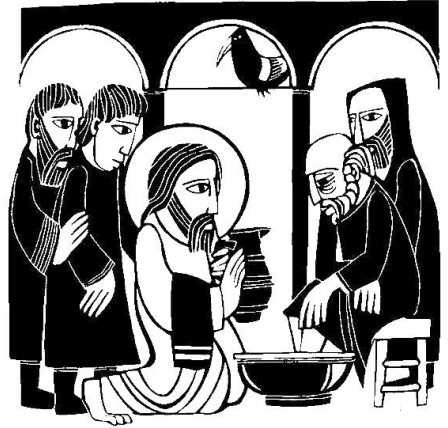


Praying at Home Holy Week 2020



HOLY WEEK





Introduction

The purpose of this booklet is to support us in our common prayer during Holy Week. The Church is responding quickly to the changing circumstances in which we find ourselves. With imagination and creativity we will find ourselves caught up in the Easter mystery in such a way as will bear fruit in due time. No Christian prays alone. Together we share the sacred work of the Church in offering praise to the Father through the Son and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The contents of this booklet are flexible. The full complement of readings, intercessions and hymns are included, but use it in such a way as works for you.

The Church of England website contains a variety of excellent resources for us to use. I encourage you to visit the page below and explore some of the ideas on how we can observe Holy Week in our homes.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-parishes/holy-week-and-easter-2020>

May God bless our offering of worship and steady our steps as we follow the Son during this solemn time of the Christian year.

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Blessing Prayer for a Prayer Space at Home

Find a corner at home, a shelf, or small bookcase or bedside cabinet that can be used as a prayer space.

You may want to find a cloth to put over it, a candle, a small vase with a few flowers from the garden. You could have pictures of loved ones far away or those who have died. A candle is a good idea and perhaps some incense sticks if you have them.

You might want to use Post-It notes or cards to assemble prayers for particular people and situations you know or are in the news.

A Bible or prayer book or a cross could be put there. If you don't have a cross you can easily make one with two twigs and some string to knot them together.

Try and find a time each day to come and pray together as a household or on your own.

When you first make your Prayer Space you could say this prayer:

Creator God,
Divine Artist of all that is beautiful,
we ask your holy blessing
on this space
that we are setting aside for prayer.

May this sacred space
be a sign for us of your divine presence
in our home.

May it be a place for us
to gather
with those we love
in sorrow and joy
in rejoicing and sadness
in anxiety and in hope.

Though in the world around there is disease, here may there be ease.
Though in the world around there is sadness, here may there be joy.
Though in the world around there is grief, here may there be hope.

May this sacred space protect our home
from all evil and plague,
from all that is not good.

We ask this in the powerful name of Jesus
who is our brother and friend. Amen.

Light a candle if you have one. Spend a few moments in silence.

You may end with the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, which 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 them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

A Simple Order for Prayer during the Day from Palm Sunday until Holy Saturday

Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

My trust is in you, O Lord.

I have said 'You are my God.'

Psalm 31.14

Praise

A hymn, song, canticle, extempore praise or

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

Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.

We glory in your cross, O Lord,
and praise and glorify your holy resurrection.
for by virtue of the cross
joy has come into the whole world.

from the Liturgy of Good Friday

The Word of God

Monday: Psalm 43

Give judgement for me, O God,
and defend my cause against an ungodly people; ♦
deliver me from the deceitful and the wicked.

For you are the God of my refuge;
why have you cast me from you, ♦
and why go I so heavily, while the enemy oppresses me?

O send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, ♦
and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling,

That I may go to the altar of God,
to the God of my joy and gladness; ♦
and on the lyre I will give thanks to you, O God my God.

Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul, ♦
and why are you so disquieted within me?

O put your trust in God; ♦
for I will yet give him thanks,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

Tuesday: Psalm 142

I cry aloud to the Lord; ♦
to the Lord I make my supplication.

I pour out my complaint before him ♦
and tell him of my trouble.

When my spirit faints within me, you know my path; ♦
in the way wherein I walk have they laid a snare for me.

I look to my right hand, and find no one who knows me; ♦
I have no place to flee to, and no one cares for my soul.

I cry out to you, O Lord, and say: ♦
'You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.

'Listen to my cry, for I am brought very low; ♦
save me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me.

'Bring my soul out of prison,
that I may give thanks to your name; ♦
when you have dealt bountifully with me,
then shall the righteous gather around me.'

Wednesday: Psalm 143

Hear my prayer, O Lord,
and in your faithfulness give ear to my supplications; ♦
answer me in your righteousness.

Enter not into judgement with your servant, ♦
for in your sight shall no one living be justified.

For the enemy has pursued me,
crushing my life to the ground, ♦
making me sit in darkness like those long dead.

My spirit faints within me; ♦
my heart within me is desolate.

I remember the time past; I muse upon all your deeds; ♦
I consider the works of your hands.

I stretch out my hands to you; ♦
my soul gasps for you like a thirsty land.

O Lord, make haste to answer me; my spirit fails me; ♦
hide not your face from me
lest I be like those who go down to the Pit.

Let me hear of your loving-kindness in the morning,
for in you I put my trust; ♦
show me the way I should walk in,
for I lift up my soul to you.

Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies, ♦
for I flee to you for refuge.

Teach me to do what pleases you, for you are my God; ♦
let your kindly spirit lead me on a level path.

Revive me, O Lord, for your name's sake; ♦
for your righteousness' sake, bring me out of trouble.

In your faithfulness, slay my enemies,
and destroy all the adversaries of my soul, ♦
for truly I am your servant.

Thursday: Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; ♦
therefore can I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures ♦
and leads me beside still waters.

He shall refresh my soul ♦
and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil; ♦
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You spread a table before me
in the presence of those who trouble me; ♦
you have anointed my head with oil
and my cup shall be full.

Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life, ♦
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Friday: Psalm 69.1-13

Save me, O God, ♦
for the waters have come up, even to my neck.

I sink in deep mire where there is no foothold; ♦
I have come into deep waters and the flood sweeps over me.

I have grown weary with crying; my throat is raw; ♦
my eyes have failed from looking so long for my God.

Those who hate me without any cause ♦
are more than the hairs of my head;

Those who would destroy me are mighty; ♦
my enemies accuse me falsely:
must I now give back what I never stole?

O God, you know my foolishness, ♦
and my faults are not hidden from you.

Let not those who hope in you
be put to shame through me, Lord God of hosts; ♦
let not those who seek you be disgraced because of me,
O God of Israel.

For your sake have I suffered reproach; ♦
shame has covered my face.

I have become a stranger to my kindred, ♦
an alien to my mother's children.

Zeal for your house has eaten me up; ♦
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

I humbled myself with fasting, ♦
but that was turned to my reproach.

I put on sackcloth also ♦
and became a byword among them.

Those who sit at the gate murmur against me, ♦
and the drunkards make songs about me.

Saturday: Psalm 130

Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord;
Lord, hear my voice; ♦
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

If you, Lord, were to mark what is done amiss, ♦
O Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you, ♦
so that you shall be feared.

I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; ♦
in his word is my hope.

My soul waits for the Lord,
more than the night watch for the morning, ♦
more than the night watch for the morning.

