

Good Friday

The Liturgy of Good Friday

On this day the ministers enter in silence.

All then kneel for silent prayer, after which the Celebrant begins the liturgy with the Collect of the Day.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Genesis 22:1-18

After these things God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." ² He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering upon one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." ³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; and he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴ On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place afar off. ⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the ass; I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you." ⁶ And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they

went both of them together. ⁷ And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here am I, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood; but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸ Abraham said, "God will provide himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together. ⁹ When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham put forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." ¹² He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." ¹³ And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called the name of that place The LORD will provide; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided." ¹⁵ And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, ¹⁶ and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will indeed bless you, and I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore. And your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies, ¹⁸ and by your descendants shall all the nations of the earth bless themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

Psalm 22

Deus, Deus meus

1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? *
and are so far from my cry
and from the words of my distress?

- 2 O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; *
by night as well, but I find no rest.
- 3 Yet you are the Holy One, *
enthroned upon the praises of Israel.
- 4 Our forefathers put their trust in you; *
they trusted, and you delivered them.
- 5 They cried out to you and were delivered; *
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.
- 6 But as for me, I am a worm and no man, *
scorned by all and despised by the people.
- 7 All who see me laugh me to scorn; *
they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,
- 8 He trusted in the LORD; let him deliver him; *
let him rescue him, if he delights in him.
- 9 Yet you are he who took me out of the womb, *
and kept me safe upon my mother's breast.
- 10 I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; *
you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb.
- 11 Be not far from me, for trouble is near, *
and there is none to help.

Hebrews 10:1-25

For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices which are continually offered year after year, make perfect those who draw near. ² Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered? If the worshipers had once been cleansed, they would no longer have any consciousness of sin. ³ But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sin year after year. ⁴

For it is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins.⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings thou hast not desired, but a body hast thou prepared for me;⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings thou hast taken no pleasure.⁷ Then I said, 'Lo, I have come to do thy will, O God,' as it is written of me in the roll of the book."⁸ When he said above, "Thou hast neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law),⁹ then he added, "Lo, I have come to do thy will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second.¹⁰ And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.¹¹ And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.¹² But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,¹³ then to wait until his enemies should be made a stool for his feet.¹⁴ For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.¹⁵ And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying,¹⁶ "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,"¹⁷ then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their misdeeds no more."¹⁸ Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.¹⁹ Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus,²⁰ by the new and living way which he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God,²² let us draw near 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.²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful;²⁴ and let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

The customary responses before and after the Gospel are omitted. The congregation may be seated for the first part of the Passion. They also read the part of the Crowd (in bold). At the verse which mentions the arrival at Golgotha (John 19:17) all stand.

Narrator When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples across the Kidron valley, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered.² Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with his disciples.³ So Judas, procuring a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons.⁴ Then Jesus, knowing all that was to befall him, came forward and said to them,

Jesus "Whom do you seek?"

Reader "Jesus of Nazareth."

Jesus "I am he."

Narrator Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.⁶ When he said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground.⁷ Again he asked them,

Jesus "Whom do you seek?"

Reader "Jesus of Nazareth."

Jesus "I told you that I am he; so, if you seek me, let these men go."

Narrator This was to fulfill the word which he had spoken, "Of those whom thou gavest me I lost not one."¹⁰ Then

Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's slave and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. ¹¹ Jesus said to Peter,

Jesus "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup which the Father has given me?"

Narrator So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews seized Jesus and bound him. ¹³ First they led him to Annas; for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. ¹⁴ It was Caiaphas who had given counsel to the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people. ¹⁵ Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. As this disciple was known to the high priest, he entered the court of the high priest along with Jesus, ¹⁶ while Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the maid who kept the door, and brought Peter in. ¹⁷ The maid who kept the door said to Peter, "Are not you also one of this man's disciples?" He said,

Reader "I am not."

Narrator Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves; Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself. ¹⁹ The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. ²⁰ Jesus answered him,

Jesus "I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together; I have said nothing secretly. ²¹ Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me, what I said to them; they know what I said."

