President says

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light,
look favourably on your whole Church,
that wonderful and sacred mystery,
and by the tranquil operation of your perpetual providence
carry out the work of our salvation:
and let the whole world feel and see
that things which were cast down are being raised up
and things which have grown old are being made new
and that all things are returning to perfection
through him from whom they took their origin,
even Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Standing at the foot of the cross,
as our Saviour taught us, so we 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
and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
And 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.**

The Conclusion

Most merciful god,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one god, now and forever.
Amen.

The Gospel of the Burial of Christ

John 19. 38 - 42

The minister and people depart in silence