O Israel, wait for the Lord, ♦
for with the Lord there is mercy;

With him is plenteous redemption ♦
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

Each psalm may end with
Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.

Short readings

Monday in Holy Week

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'

Mark 8.31-35

Tuesday in Holy Week

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53.4-6

Wednesday in Holy Week

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

1 Corinthians 1.18, 22-25

Maundy Thursday

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

1 Peter 2.24, 25

Good Friday

While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person - though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Romans 5.6-8

Holy Saturday

Jesus answered Andrew and Philip, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it

bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.'

John 12.23-26

Response

Silence, study, song, or words from Scripture, such as

**Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Prayers

A time of prayer where you can pray for all those who are affected by the current situation. Pray for the world; for the Church; for our country and Government; for our doctors, nurses and emergency services; for your family, loved ones and friends; for those who are lonely or anxious; for the sick and dying; for the departed; and do not forget to pray for yourself and your own needs and concerns.

With faith and love and in union with Christ, let us offer our prayer before the throne of grace.

Have mercy on your people,
for whom your Son laid down his life: *Lord, have mercy.*

Bring healing and wholeness to people and nations,
and have pity on those torn apart by division: *Lord, have mercy.*

Strengthen all who are persecuted for your name's sake,
and deliver them from evil: *Lord, have mercy.*

Look in mercy upon all who suffer,
and hear those who cry out in pain and desolation: *Lord, have mercy.*

Bring comfort to the dying,
and gladden their hearts with the vision of your glory: *Lord, have mercy.*

Give rest to the departed and bring them,
with your saints, to glory everlasting: *Lord, have mercy.*

Let us commend the world, for which Christ died,
to the mercy and protection of God.

Open prayer may be offered and silence kept.

Either, the following prayer is said

Soul of Christ, sanctify me,
body of Christ, save me,
blood of Christ, inebriate me,
water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O good Jesus, hear me:
hide me within your wounds
and never let me be separated from you..
From the wicked enemy defend me,
in the hour of my death, call me
and bid me come to you,
so that with your saints I may praise you
for ever and ever.

Amen.

Or, the Collect of the day is said

Almighty and everlasting God,
who in your tender love towards the human race
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to take upon him our flesh
and to suffer death upon the cross:
grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility,
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
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 for ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer is said.

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us
**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,
the power, and the glory
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Conclusion

May Christ our Saviour give us peace.
Amen.

A Simple Order for Prayer during the Day in Eastertide

Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

If I climb up to heaven, you are there;

if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

Psalm 139.7

Praise

A hymn, song, canticle, extempore praise or

Yesterday I was crucified with Christ;

today I am glorified with him.

Yesterday I was dead with Christ;

today I am sharing in his resurrection.

Yesterday I was buried with him;

today I am waking with him from the sleep of death

Gregory of Nazianzus (389)

The Word of God

Psalm 114

When Israel came out of Egypt, ♦

the house of Jacob from a people of a strange tongue,

Judah became his sanctuary, ♦

Israel his dominion.

The sea saw that, and fled; ♦

Jordan was driven back.

The mountains skipped like rams, ♦

the little hills like young sheep.

What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? ♦
O Jordan, that you were driven back?

You mountains, that you skipped like rams, ♦
you little hills like young sheep?

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, ♦
at the presence of the God of Jacob,

Who turns the hard rock into a pool of water, ♦
the flint-stone into a springing well.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Short reading

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1.3-5

Response

Silence, study, song, or words from Scripture, such as

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

Matthew 5.9

Prayers

A time of prayer where you can pray for all those who are affected by the current situation. Pray for the world; for the Church; for our country and Government; for our doctors, nurses and emergency services; for your family, loved ones and friends; for those who are lonely or anxious; for the sick and dying; for the departed; and do not forget to pray for yourself and your own needs and concerns.

On this day that the Lord has made,
let us pray for the people he has redeemed.

That we may live as those who believe in the triumph of the cross:
Lord, have mercy.

That all people may receive the good news of his victory: *Lord, have mercy.*

That those born to new life in the waters of baptism
may know the power of his resurrection: *Lord, have mercy.*

That those who suffer pain and anguish
may find healing and peace in the wounds of Christ: *Lord, have mercy.*

That in the undying love of Christ
we may be united with all who have died in the faith of Christ: *Lord, have mercy.*

Let us commend the world, in which Christ rose from the dead,
to the mercy and protection of God.

Open prayer may be offered and silence kept.

Either, the following prayer is said

Christ yesterday and today,
the beginning and the end,
Alpha and Omega,
all time belongs to you,
and all ages;
to you be glory and power
through every age and for ever.

Amen.

Or, the Collect of the day is said

Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son
overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer is said.

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

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,

the power, and the glory

for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Conclusion

May Christ our Saviour give us peace.

Amen.

An Order for Night Prayer (Compline)

Preparation

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.
Amen.

Our help is in the name of the Lord
who made heaven and earth.

A period of silence for reflection on the past day may follow.

The following or other suitable words of penitence may be used

**Most merciful God,
we confess to you,
before the whole company of heaven and one another,
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed
and in what we have failed to do.
Forgive us our sins,
heal us by your Spirit
and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.**

○ God, make speed to save us.

○ Lord, make haste to help us.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.
Alleluia.**

The following or another suitable hymn may be sung

Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world, we pray
That you, with steadfast love, would keep
Your watch around us while we sleep.

From evil dreams defend our sight,
From fears and terrors of the night;
Tread underfoot our deadly foe
That we no sinful thought may know.

O Father, that we ask be done
Through Jesus Christ, your only Son;
And Holy Spirit, by whose breath
Our souls are raised to life from death.

The Word of God

One or more of the following psalms may be used.

Psalm 4

Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness; ♦
you set me at liberty when I was in trouble;
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

How long will you nobles dishonour my glory; ♦
how long will you love vain things and seek after falsehood?

But know that the Lord has shown me his marvellous kindness; ♦
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.

Stand in awe, and sin not; ♦
commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.

Offer the sacrifices of righteousness ♦
and put your trust in the Lord.

There are many that say, 'Who will show us any good?' ♦
Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon us.

You have put gladness in my heart, ♦
more than when their corn and wine and oil increase.

In peace I will lie down and sleep, ♦
for it is you Lord, only, who make me dwell in safety.

Psalm 91

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High ♦
and abides under the shadow of the Almighty,

Shall say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my stronghold, ♦
my God, in whom I put my trust.'

For he shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler ♦
and from the deadly pestilence.

He shall cover you with his wings
and you shall be safe under his feathers; ♦
his faithfulness shall be your shield and buckler.

You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, ♦
nor of the arrow that flies by day;

Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, ♦
nor of the sickness that destroys at noonday.

Though a thousand fall at your side
and ten thousand at your right hand, ♦
yet it shall not come near you.

Your eyes have only to behold ♦
to see the reward of the wicked.

Because you have made the Lord your refuge ♦
and the Most High your stronghold,

There shall no evil happen to you, ♦
neither shall any plague come near your tent.

For he shall give his angels charge over you, ♦
to keep you in all your ways.

