



The Minister and Deacon enter in silence.

Deacon: Thank you for joining our Good Friday Service. We welcome those watching via livestream. Today's service starts in solemn silence. Please bow your heads for the opening prayer.

The Minister prays,

The Prayer of the Day

Most merciful and loving Father, you made everything good in creation and your generous love abounds to all. You take no pleasure in the punishment or death of those who rebel against you, but rather you desire that they turn from their ways and live: have mercy on all who do not know you, or those who deny that Jesus Christ is Lord; take from them all ignorance, hardness of heart, and contempt of your word; and so bring them home, blessed Lord, back into your fold, that we may be made one flock under one shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

The Minister: The opening reflective song will also be our offertory hymn. Please stand to sing This is our God, the Servant King.

Reflective and Offertory Hymn: From Heaven You Came

From heaven You came, helpless babe,
entered our world, Your glory veiled,
not to be served but to serve,
and give Your life that we might live.

*This is our God, the Servant King,
he calls us now to follow Him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.*

There in the garden of tears
my heavy load He chose to bear;
his heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not my will but yours,' He said.

This is our God, ...

Come see His hands and His feet,
the scars that speak of sacrifice,
hands that flung stars into space
to cruel nails surrendered.

This is our God, ...

So let us learn how to serve
and in our lives enthrone Him,
each other's needs to prefer,
for it is Christ we're serving.

This is our God, ...

© Together in Song CCL Licence no: 89934

Gifts and Offerings

The Minister will pray for the gifts and offerings.

Ministry of the Word

The first reading is from the book of Isaiah, chapter 52 commencing at verse 13.

¹³ See, my servant will act wisely; he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted.

¹⁴ Just as there were many who were appalled at him—his appearance was so disfigured beyond
29 March 2024 | Good Friday Service

that of any human being and his form marred beyond human likeness—¹⁵so he will sprinkle many nations, and kings will shut their mouths because of him. For what they were not told, they will see, and what they have not heard, they will understand.

53¹Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ²He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. ³He was despised and rejected, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. ⁴Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. ⁵But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Hear the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm of the day is number 22

¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish?

²My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest.

³Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the one Israel praises.

⁴In you our ancestors put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them.

⁵To you they cried out and were saved; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

⁶But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people.

⁷All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads.

⁸"He trusts in the LORD," they say, "let the LORD rescue him.

Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."

⁹Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you, even at my mother's breast.

¹⁰From birth I was cast on you; from my mother's womb you have been my God.

¹¹Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

¹²Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.

¹³Roaring lions that tear their prey open their mouths wide against me.

¹⁴I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted within me.

¹⁵My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death.

¹⁶Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet.

¹⁷All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me.

¹⁸They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.

¹⁹But you, LORD, do not be far from me. You are my strength; come quickly to help me.

²⁰Deliver me from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dogs.

²¹Rescue me from the mouth of the lions; save me from the horns of the wild oxen.

²²I will declare your name to my people; in the assembly I will praise you.

²³You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honour him!

Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!

²⁴For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help.

²⁵From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you I will fulfill my vows.

²⁶The poor will eat and be satisfied; those who seek the LORD will praise him—may your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations will bow down before him,

²⁸**for dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations.**

²⁹All the rich of the earth will feast and worship;

all who go down to the dust will kneel before him —those who cannot keep themselves alive.

³⁰**Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord.**

³¹They will proclaim his righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn: He has done it!

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit;

as in the beginning, so now, and forever. Amen.

The New Testament reading comes from the book of Hebrews, chapter 10 commencing at verse 16.

¹⁶“This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.” ¹⁷Then he adds: “Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.”

¹⁸And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary.¹⁹Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hear the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

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.

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?

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.

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

© Together in Song CCL Licence no: 89934

The Passion of our Lord

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, chapter 18, verse 1 through to chapter 19, verse 42. Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Deacon: On Good Friday we are reminded of the story of our Saviour's crucifixion. Today we will read a dramatized version of John's account. As the reading is quite long, if you need to sit, please feel free to do so.

Readers are allocated as: John (Deacon – Jill Manton), Jesus (Barry), Peter (Jane Barrow), Pontius Pilate (Dawn), Chief Priests (Jennie McNiven)

John: Jesus went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas brought a detachment of

soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them,

Jesus: Whom are you looking for?

John: They answered,

Soldiers: Jesus of Nazareth.

John: Jesus replied,

Jesus: I am he.

John: Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, 'I am he,' they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them,

Jesus: Whom are you looking for?

John: And they said,

Soldiers: Jesus of Nazareth.

John: Jesus answered,

Jesus: I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go.

John: This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, 'I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me.' Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter,

Jesus: Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?

John: So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people. Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. The woman said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?"

John: Peter said,

Peter: I am not.

John: Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself. Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. Jesus answered,

Jesus: I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said.

John: When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?"

John: Jesus answered,

Jesus: If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?

John: Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, "You are not also one of his disciples, are you?"

John: Peter denied it and said,

Peter: I am not.

John: One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?"

