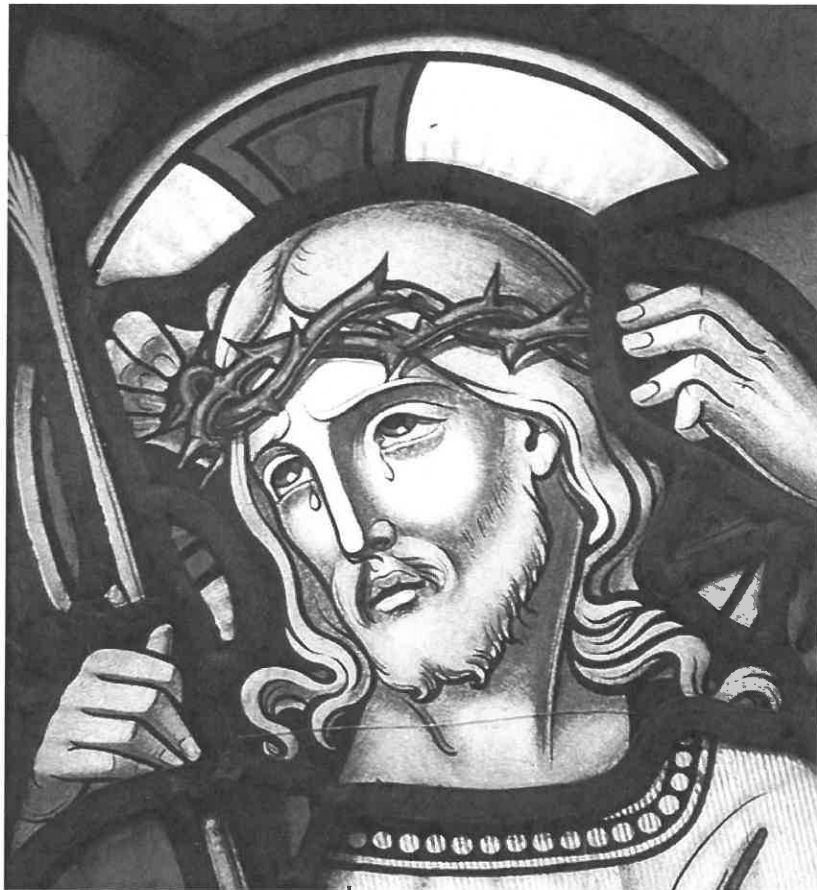


HOLY TRINITY
CHURCH
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON



The Good Friday Liturgy

**ON THIS MOST HOLY DAY
PLEASE OBSERVE A RESPECTFUL SILENCE
BEFORE AND AFTER THE LITURGY**

We gather this afternoon, as Christians have done since the earliest days of the Church, not to mourn the death of Christ, but to celebrate the triumph of the cross. Yet it is still a very real and solemn liturgy we are about to celebrate: a liturgy which brings the power and effect of Good Friday into our lives in a tangible way. So the vestments are blood-red in honour of the victory which gives all martyrdom and death its meaning.

Understanding the Liturgy

There is both a certain starkness about the Good Friday liturgy and an elegant simplicity. The liturgy has four principal parts:

1. The Gathering

The centuries-old gesture of prostration signifies reverence and submission to God, whose love is shown most powerfully on this day.

2. The Liturgy of the Word

The prophecy from Isaiah
The Passion Gospel according to John

3. The Liturgy of the Cross

Presentation to all and veneration for those who so wish. We are invited to place the stone we have been given at the foot of the cross.

4. The Liturgy of Holy Communion

The Eucharist is not celebrated on Good Friday, but we share in the sign given by Christ of his saving sacrifice by receiving Holy Communion from the sacrament reserved on Maundy Thursday.