They shall bear you in their hands, ♦
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

You shall tread upon the lion and adder; ♦
the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

Because they have set their love upon me,
therefore will I deliver them; ♦
I will lift them up, because they know my name.

They will call upon me and I will answer them; ♦
I am with them in trouble,
I will deliver them and bring them to honour.

With long life will I satisfy them ♦
and show them my salvation.

Psalm 134

Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, ♦
you that by night stand in the house of the Lord.

Lift up your hands towards the sanctuary ♦
and bless the Lord.

The Lord who made heaven and earth ♦
give you blessing out of Zion.

At the end of the psalmody, the following is said or sung

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

One of the following short lessons or another suitable passage is read

You, O Lord, are in the midst of us and we are called by your name; leave us not, O Lord our God.

Jeremiah 14.9

(or)

Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil is prowling round like a roaring lion, seeking for someone to devour. Resist him, strong in the faith.

1 Peter 5.8, 9

(or)

The servants of the Lamb shall see the face of God, whose name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night: they will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

Revelation 22.4, 5

The following responsory may be said

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.

I commend my spirit.

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Or, in Easter

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Alleluia, alleluia.

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit.

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Keep me as the apple of your eye.

Hide me under the shadow of your wings.

Gospel Cantic

The Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon) is said or sung

**Save us, O Lord, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep may rest in peace.**

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: ♦
your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation ♦
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;

A light to reveal you to the nations ♦
and the glory of your people Israel.

Luke 2.29-32

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Save us, O Lord, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep may rest in peace.**

Prayers

Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray,
and drive far from it the snares of the enemy;
may your holy angels dwell with us and guard us in peace,
and may your blessing be always upon us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Conclusion

In peace we will lie down and sleep;
for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.

Abide with us, Lord Jesus,
for the night is at hand and the day is now past.

As the night watch looks for the morning,
so do we look for you, O Christ.

[Come with the dawning of the day
and make yourself known in the breaking of the bread.]

The Lord bless us and watch over us;
the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us;
the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace. **Amen.**

Unfolding the Word on Palm Sunday



The Entry into Jerusalem, Giotto, c. 1305, Scrovegni (Arena) Chapel, Padua, Italy

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Give us the joy of your saving help
and sustain us with your life-giving Spirit.

You have called us in righteousness.
Let us respond with justice.

Eternal God, source of all blessing,
help us to worship you
with all our heart and mind and strength;
for you alone are God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

You put a new song in my mouth:
a song of praise to you, my God.
**You put a new song in my mouth:
a song of praise to you, my God.**

I waited patiently for you, Lord;
you bent down to me and heard my cry for help.
You put a new song in my mouth.

Many shall see, and stand amazed,
and put their trust in you, Lord.
You put a new song in my mouth.

I love to do your will, Lord God;
your law is deep in my heart.
You put a new song in my mouth.

I proclaimed your righteousness in the gathering of
God's people;
I did not hold back from speaking out.
You put a new song in my mouth.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
**You put a new song in my mouth:
a song of praise to you, my God.**

cf Psalm 40.1-3,9,10

HYMN

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark! all the tribes hosanna cry;
O Saviour meek, pursue your road
with palms and scattered garments strowed.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die:
O Christ, your triumphs now begin
o'er captive death and conquered sin.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
The winged squadrons of the sky
look down with sad and wond'ring eyes
to see th'approaching sacrifice.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Your last and fiercest strife is nigh;
the Father on his sapphire throne
expects his own anointed Son.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
bow your meek head to mortal pain,
then take, O God, your pow'r and reign.

Henry Hart Milman (1791-1868)

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Christ himself carried up our sins in his body to the tree,
so that, free from sins,
we might live for righteousness;
by his wounds we have been healed.

1 Peter 2.24

Let us confess our sins.

O God, you know my foolishness
and my sins are not hidden from you:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Let not the flood overwhelm me
nor the depths swallow me up;
let not the pit shut its mouth upon me:
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Hear me, O Lord, as your loving kindness is good;
turn to me as your compassion is great:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May the Father forgive us
by the death of his Son
and strengthen us
to live in the power of the Spirit
all our days.

Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and everlasting God,
who in your tender love towards the human race
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to take upon him our flesh
and to suffer death upon the cross:
grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility,
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
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 for ever.
Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

FIRST READING

Isaiah 50.4-9a

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens — awakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

PSALM 118.19-24

Open to me the gates of righteousness, ♦
that I may enter and give thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord; ♦
the righteous shall enter through it.

I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me ♦
and have become my salvation.

The stone which the builders rejected ♦
has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing, ♦
and it is marvellous in our eyes.

This is the day that the Lord has made; ♦
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

SECOND READING

Matthew 21.1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.' This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, 'Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?' The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

MEDITATION

We must get ready then. Our journey requires a rejuvenated faith. We must set high standards. We must rely on the gospel to guide us. It will help us to follow Christ and grow better acquainted with him so we are prepared to live with Jesus in his heavenly kingdom.

from the Rule of St Benedict

Where does our faith need rejuvenation today? How will we let the gospel guide us?

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God, but made himself nothing. Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness.

He humbled himself and was obedient to death, even the death of the cross.

Therefore God has raised him on high, and given him the name above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

HYMN

Glory be to Jesus
who, in bitter pains,
poured for me his life-blood
from his sacred veins.

Grace and life eternal
in that blood I find:
blest be his compassion,
infinitely kind.

Blest, through endless ages,
be the precious stream
which, from endless torments,
did the world redeem.

Abel's blood for vengeance
pleaded to the skies,
but the blood of Jesus
for our pardon cries.

Oft as it is sprinkled
on our guilty hearts
Satan in confusion
terror-struck departs.

Oft as earth exulting
wafts its praise on high,
angel-hosts rejoicing
make their glad reply.

Lift ye then your voices;
swell the mighty flood;
louder still and louder
praise the precious blood.

C18th Italian

trans. Edward Caswall (1814-1878)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We stand with Christ in his suffering.

For forgiveness for the many times we have denied Jesus,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For grace to seek out those habits of sin which mean
spiritual death,
and by prayer and self-discipline to overcome them,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Christian people,
that through the suffering of disunity
there may grow a rich union in Christ,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who make laws, interpret them, and administer them,
that our common life may be ordered in justice and mercy,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who still make Jerusalem a battleground,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who have the courage and honesty
to work openly for justice and peace,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those in the darkness and agony of isolation,
that they may find support and encouragement,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who, weighed down with hardship, failure, or sorrow,
feel that God is far from them,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who are tempted to give up the way of the cross,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we, with those who have died in faith,
may find mercy in the day of Christ,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

We offer our own prayers in silence.

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

COLLECT

God of steadfast love, light of the blind and liberator of the oppressed,
we see your holy purpose in the tender compassion of Jesus,
who calls us into new and living friendship with you:

May we who take shelter in the shadow of your wings
be filled with the grace of his tender caring;

may we who stumble in selfish darkness see your glory in the light of
his self-giving; we ask this through him who suffering is victorious,
Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Standing at the foot of the cross,
let us pray as our Saviour taught us:

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

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

When circumstances are such that we cannot share in the Eucharist in person, we can still make an Act of Spiritual Communion, in which we express our faith in Christ and in His Presence in the Eucharist, and we ask Him to unite Himself with us.