John: Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed. Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said,

Pilate: What accusation do you bring against this man?
John: They answered,
Chief Priests: If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.
John: Pilate said to them,
Pilate: Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law.
John: The Jews replied,
Chief Priests: We are not permitted to put anyone to death.
John: (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.) Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him,
Pilate: Are you the King of the Jews?
John: Jesus answered,
Jesus: Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?
John: Pilate replied,
Pilate: I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?
John: Jesus answered,
Jesus: My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.
John: Pilate asked him,
Pilate: So you are a king?
John: Jesus answered,
Jesus: You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.
John: Pilate asked him,
Pilate: What is truth?
John: After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them,
Pilate: I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?
John: They shouted in reply,
Chief Priests: Not this man, but Barabbas!
John: Now Barabbas was a bandit. Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying,
Congregation: Hail, King of the Jews!
John: and striking him on the face. Pilate went out again and said to them,
Pilate: Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him.
John: So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them,
Pilate: Here is the man!
John: When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted,
Congregation Crucify him! Crucify him!
John: Pilate said to them,
Pilate: Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him.
John: The Jews answered him,
Chief Priests: We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God.
John: Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus,
Pilate: Where are you from?
John: But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate therefore said to him,

Pilate: Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?

John: Jesus answered him,

Jesus: You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.

John: From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out,

Chief Priests: If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor.

John: When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. Pilate said to the Jews,

Pilate: Here is your King!

John: They cried out,

Congregation: Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!

John: Pilate asked them,

Pilate: Shall I crucify your King?

John: The chief priests answered,

Chief Priests: We have no king but the emperor.

John: Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So 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. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them.

Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.' Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate,

Chief Priests: Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'

John: Pilate answered,

Pilate: What I have written I have written.

John: 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. So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it."

John: This was to fulfill what the scripture says, 'They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.' And that is what the soldiers did. 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,

Jesus: Woman, here is your son.

John: Then he said to the disciple,

Jesus: Here is your mother.

John: And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture),

Jesus: I am thirsty.

John: A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said,

Jesus: It is finished.

John: Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. 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. 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.

This is the Gospel of our Lord **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Message: Br Bill Nicolle will deliver the message

Taking our sins to the cross

Deacon will say,

While we listen to Margaret playing the song *How Deep the Father's Love for us*, you are invited to write a sin of which you desire forgiveness on the small piece of paper sitting on the pew beside you. Then, you are invited to place this in the box at the foot of the cross, and hang a piece of red material on the cross.

At the conclusion, the Deacon will lead the confession:

The Confession

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

As we confess our sins, please note that the words have changed.

O Christ, we are stripped bare by your suffering.

You see our dreams, our deceptions, and the secrets we keep even from ourselves.

**Forgive all that needs to be forgiven, heal all that needs to be healed,
awaken all the good that sleeps in us, banish all the fears that paralyze us.**

**Put the power of your cross into our lives for ever,
and clothe us with hope and love. Amen.**

Deacon: Let us stand to hear God's promise of forgiveness.

The Promise of Forgiveness

We have turned our hearts to God in repentance and our sins are laid bare before the cross of Jesus Christ. In the name of the living God, your sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

The Prayer of the Day

Merciful God, who gave your Son to suffer the shame of the cross: save us from hardness of heart that, seeing him who died for us, we may repent, confess our sin, and receive your overflowing love, in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers for God's broken and divided world

Merciful God, you sent your Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but so that the world might be saved through him. Today we bring the needs of the whole world to the foot of the cross

of Christ. We ask you to pray for the Church of God throughout the world, that God the almighty, eternal One will guide it, and gather it in unity and peace.

Father, hear our prayer **through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

We ask that you continue showing your glory to all nations through Christ your Son: guide the work of your Church, help it to keep the faith, proclaim your Name, and bring your salvation to all people. We pray for all God's people in their vocation and ministry, for all bishops, priests and deacons, for Bishop Peter and assistant Bishops Charlie and Sonia. Give to them a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of you.

Father, hear our prayer **through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

We pray for all who do not look to Christ as Saviour. Open the eyes of their heart so that the light of the Gospel may shine to bring a saving knowledge of you.

Father, hear our prayer **through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

We pray for the sick, the dying and all in need; for the homeless, the hungry and the oppressed; for those suffering depression and despair. May our lives be a source of hope and light to those who live in darkness. Father, hear our prayer **through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Finally, most merciful God, we commit ourselves to you and open ourselves to the grace of a holy life, that, we may come to the fullness of eternal life, and the joy of the resurrection in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

I invite you to share with me in praying,

Lord Jesus Christ,

the story of your suffering is written on our hearts, and the salvation of the world is in your outstretched hands. Keep your victory always before our eyes, your praise on our lips, your peace in our lives. Amen.

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

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Dismissal

As we walk towards Holy Saturday, we call to mind the promise made by the writer of the book of Hebrews: Those who enter God's rest also cease from their labours as God did from his. Let us therefore make every effort to enter that rest. (Hebrews 4:10-11)

We depart in the rest only God can provide in **the name of Christ. Amen.**

Final Hymn: There Is a Green Hill Far Away

There is a green hill far away
without a city wall,
where the dear Lord was crucified,
who died to save us all.

We may not know, we cannot tell
what pains He had to bear;
but we believe it was for us
He hung and suffered there.

He died that we might be forgiven,
He died to make us good,

© Mission Praise CCL Licence no: 89934

that we might go at last to heaven,
saved by His precious blood.

There was no other good enough
to pay the price of sin;
He only could unlock the gate
of heaven and let us in.

O dearly, dearly has He loved,
and we must love Him too,
and trust in His redeeming blood,
and try His works to do.