Prayer of Preparation

God of infinite love, on this day above all days we sing the praise of him who died, of him who died upon the cross. We bless you for the words he uttered, for the anguish he endured, for the sacrifice he offered, for the triumph he won over sin and death. Accept our gratitude, our worship, our adoration, and make us more worthy of all that he has done for us, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Cover: Christ weeping. Detail from the 'Mocking of Christ' window, originally in the Beckett Chapel and now in the south aisle extension. Photo: John Cheal

¶ THE GATHERING

*All kneel as the ministers enter in solemn silence.
The ministers prostrate themselves before the altar.
We remain kneeling for a time of silent prayer.*

THE COLLECT

President 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.

All Amen.

Please sit

¶ THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

READING

The reading is from the book of the prophet Isaiah. The Word of God speaks of the suffering servant, words that the Church applies to Christ; it is 'by his wounds that we have been healed'.

At the end of the reading:

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

In preparation for the Passion Gospel, please STAND to sing the GRADUAL HYMN, the words for which are found on the separate sheet.

THE PASSION GOSPEL

Minister The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

*Please sit for the Passion Gospel.
You are invited to kneel in an act of reverence at the words
'gave up his spirit'.*

THE SERMON *for which we remain seated.*

*The choir may sing during a time for reflection following the sermon.
The text can be found on the separate sheet.*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

It is only because Christ's death has reconciled us to the Father that we may address to him these prayers for the world which Christ has redeemed.

After each section the following response may be used:

Lord, hear us.

All Lord, graciously hear us.

¶ THE LITURGY OF THE CROSS

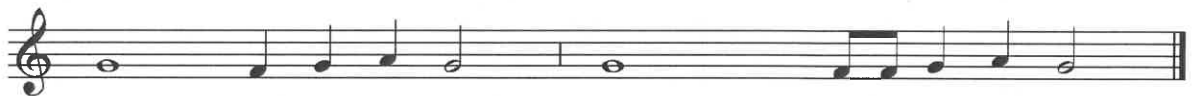
President As we move from the Liturgy of the Word to the Liturgy of the Cross, let us prepare to greet the cross, the instrument of salvation.

HYMN *the words for which are found on the separate sheet*

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE CROSS

We turn to the back of the church to greet the cross

Minister



Behold the wood of the cross. on which hung the Saviour of the world.

All



O come let us wor-ship.

*The acclamation may be followed by a profound bow.
Three stations are made in all, as the cross is brought in and set up
in the crossing.*

THE VENERATION OF THE CROSS

President

In the name of Jesus who died for us upon the cross,
I invite you to come to the foot of the cross.

We have each been given a stone.
Stones are what people wanted to throw at Jesus
during his life;
stones are also what surrounded him in the tomb,
and through them he pushed his way
back into life on the third day.

As we remember our Lord's death today
and see how he was crucified
by the action or apathy of people like ourselves,
we remember that it was for our sins he died.

Let us remember the things in our life
which burden us, threaten each other
and offend God.

And after we have recognised
what these things are,
let us give them to God to take away.

For Jesus is the one
who said, 'Give me your burdens,'
and Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sins of the world.

If you wish, bring your stone,
representing our sins,
and lay it at the foot of the cross.

You may also wish to follow the ancient custom
of kneeling and embracing the cross,
or you may wish to touch or kiss the cross,
or simply stand before it
in a moment of recollection –
whichever you find appropriate.

The Reproaches

During the veneration the choir sings the Reproaches, an ancient Christian text following the pattern of Psalm 78, which rehearses God's acts of faithfulness and Israel's repeated rebellion. The words of Jesus, addressed to 'my people' are to be understood as applying to the present Church, and so the Reproaches are directed to our own hardness of heart and failure of discipleship.

O my people, what have I done to you? Or how have I offended you? Answer me.
Because I led you out of the land of Egypt: you have prepared a Cross for your
Saviour.