**Lord Jesus Christ,
you are the bread of life and the one true vine.
I believe that you are truly present
in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist.
I seek you. I worship and adore you.**

**Since I cannot receive you
in the eucharistic bread and wine,
I pray that you will come into my heart and soul,
that I may be united to you,
by your all-powerful and ever-present Holy Spirit.
Let me receive you, and be nourished by you.
Become for me the manna in my wilderness,
the bread of angels
for my very human journey through time,
a foretaste of the heavenly banquet,
and solace in the hour of my death.
I pray all this, trusting that you yourself are
our Life, our Peace, and our everlasting Joy. Amen.**

HYMN

He who would valiant be
'Gainst all disaster,
Let him in constancy
Follow the Master.
There's no discouragement
Shall make him once relent
His first avowed intent
To be a pilgrim.

Who so beset him round
With dismal stories,
Do but themselves confound –
His strength the more is.
No foes shall stay his might,
Though he with giants fight:
He will make good his right
To be a pilgrim.

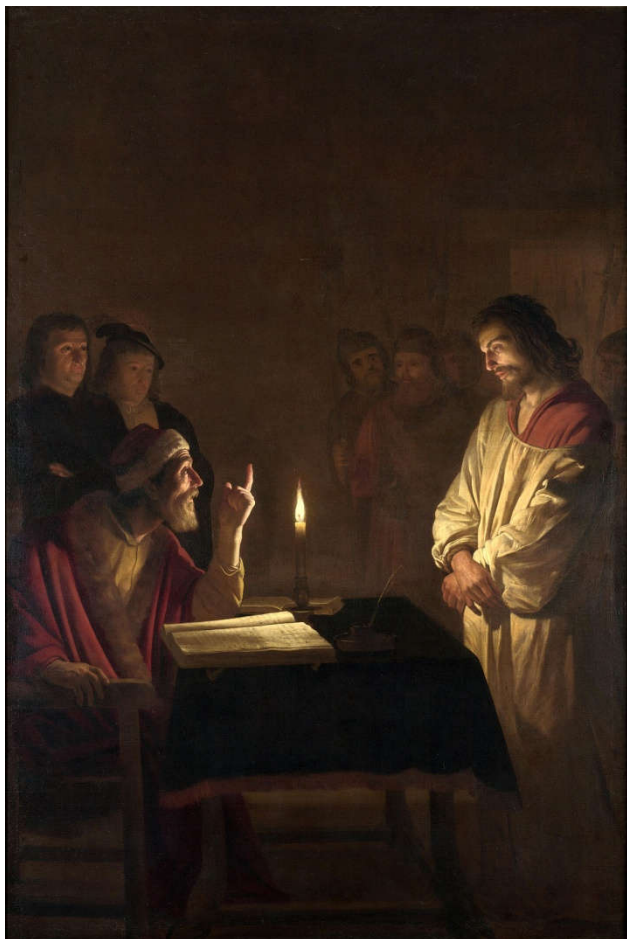
Since, Lord, thou dost defend
Us with thy Spirit,
We know we at the end
Shall life inherit.
Then fancies flee away!
I'll fear not what men say,
I'll labour night and day
To be a pilgrim.

John Bunyan (1628-88)
& *Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)*

The Conclusion

Christ be with me, Christ within me.
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me.
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

Unfolding the Word on Maundy Thursday



Christ before the High Priest, van Honthorst, 1617, National Gallery, London

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Give us the joy of your saving help
and sustain us with your life-giving Spirit.

You have called us in righteousness.
Let us respond with justice.

Eternal God, source of all blessing,
help us to worship you
with all our heart and mind and strength;
for you alone are God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Out of the depths I have called to you, Lord.
Let your ears be open to hear my voice.
My hope is in God's word.

If you recorded all our sins
who could come before you?
My hope is in God's word.

There is forgiveness with you:
therefore you shall be feared.
My hope is in God's word.

My soul is longing for the Lord,
more than those who watch for daybreak.
My hope is in God's word.

O Israel, wait for the Lord,
for with the Lord there is mercy.
My hope is in God's word.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
My hope is in God's word.
verses from Psalm 141

HYMN

An upper room did our Lord prepare
for those he loved until the end:
and his disciples still gather there,
to celebrate their risen friend.

A lasting gift Jesus gave his own:
to share his bread, his loving cup;
whatever burdens may bow us down,
he by his cross shall lift us up.

And after supper he washed their feet
for service, too, is sacrament.
In him our joy shall be made complete –
sent out to serve, as he was sent.

No end there is! We depart in peace,
he loves beyond his uttermost:
in ev'ry room in our Father's house
he will be there, as Lord and host.
Fred Pratt Green (b. 1903)

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

God shows his love for us
in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Let us then show our love for him
by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

We have kept silent when we should have spoken.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Lord, hear us and help us.

We have spoken when we should have kept silent.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Lord, hear us and help us.

We have been guilty of denial and betrayal.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Lord, hear us and help us.

May the Father forgive us
by the death of his Son
and strengthen us
to live in the power of the Spirit
all our days.
Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Eternal God,
in the sharing of a meal,
your Son established a new covenant for all people,
and in the washing of feet he showed us the dignity of service:
Grant that by the power of the Holy Spirit
these signs of our life in faith may speak again in our hearts,
feed our spirits, and refresh our bodies.
Amen.

FIRST READING

I Corinthians 11.23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

PSALM 116.1,10-end

I love the Lord,
for he has heard the voice of my supplication; ♦
because he inclined his ear to me
on the day I called to him.

How shall I repay the Lord ♦
for all the benefits he has given to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation ♦
and call upon the name of the Lord.

I will fulfil my vows to the Lord ♦
in the presence of all his people.

Precious in the sight of the Lord ♦
is the death of his faithful servants.

O Lord, I am your servant, ♦
your servant, the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.

I will offer to you a sacrifice of thanksgiving ♦
and call upon the name of the Lord.

I will fulfil my vows to the Lord ♦
in the presence of all his people,

In the courts of the house of the Lord, ♦
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

SECOND READING

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' Jesus answered, 'You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' Peter said to him, 'You will never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.' Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!' Jesus said to him, 'One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.' For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, 'Not all of you are clean.'

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, ‘Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, ‘Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, “Where I am going, you cannot come.” I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.’

MEDITATION

The soul must live in hope.

Beatrijs of Nazareth (1200-1268), Seven Manners of Living

Where do we need nourishment and hope this hour? This week?

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.**

**Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.**

**He humbled himself and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.**

**Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:**

**that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

Amen.

HYMN

Precious Lord, take my hand,
lead on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
through the storm, through the night,
lead me on to the light,
take my hand, precious Lord,
lead me on.

When my way grows drear,
precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone:
hear my cry, hear my call,
hold my hand, lest I fall,
take my hand, precious Lord,
lead me on.

When the darkness appears
and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone;
at the river I stand,
guide my feet, hold my hand,
take my hand, precious Lord,
lead me on.

Thomas A. Dorsey (1899-1993)

The Prayers

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In the power of the Spirit let us pray to the Father
through Christ the saviour of the world.