Narrator When he had said this, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying,

Reader "Is that how you answer the high priest?"

Jesus "If I have spoken wrongly, bear witness to the wrong; but if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?"

Narrator Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. ²⁵ Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They said to him, "Are not you also one of his disciples?" He denied it and said,

Reader "I am not."

Narrator One of the servants of the high priest, a kinsman of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" Peter again denied it; and at once the cock crowed. ²⁸ Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the Praetorium. It was early. They themselves did not enter the Praetorium, so that they might not be defiled, but might eat the Passover. ²⁹ So Pilate went out to them and said,

Pilate "What accusation do you bring against this man?" ³⁰

Reader "If this man were not an evildoer, we would not have handed him over."

Pilate "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law."

Reader "It is not lawful for us to put any man to death."

Narrator This was to fulfill the word which Jesus had spoken to show by what death he was to die. ³³ Pilate entered the Praetorium again and called Jesus, and said to him,

Pilate "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴

Jesus "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?"

Pilate "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me; what have you done?" ³⁶

Jesus "My kingship is not of this world; if my kingship were of this world, my servants would fight, that I might not be handed over to the Jews; but my kingship is not from the world."

Pilate "So you are a king?"

Jesus "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice."

Pilate "What is truth?"

Narrator After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again, and told them,

Pilate "I find no crime in him. ³⁹ But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover; will you have me release for you the King of the Jews?"

Crowd "Not this man, but Barabbas!"

Narrator Now Barabbas was a robber. Then Pilate took Jesus and scourged him. ² And the soldiers plaited a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and arrayed him in a purple robe; ³ they came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. ⁴ Pilate went out again, and said to them,

Pilate "See, I am bringing him out to you, that you may know that I find no crime in him."

- Narrator So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them,
- Pilate "Behold the man!"
- Narrator When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out,
- Reader "Crucify him, crucify him!"
- Pilate "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no crime in him."
- Reader "We have a law, and by that law he ought to die, because he has made himself the Son of God." ⁸
- Narrator When Pilate heard these words, he was the more afraid; ⁹ he entered the Praetorium again and said to Jesus,
- Pilate "Where are you from?"
- Narrator But Jesus gave no answer. ¹⁰ Pilate therefore said to him,
- Pilate "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?"
- Jesus "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore he who delivered me to you has the greater sin."
- Narrator Upon this Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out,
- Reader "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend; every one who makes himself a king sets himself against Caesar." ¹³

Narrator When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement, and in Hebrew, Gabbatha. ¹⁴ Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews,

Pilate "Behold your King!"

Crowd "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!"

Pilate "Shall I crucify your King?"

Narrator The chief priests answered,

Reader "We have no king but Caesar."

Narrator ¹⁶ Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. ¹⁷ So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew Golgotha. **[Please Stand]** ¹⁸ There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. ¹⁹ Pilate also wrote a title and put it on the cross; it read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." ²⁰ Many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹ The chief priests of the Jews then said to Pilate,

Reader "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'"

Pilate "What I have written I have written." ²³

Narrator When the soldiers had crucified Jesus they took his garments and made four parts, one for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was without seam, woven from top to bottom; ²⁴ so they said to one another,

Reader "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be."

Narrator This was to fulfill the scripture, "They parted my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots." ²⁵ So the soldiers did this. But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother,

Jesus "Woman, behold, your son!"

Narrator Then he said to the disciple,

Jesus "Behold, your mother!"

Narrator And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. ²⁸ After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the scripture),

Jesus "I thirst."

Narrator A bowl full of vinegar stood there; so they put a sponge full of the vinegar on hyssop and held it to his mouth. ³⁰ When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said,

Jesus "It is finished"

Narrator and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

[Pause]

³¹Since it was the day of Preparation, in order to prevent the bodies from remaining on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. ³² So the soldiers came

and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him; ³³ but when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴ But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. ³⁵ He who saw it has borne witness -- his testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth - - that you also may believe. ³⁶ For these things took place that the scripture might be fulfilled, "Not a bone of him shall be broken." ³⁷ And again another scripture says, "They shall look on him whom they have pierced."