

# The Celebration of the Lord's Passion

## **THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

*The Liturgy begins in silence.*

*Presider:* All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we have all turned to our own way.

*People:* **And the Lord has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.**

*Presider:* Christ the Lord became obedient unto death.

*People:* **Even death on a cross.**

*Presider:* Almighty God,

*All:* **we have sinned  
in thought and word and deed;  
we have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
We pray you of your mercy,  
Forgive us all that is past,  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

## **Hymn**

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

2. 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.

3. He died that we might be forgiven,  
he died to make us good,  
that we might go at last to heaven,  
saved by his precious blood.

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

5. Oh dearly, dearly has He loved,  
and we must love him too,  
and trust in his redeeming blood,  
and try his works to do.

### **The Collect of the Day**

*Presider:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Presider:* Let us pray.

Almighty God, look graciously, we pray, on 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.

*People:* **Amen.**

### **Psalm 22.1-7, 14-19**

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

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

3 Yet you are the Holy One,  
enthroned on the praises of Israel.

4 Our ancestors put their trust in you,  
they trusted, and you rescued 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 not human,  
scorned by all and despised by the people.

7 All who see me laugh me to scorn;  
they curl their lips; they shake their heads.

14 I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint;  
my heart within my breast is melting wax.

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

16 Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers circles round me;  
they pierce my hands and my feet.

17 I can count all my bones  
while they stare at me and gloat.

18 They divide my garments among them;  
for my clothing, they cast lots.

19 But you, O LORD, be not far away;  
O my help, hasten to my aid.

**19** Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. <sup>2</sup> And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. <sup>3</sup> They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. <sup>4</sup> Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him." <sup>5</sup> So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" <sup>6</sup> When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." <sup>7</sup> The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God."

<sup>8</sup> Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. <sup>9</sup> He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup> Pilate therefore said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?" <sup>11</sup> Jesus answered him, "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." <sup>12</sup> From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor."

<sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" <sup>15</sup> They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor." <sup>16</sup> Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus; <sup>17</sup> and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. <sup>18</sup> There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on

either side, with Jesus between them. <sup>19</sup> Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" <sup>22</sup> Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says,

"They divided my clothes among themselves,  
and for my clothing they cast lots."

<sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

<sup>28</sup> After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

<sup>31</sup> 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. <sup>32</sup> Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. <sup>33</sup> But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. <sup>34</sup> Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. <sup>35</sup> (He who

saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows [that he tells the truth.] <sup>36</sup> These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, “None of his bones shall be broken.” <sup>37</sup> And again another passage of scripture says, “They will look on the one whom they have pierced.”

<sup>38</sup> 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. <sup>39</sup> Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. <sup>40</sup> They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. <sup>41</sup> 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. <sup>42</sup> And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

**Homily** \_\_\_\_\_

### **THE SOLEMN INTERCESSION**

*Prayer is offered for the church throughout the world, the nations of the earth, all who suffer in body or in mind, and all who have not received the gospel of Christ. A period of silent prayer and a collect follows each bidding.*

*(The text for the Solemn Intercession can be found beginning on p. 309, Book of Alternative Services, though it is not necessary to have the text for this part of the service.)*

## **MEDITATION ON THE CROSS OF JESUS**

*Presider:* Christ our Lord became obedient unto death.

*People:* **Come let us worship.**

*The assembly may sing the following hymn during this time of devotion to Christ crucified.*

### **When I Survey the Wondrous Cross**

*Hymn 386, Common Praise 1998 ("New Blue Book")*

*Hymn 109, The Hymn Book 1971 ("Red Book")*

*Hymn 593, Book of Common Praise 1938 ("Blue Book")*

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

Were the whole realm of nature mine  
That were an offering far too small  
Love so amazing, so divine  
Demands my soul, my life, my all

### **The Lord's Prayer**

## **Concluding Prayer**

*Presider:*

Send down your abundant blessing, Lord, upon your people who have devoutly recalled the death of your Son in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection. Grant them pardon; bring them comfort. May their faith grow stronger and their eternal salvation be assured. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

*The liturgy concludes in silence without a blessing or dismissal.*

### **For Conversation or Reflection at Home after the Service:**

What stands out for you from today's liturgy? What did you notice?

Was there a moment you felt particularly close to God or to the wider church? if so, what was it?

In what ways did this service proclaim the power of God at work even in the midst of Jesus' betrayal, trials, suffering, and execution?

Where have you known this power at work in your life? Where have you seen it at work in the world?