Father, on this, the night he was betrayed,
your Son Jesus Christ washed his disciples' feet.
We commit ourselves to follow his example of love and service.
Lord, hear us
and humble us.

On this night, he prayed for his disciples to be one.
We pray for the unity of your Church.
Lord, hear us
and unite us.

On this night, he prayed for those who were to believe through his
disciples' message.
We pray for the mission of your Church.
Lord, hear us
and renew our zeal.

On this night, he commanded his disciples to love,
but suffered rejection himself.
We pray for the rejected and unloved.

Lord, hear us
and fill us with your love.

On this night, he reminded his disciples
that if the world hated them it hated him first.
We pray for those who are persecuted for their faith.
Lord, hear us
and give us your peace.

On this night, he accepted the cup of death
and looked forward to the new wine of the kingdom.
We remember those who have died in the peace of Christ.
Lord, hear us
and welcome all your children into paradise.

We pray in silence.

COLLECT

God our Father, you have invited us to share in the supper
which your Son gave to his Church to proclaim his death until he
comes: may he nourish us by his presence,
and unite us in his love;
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,
let us pray as our Saviour taught us:

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

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

When circumstances are such that we cannot share in the Eucharist in person, we can still make an Act of Spiritual Communion, in which we express our faith in Christ and in His Presence in the Eucharist, and we ask Him to unite Himself with us.

**Lord Jesus Christ,
you are the bread of life and the one true vine.
I believe that you are truly present
in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist.
I seek you. I worship and adore you.
Since I cannot receive you
in the eucharistic bread and wine,
I pray that you will come into my heart and soul,
that I may be united to you,
by your all-powerful and ever-present Holy Spirit.**

**Let me receive you, and be nourished by you.
Become for me the manna in my wilderness,
the bread of angels
for my very human journey through time,
a foretaste of the heavenly banquet,
and solace in the hour of my death.
I pray all this, trusting that you yourself are
our Life, our Peace, and our everlasting Joy. Amen.**

HYMN

Praise to the Holiest in the height,
And in the depth be praise,
In all his words most wonderful,
Most sure in all his ways.

O loving wisdom of our God!
When all was sin and shame,
A second Adam to the fight
And to the rescue came.

O wisest love! That flesh and blood
Which did in Adam fail,
Should strive afresh against the foe,
Should strive and should prevail.

And that a higher gift than grace
Should flesh and blood refine,
God's presence and his very self
And essence all divine.

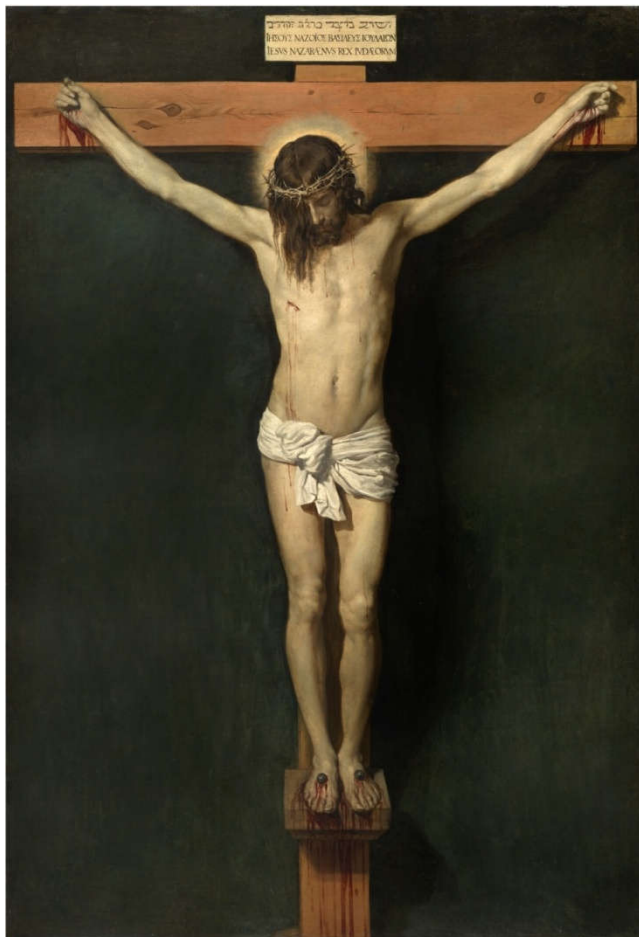
And in the garden secretly,
And on the cross on high,
Should teach his brethren, and inspire
To suffer and to die.

Praise to the Holiest in the height,
And in the depth be praise,
In all his words most wonderful,
Most sure in all his ways.
St John Henry Newman (1801-1890)

The Conclusion

When the disciples had sung a hymn they went out to the Mount of Olives. Jesus prayed to the Father, 'If it is possible, take this cup of suffering from me.' He said to his disciples, 'How is it that you were not able to keep watch with me for one hour? The hour has come for the Son of Man to be handed over to the power of sinners.'

Unfolding the Word on Good Friday



Christ Crucified, Velázquez, 1632, Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Give us the joy of your saving help
and sustain us with your life-giving Spirit.

Holy God, lover of our souls,
we come as people created by and for love:
Gather us in this time to hear again your word of love,
to renew our trust in its breadth and depth.
In the sacrifice of your love for us,
may we find renewal and be your love in the world.
Amen.

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?

His dying crimson like a robe,
Spreads o'er his body on the Tree;
Then am I dead to all the globe,
And all the globe is dead to me.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.
Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Christ himself carried up our sins in his body to the tree,
so that, free from sins,
we might live for righteousness;
by his wounds we have been healed.
1 Peter 2.24

Let us confess our sins.

O God, you know my foolishness
and my sins are not hidden from you:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Let not the flood overwhelm me
nor the depths swallow me up;
let not the pit shut its mouth upon me:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Hear me, O Lord, as your loving kindness is good;
turn to me as your compassion is great:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

May the Father forgive us by the death of his Son
and strengthen us to live in the power of the Spirit
all our days.
Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

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 had 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.

Liturgy of the Word

FIRST READING

Isaiah 52.13 – end of 53

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? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire

him. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

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.

Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the Lord shall prosper. 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.

PSALM 22.1-11

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me, ♦
and are so far from my salvation,
from the words of my distress?

O my God, I cry in the daytime,
but you do not answer; ♦
and by night also, but I find no rest.

Yet you are the Holy One, ♦
enthroned upon the praises of Israel.

Our forebears trusted in you; ♦
they trusted, and you delivered them.

They cried out to you and were delivered; ♦
they put their trust in you and were not confounded.

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 deliver him, if he delights in him.’

But it is you that took me out of the womb ♦
and laid me safe upon my mother’s breast.

On you was I cast ever since I was born; ♦
you are my God even from my mother’s womb.

Be not far from me, for trouble is near at hand ♦
and there is none to help.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 10.16-25

‘This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds’, he also adds, ‘I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.’ Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

MEDITATION

[God says]: “No matter what you have done, I love you for your own sake. Come to me with your misery and your sins, with your trouble and your needs, and with all your longing to be loved. I stand at the door of your heart and knock. Open to me, for I thirst for you.”

Mother Teresa (1910-1997)

Where do we long to be loved and forgiven at this hour?

