

## Good Friday at the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Jesus told his disciples, '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 will find it.'

*Matthew 16.24,25*

Once we were far off, but now in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near through the shedding of Christ's blood, for he is our peace.

*Ephesians 2.13,14*

***May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all.***

*Silence*

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.**

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

**Hymn There is a green hill far away**

Jesus condemned by the Sanhedrin

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,

**because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

***A Reading from the Gospel according to Mark 14:55-64***

<sup>55</sup>Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. <sup>56</sup>For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. <sup>57</sup>Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, <sup>58</sup>'We heard him say, "I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands."' <sup>59</sup>But even on this point their testimony did not agree. <sup>60</sup>Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, 'Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?' <sup>61</sup>But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, 'Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?' <sup>62</sup>Jesus said, 'I am; and "you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power", and "coming with the clouds

of heaven.”’ <sup>63</sup>Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, ‘Why do we still need witnesses?’ <sup>64</sup>You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?’ All of them condemned him as deserving death.

### **Meditation - Personal Reflection - Hymn Come and See**

#### **Prayer**

Lord Jesus, you were the victim of religious bigotry:  
be with those who are persecuted by small-minded authority.  
You faced the condemnation of fearful hearts:  
deepen the understanding of those who shut themselves off from the  
experience and wisdom of others.  
And help us all to be faithful witnesses  
To you, Jesus, unjustly judged victim,  
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

#### Jesus scourged and crowned with thorns

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

#### ***A Reading from the Gospel according to Mark 15:17-19***

<sup>17</sup>And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. <sup>18</sup>And they began saluting him, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’ <sup>19</sup>They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him.

### **Meditation - Personal Reflection - Hymn My song is love unknown**

#### **Prayer**

Lord Jesus, you faced the torment of barbaric punishment and mocking  
tongue:  
be with those who cry out in physical agony and emotional distress.  
You endured unbearable abuse:  
be with those who face torture and mockery in our world today.  
Let our lives be true in honouring you as our Lord and King.  
To you, Jesus, the King crowned with thorns, be honour and glory with the  
Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

### Jesus dies on the cross

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

#### ***A Reading from the Gospel according to Mark 15:34-37***

<sup>34</sup>At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'

<sup>35</sup>When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.' <sup>36</sup>And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.' <sup>37</sup>Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

#### **Meditation - Personal Reflection – Hymn Were you there**

##### **Prayer**

Lord Jesus, you died on the cross  
and entered the bleakest of all circumstances:  
give courage to those who die at the hands of others.  
In death you entered into the darkest place of all:  
illumine our darkness with your glorious presence  
And gives us hope in our darkest despair.  
To you, Jesus, your lifeless body hanging on the tree of shame,  
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

### Jesus laid in the tomb

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

#### ***Reading from the Gospel according to Mark 15:46***

<sup>46</sup>Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.

#### **Meditation - Personal Reflection – Hymn When I survey the wondrous cross**

## Prayer

Lord Jesus, Lord of life, you became as nothing for us:  
be with those who feel worthless and as nothing in the world's eyes.  
You were laid in a cold, dark tomb and hidden from sight:  
be with all who suffer and die in secret,  
hidden from the eyes of the world.  
Help us to hold onto our hope in you – a light shining in the darkness.  
To you, Jesus, your rigid body imprisoned in a tomb,  
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

## The Conclusion

### Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray you to set your passion, cross, and death between your judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living; pardon and rest to the dead; to your holy Church peace and concord; and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; for you live and reign now and for ever. **Amen.**

Let us pray for the coming of the kingdom in the words 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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved mankind: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross, we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**