*O holy God! O holy God! O holy strong One! O holy strong One!
O holy and immortal, have mercy upon us. O holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.*

Because I led you through the desert for forty years:
and fed you with manna, and brought you into a land exceeding good:
you have prepared a Cross for your Saviour.
O holy God!...

What more ought I to have done for you, that I have not done?
I planted you, indeed, my most beautiful vineyard: and you have become exceeding
bitter to me: for in my thirst you gave me vinegar to drink:
and with a spear you have pierced the side of your Saviour.
O holy God!...

For your sake I scourged the firstborn of Egypt: you have given me up to be scourged.
O my people...

I led you out of Egypt having drowned Pharaoh in the Red Sea:
and you have delivered me to the chief priests.
O my people...

I opened the sea before you: and you have opened my side with a spear.
O my people...

I went before you in a pillar of cloud:
and you have led me to the judgment hall of Pilate.
O my people...

I fed you with manna in the desert:
and you have assaulted me with blows and scourges.
O my people...

I gave you the water of salvation from the rock:
and you have given me gall and vinegar to drink.
O my people...

For your sake I struck the kings of the Canaanites:
and you have struck my head with a reed.
O my people...

I gave you a royal sceptre: and you have given a crown of thorns for my head.
O my people...

I exalted you with great strength: and you have hanged me on the gibbet of the cross.
O my people...

Following your own act of veneration, you may wish to pray the following:

Lord Jesus Christ,
as we kneel at the foot of your cross,
help us to see and know your love for us,
so that we may place all that we have
and all that we are
at your feet;
who are alive and reign, now and for ever.
Amen.

¶ THE LITURGY OF HOLY COMMUNION

Even though the Eucharist is not celebrated, we are now able to share in the sign given by Christ of his saving sacrifice by receiving Holy Communion, consecrated at the Eucharist of the Lord's Supper last night.

HYMN *the words for which are found on the separate sheet*

*The hymn is sung seated or kneeling,
as the Blessed Sacrament is brought from the Altar of Repose.*

President Sisters and Brothers in Christ, hear the words of St Paul written to the church in Corinth:
'Every time you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.'

As we prepare to receive the bread and wine of the Lord's body and blood, and so become sacramentally united with our Saviour, let us pray together:

All Most merciful Lord,
your love compels us to come in.
Our hands were unclean,
our hearts were unprepared;
we were not fit even to eat the crumbs
from under your table.
But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation
and share your bread with sinners.
So cleanse and feed us
with the precious body and blood of your Son,
that he may live in us, and we in him;
and that we, with the whole company of Christ,
may sit and eat in your kingdom.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

All 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 president invites us to receive the gift of the Lord:

Jesus is the Lamb of God
Who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

THE GIVING OF HOLY COMMUNION

Please come forward to receive Communion, if you wish to. We receive standing before the cross. If you wish to have a blessing instead, please carry this booklet with you to indicate this.

*The choir may sing, and a hymn may be sung.
The words can be found on the separate sheet.*

¶ THE CONCLUSION

The president sits for a period of silent reflection.

As the president rises, all stand.

President Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God,
you have restored us to life
by the triumphant death and resurrection of Christ.
Continue this healing work within us.
May we who participate in this mystery
never cease to serve you.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The president extends his hands toward the people.

President Lord,
send down your abundant blessing
upon your people who have devoutly recalled
the death of your Son
in the sure hope of the resurrection.
Grant them pardon; bring them comfort.
May their faith grow stronger
And their eternal salvation be assured.

All **Amen.**

*The president and ministers leave in silence.
Please maintain absolute silence as you leave.*

***The Cross is the sign of Christ in his Church today
and is afforded the respect usually given to the
Reserved Sacrament.***

*Because this act of worship is part of a three day unfolding of our Lord's saving acts,
there is no farewell greeting at the door until after the liturgy tomorrow night.*

The liturgy continues ...

***Do join us tomorrow evening for the most beautiful liturgy
of light and joy of the Easter Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter, followed by
refreshments.***