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

Though he was divine,

he did not cling to equality with God,

but made himself nothing.

Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness.

He humbled himself and was obedient to death,

even the death of the cross.

Therefore God has raised him on high,

and given him the name above every name:

that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,

and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

HYMN

Faithful cross, above all other:
one and only noble tree!
None in foliage, none in blossom,
none in fruit thy peer may be:
sweetest wood and sweetest iron,
sweetest weight is hung on thee.

Bend thy boughs, O tree of glory!
Thy relaxing sinews bend;
for awhile the ancient rigour
that thy birth bestowed, suspend;
and the King of heavenly beauty
gently on thy arms extend.

*Words: Venantius Honorius Fortunatus (540-600?)
trans. after John Mason Neale (1818-1866)*

The Prayers

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray to the Father,
who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son
to give us life.

Simon from Cyrene was forced to carry the cross for your Son.
Give us grace to lift heavy loads from those we meet
and to stand with those condemned to die.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Your Son watched the soldiers gamble to share his clothes.
Transform the hearts of those who make a profit from their victims,
and those whose hearts are hardened by their work.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

The thief, who was crucified with Jesus,
was promised a place in your kingdom.
Give pardon and hope, healing and peace
to all who look death in the face.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

From the cross Jesus entrusted Mary his mother
and John his disciple to each other's care.
Help us also to care for one another
and fill our homes with the spirit of your love.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

In Mary and John your Son created a new family at the cross.
Fill our relationships,
and those of new families today,
with mutual care and responsibility,
and give us a secure hope for the future.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

The centurion was astonished to see your glory in the
crucified Messiah.
Open the eyes of those who do not know you
to see in your Son the meaning of life and death.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Joseph of Arimathaea came to take your Son's body away.
Give hope and faith to the dying and bereaved,
and gentleness to those who minister to them.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Simon and Joseph, Mary and John
became part of your Church in Jerusalem.
Bring into your Church today a varied company of people,
to walk with Christ in the way of his passion
and to find their salvation in the victory of his cross.

Lord of the Church,
**hear our prayer, and make us one in heart and mind
to serve you in Christ our Lord.**
Amen.

HYMN

Here is love vast as the ocean,
Loving-kindness as the flood,
When the Prince of Life, our ransom,
Shed for us His precious blood.
Who His love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten
Throughout heav'n's eternal days.

On the Mount of Crucifixion,
Fountains opened deep and wide;
Through the flood-gates of God's mercy
Flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love like mighty rivers
Poured incessant from above;
Heaven's peace and perfect justice
Kissed a guilty world in love.

William Rees

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

When circumstances are such that we cannot share in the Eucharist in person, we can still make an Act of Spiritual Communion, in which we express our faith in Christ and in His Presence in the Eucharist, and we ask Him to unite Himself with us.

**Lord Jesus Christ,
you are the bread of life and the one true vine.
I believe that you are truly present
in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist.
I seek you. I worship and adore you.
Since I cannot receive you
in the eucharistic bread and wine,
I pray that you will come into my heart and soul,
that I may be united to you,
by your all-powerful and ever-present Holy Spirit.
Let me receive you, and be nourished by you.
Become for me the manna in my wilderness,
the bread of angels
for my very human journey through time,
a foretaste of the heavenly banquet,
and solace in the hour of my death.
I pray all this, trusting that you yourself are
our Life, our Peace, and our everlasting Joy. Amen.**

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Standing at the foot of the cross,
let us pray as our Saviour taught us:

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

Walking the Way of the Cross

with the Sonnets of Malcolm Guite
included with kind permission of the author
Sonnets for the Stations of the Cross
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The First Station: Jesus is condemned to death

Reading from Matthew's Gospel.

Pilate said to him, 'Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?' But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Whom do you want me to release for you, Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?' For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him, 'Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.' Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' And they said, 'Barabbas.' Pilate said to them, 'Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?' All of them said, 'Let him be crucified!' Then he asked, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Let him be crucified!'

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, 'I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.' Then the people as a whole answered, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Sonnet

The very air that Pilate breathes, the voice
With which he speaks in judgment, all his powers
Of perception and discrimination, choice,
Decision, all his years, his days and hours,
His consciousness of self, his every sense,
Are given by this prisoner, freely given.
The man who stands there making no defence,
Is God. His hands are tied, His heart is open.
And he bears Pilate's heart in his and feels
That crushing weight of wasted life. He lifts
It up in silent love. He lifts and heals.
He gives himself again with all his gifts
Into our hands. As Pilate turns away
A door swings open. This is judgment day.

The Second Station: Jesus Receives his Cross

Reading from John's Gospel

They took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.

Sonnet

He gives himself again with all his gifts
And now we give him something in return.
He gave the earth that bears, the air that lifts,
Water to cleanse and cool, fire to burn,
And from these elements he forged the iron,
From strands of life he wove the growing wood,
He made the stones that pave the roads of Zion
He saw it all and saw that it is good.
We took his iron to edge an axe's blade,
We took the axe and laid it to the tree,
We made a cross of all that he has made,

And laid it on the one who made us free.
Now he receives again and lifts on high
The gifts he gave and we have turned awry.

The Third Station: Jesus Falls the First Time

Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

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.

Sonnet

He made the stones that pave the roads of Zion
And well he knows the path we make him tread
He met the devil as a roaring lion
And still refused to turn these stones to bread,
Choosing instead, as Love will always choose,
This darker path into the heart of pain.
And now he falls upon the stones that bruise
The flesh, that break and scrape the tender skin.
He and the earth he made were never closer,
Divinity and dust come face to face.
We flinch back from his *via dolorosa*,
He sets his face like flint and takes our place,
Staggers beneath the black weight of us all
And falls with us that he might break our fall.

The Fourth Station: Jesus Meets his Mother

Reading from John's Gospel

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Sonnet

This darker path into the heart of pain
Was also hers whose love enfolded him
In flesh and wove him in her womb. Again
The sword is piercing. She, who cradled him
And gentled and protected her young son
Must stand and watch the cruelty that mars
Her maiden making. Waves of pain that stun
And sicken pass across his face and hers
As their eyes meet. Now she enfolds the world
He loves in prayer; the mothers of the disappeared
Who know her pain, all bodies bowed and curled
In desperation on this road of tears,
All the grief-stricken in their last despair,
Are folded in the mantle of her prayer.

The Fifth Station: Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to Carry His Cross

Reading from Matthew's Gospel

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus.

Sonnet

In desperation on this road of tears
Bystanders and bypassers turn away
In other's pain we face our own worst fears
And turn our backs to keep those fears at bay
Unless we are compelled as this man was
By force of arms or force of circumstance
To face and feel and carry someone's cross
In Love's full glare and not his backward glance.
So Simon, no disciple, still fulfilled
The calling: 'take the cross and follow me'.
By accident his life was stalled and stilled
Becoming all he was compelled to be.
Make me, like him, your pressed man and your priest,
Your alter Christus, burdened and released.

The Sixth Station: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

Reading from Matthew's Gospel

'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it

to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

Sonnet

Bystanders and bypassers turn away
And wipe his image from their memory
She keeps her station. She is here to stay
And stem the flow. She is the reliquary
Of his last look on her. The bloody sweat
And salt tears of his love are soaking through
The folds of her devotion and the wet
folds of her handkerchief, like the dew
Of morning, like a softening rain of grace.
Because she wiped the grime from off his skin,
And glimpsed the godhead in his human face
Whose hidden image we all bear within,
Through all our veils and shrouds of daily pain
The face of god is shining once again.

The Seventh Station: Jesus Falls for the Second Time

Reading from Matthew's Gospel

Jesus said, 'Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you, desolate.

Sonnet

Through all our veils and shrouds of daily pain,
Through our bruised bruises and re-opened scars,
He falls and stumbles with us, hurt again
When we are hurt again. With us he bears
The cruel repetitions of our cruelty;
The beatings of already beaten men,
The second rounds of torture, the futility
Of all unheeded pleading, every scream in vain.

And by this fall he finds the fallen souls
Who passed a first, but failed a second trial,
The souls who thought their faith would hold them whole
And found it only held them for a while.
Be with us when the road is twice as long
As we can bear. By weakness make us strong.

The Eighth Station: Jesus Speaks to the Women of Jerusalem

Reading from Matthew's Gospel

A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.'

Sonnet

He falls and stumbles with us, hurt again
But still he holds the road and looks in love
On all of us who look on him. Our pain
As close to him as his. These women move
Compassion in him as he does in them.
He asks us both to weep and not to weep.
Women of Gaza and Jerusalem,
Women of every nation where the deep
Wounds of memory divide the land
And lives of all your children, where the mines
Of all our wars are sown: Afghanistan ,
Iraq, the Cote d'Ivoire... he reads the signs
And weeps with you and with you he will stay
Until the day he wipes your tears away.

The Ninth Station: Jesus Falls for the Third Time

Reading from 1 Corinthians

We proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Sonnet

He weeps with you and with you he will stay
When all your staying power has run out
You can't go on, you go on anyway.
He stumbles just beside you when the doubt
That always haunts you, cuts you down at last
And takes away the hope that drove you on.
This is the third fall and it hurts the worst
This long descent through darkness to depression
From which there seems no rising and no will
To rise, or breathe or bear your own heart beat.
Twice you survived; this third will surely kill,
And you could almost wish for that defeat
Except that in the cold hell where you freeze
You find your God beside you on his knees.

The Tenth Station: Jesus is Stripped of his Garments

Reading from John's Gospel

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top.

Sonnet

You can't go on, you go on anyway
He goes with you, his cradle to your grave.
Now is the time to loosen, cast away

The useless weight of everything but love
For he began his letting go before,
Before the worlds for which he dies were made,
Emptied himself, became one of the poor,
To make you rich in him and unafraid.
See as they strip the robe from off his back
They strip away your own defences too
Now you could lose it all and never lack
Now you can see what naked Love can do
Let go these bonds beneath whose weight you bow
His stripping strips you both for action now.

The Eleventh Station: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

Reading from Luke's Gospel

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'

Sonnet

See, as they strip the robe from off his back
And spread his arms and nail them to the cross,
The dark nails pierce him and the sky turns black,
And love is firmly fastened onto loss.
But here a pure change happens. On this tree
Loss becomes gain, death opens into birth.
Here wounding heals and fastening makes free
Earth breathes in heaven, heaven roots in earth.
And here we see the length, the breadth, the height

Where love and hatred meet and love stays true
Where sin meets grace and darkness turns to light
We see what love can bear and be and do,
And here our saviour calls us to his side
His love is free, his arms are open wide.

The Twelfth Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross

Reading from Luke's Gospel

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.' Having said this, he breathed his last.

Sonnet

The dark nails pierce him and the sky turns black
We watch him as he labours to draw breath
He takes our breath away to give it back,
Return it to it's birth through his slow death.
We hear him struggle breathing through the pain
Who once breathed out his spirit on the deep,
Who formed us when he mixed the dust with rain
And drew us into consciousness from sleep.

His spirit and his life he breathes in all
Mantles his world in his one atmosphere
And now he comes to breathe beneath the pall
Of our pollutions, draw our injured air
To cleanse it and renew. His final breath
Breathes us, and bears us through the gates of death.

The Thirteenth Station: Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross

Reading from John's Gospel

Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, 'None of his bones shall be broken.' And again another passage of scripture says, 'They will look on the one whom they have pierced.'

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body.

Sonnet

His spirit and his life he breathes in all
Now on this cross his body breathes no more
Here at the centre everything is still
Spent, and emptied, opened to the core.
A quiet taking down, a prising loose
A cross-beam lowered like a weighing scale
Unmaking of each thing that had its use
A long withdrawing of each bloodied nail,
This is ground zero, emptiness and space
With nothing left to say or think or do
But look unflinching on the sacred face
That cannot move or change or look at you.
Yet in that prising loose and letting be
He has unfastened you and set you free.

The Fourteenth Station: Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

Reading from Matthew's Gospel

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

Sonnet

Here at the centre everything is still
Before the stir and movement of our grief
Which bears it's pain with rhythm, ritual,
Beautiful useless gestures of relief.
So they anoint the skin that cannot feel
Soothing his ruined flesh with tender care,
Kissing the wounds they know they cannot heal,
With incense scenting only empty air.
He blesses every love that weeps and grieves
And makes our grief the pangs of a new birth.
The love that's poured in silence at old graves
Renewing flowers, tending the bare earth,
Is never lost. In him all love is found
And sown with him, a seed in the rich ground.

Unfolding the Word on Holy Saturday



Detail of guard sleeping, Resurrection Chapel of Washington Cathedral, Meiere M. Hildreth, 1951

Into your hands we entrust our souls,
for you have redeemed us, O God of truth.

Christ our God, your love is poured out in death for our sakes:
Hold us in your embrace as we wait for Easter's dawn.
Comfort us with the promise that no power on earth,
not even death itself, can separate us from your love;
and strengthen us to wait until you are revealed to us
in all your risen glory.
Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

FIRST READING

Job 14.1-14

'A mortal, born of woman, few of days and full of trouble,
comes up like a flower and withers,
flees like a shadow and does not last.

Do you fix your eyes on such a one?

Do you bring me into judgement with you?

Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean?

No one can.

Since their days are determined,
and the number of their months is known to you,
and you have appointed the bounds that they cannot pass,
look away from them, and desist,
that they may enjoy, like labourers, their days.

'For there is hope for a tree,
if it is cut down, that it will sprout again,
and that its shoots will not cease.

Though its root grows old in the earth,
and its stump dies in the ground,
yet at the scent of water it will bud
and put forth branches like a young plant.
But mortals die, and are laid low;
humans expire, and where are they?
As waters fail from a lake,
and a river wastes away and dries up,
so mortals lie down and do not rise again;
until the heavens are no more, they will not awake
or be roused out of their sleep.
O that you would hide me in Sheol,
that you would conceal me until your wrath is past,
that you would appoint me a set time, and remember me!
If mortals die, will they live again?
All the days of my service I would wait
until my release should come.

Psalm 31.1-4

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; ♦
deliver me in your righteousness.

Incline your ear to me; ♦
make haste to deliver me.

Be my strong rock, a fortress to save me,
for you are my rock and my stronghold; ♦
guide me, and lead me for your name's sake.

Take me out of the net
that they have laid secretly for me, ♦
for you are my strength.

SECOND READING

John 19.38-end

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

MEDITATION

Little by little, God grows us more in grace because God wants to be seen and sought. God wants to be awaited and trusted.

Julian of Norwich (1342-1420), Revelations

We pray in silence.

COLLECT

Grant, Lord,
that we who are baptized into the death
of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
may continually put to death our evil desires
and be buried with him;
and that through the grave and gate of death
we may pass to our joyful resurrection;
through his merits,
who died and was buried and rose again for us,
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Standing at the foot of the cross
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us:

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

HYMN

Dark is the night, the passing hours are long,
Lone voices whisper sorrow's secret song,
Each faltering prayer will fear it's made in vain,
When we will sing the world to life again?

Dark is the night; not all are blessed with sleep.
Some wake and work, and some must watch and weep:
Angels disguised, they tend a world in pain,
Off'ring the hope that there'll be life again.

Dark is the night, the silent hours are slow.
Heav'n's tears anoint the suffering earth below,
Blessing with dew the secret springing grain,
Pledge that the world will soon know life again.

Words: Ally Barrett

Tune: Abide with me

Into your hands we entrust our souls,
for you have redeemed us, O God of truth.

Unfolding the Word on Easter Day



The Resurrection, El Greco, 1597-1600, Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

This is the day that the Lord has made;

We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Jesus, our way, our truth, and our life: As the gift of this new day unfolds, open our hearts and minds to you, that we may see you clearly and follow where you lead; to you, risen Saviour, we offer praise, now and always.

Amen.

THE EASTER ANTHEMS

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us: ♦
so let us celebrate the feast,

not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness: ♦
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

1 Corinthians 5.7b,8

Christ once raised from the dead dies no more: ♦
death has no more dominion over him.

In dying he died to sin once for all: ♦
in living he lives to God.

See yourselves therefore as dead to sin: ♦
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6.9-11

Christ has been raised from the dead: ♦
the first fruits of those who sleep.

For as by man came death: ♦
by man has come also the resurrection of the dead;

for as in Adam all die: ♦
even so in Christ shall all be made alive.
1 Corinthians 15.20–22

HYMN

The strife is o'er, the battle done;
Now is the Victor's triumph won;
O let the song of praise be sung. Alleluya!

Death's mightiest powers have done their worst,
And Jesus hath his foes dispersed;
Let shouts of praise and joy outburst. Alleluya!

On the third morn he rose again
Glorious in majesty to reign;
O let us swell the joyful strain. Alleluya!

He brake the age-bound chains of hell;
The bars from heaven's high portals fell;
Let hymns of praise his triumph tell. Alleluya!

Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee
From death's dread sting thy servants free,
That we may live, and sing to thee. Alleluya!
Latin C17th
Trans. Francis Potts (1832-1909)

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

In baptism we died with Christ,
so that as Christ was raised from the dead,
we might walk in newness of life.
Let us receive new life in him
as we confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Like Mary at the empty tomb,
we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Like the disciples behind locked doors,
we are afraid to be seen as your followers.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Like Thomas in the upper room,
we are slow to believe.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

God our Deliverer,
by water and the Holy Spirit we have been buried with Christ
and raised to the new life of grace:
Give us inquiring and discerning hearts,
the courage to will and to persevere,
a spirit to know and love you,
and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works.
Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

FIRST READING

Acts 10.34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

PSALM 118.14-24

The Lord is my strength and my song, ♦
and he has become my salvation.

Joyful shouts of salvation ♦
sound from the tents of the righteous:

‘The right hand of the Lord does mighty deeds;
the right hand of the Lord raises up; ♦
the right hand of the Lord does mighty deeds.’

I shall not die, but live ♦
and declare the works of the Lord.

The Lord has punished me sorely, ♦
but he has not given me over to death.

Open to me the gates of righteousness, ♦
that I may enter and give thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord; ♦
the righteous shall enter through it.

I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me ♦
and have become my salvation.

The stone which the builders rejected ♦
has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord’s doing, ♦
and it is marvellous in our eyes.

This is the day that the Lord has made; ♦
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

SECOND READING

John 20.1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

MEDITATION

For the garden is the only place there is, but you will not find it until you have looked for it everywhere and found it nowhere that is not desert.

W. H. Auden, from For the Time Being

Through what desert experiences have you found God's garden? Have you read Oscar Wilde's short story The Gentle Giant?

<http://www.inf.fu-berlin.de/lehre/pmo/eng/Wilde-Giant.pdf>

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith
in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.
**Christ died for our sins
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he was buried;
he was raised to life on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures;
afterwards he appeared to his followers,
and to all the apostles: this we have received,
and this we believe.
Amen.**

HYMN

Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

In the grave they laid him, Love who had been slain,
Thinking that he never would awake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

Forth He came at Easter, like the risen grain,
Jesus who for three days in the grave had lain;
Quick from the dead the risen one is seen:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Jesus' touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.
J. M. C. Crum (1872-1958)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In joy and hope let us pray to the Father.
That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of his
glorious and life-giving resurrection ...
we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That isolated and persecuted churches
may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter ...
we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That God may grant us humility
to be subject to one another in Christian love ...
we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That he may provide for those who lack food, work or shelter ...
we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That by his power war and famine may cease through all the world ...
we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick,
the weak and the dying,
to comfort and strengthen them ...
we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That, according to his promises,
all who have died in the faith of the resurrection
may be raised on the last day ...
we pray to the Father.
Hear our prayer.

That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people,
so that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection,
we pray to the Father.
Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father,
you have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
grant that, as his death has recalled us to life,
so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

We offer our own prayers in silence.

COLLECT

Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son
overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us:

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

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

When circumstances are such that we cannot share in the Eucharist in person, we can still make an Act of Spiritual Communion, in which we express our faith in Christ and in His Presence in the Eucharist, and we ask Him to unite Himself with us.

**Lord Jesus Christ,
you are the bread of life and the one true vine.
I believe that you are truly present
in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist.
I seek you. I worship and adore you.
Since I cannot receive you
in the eucharistic bread and wine,
I pray that you will come into my heart and soul,
that I may be united to you,
by your all-powerful and ever-present Holy Spirit.
Let me receive you, and be nourished by you.
Become for me the manna in my wilderness,
the bread of angels
for my very human journey through time,
a foretaste of the heavenly banquet,
and solace in the hour of my death.
I pray all this, trusting that you yourself are
our Life, our Peace, and our everlasting Joy. Amen.**

HYMN

A brighter dawn is breaking,
and earth with praise is waking;
for thou, O King most highest,
the power of death defiest;

And thou hast come victorious,
with risen body glorious,
who now for ever livest,
and life abundant givest.

O free the world from blindness,
and fill the world with kindness,
give sinners resurrection,
bring striving to perfection.

In sickness give us healing,
in doubt thy clear revealing,
that praise to thee be given
in earth as in thy heaven.

Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)

The Conclusion

May the risen Christ grant us the joys of eternal life.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Acknowledgements

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