

Mid-Day Prayer for Good Friday

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Greeting

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.
My trust is in you, O Lord.
I have said, 'You are my God.'

Praise

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

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

We glory in your cross, O Lord,
and praise and glorify your holy resurrection:
for by virtue of the cross
joy has come to the whole world.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The Psalm: Psalm 22

- 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 ancestors 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 not human, ***
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 **“You trusted in the Lord; let the Lord deliver you; ***
let God rescue you, if God delights in you.”
- ⁹ Yet you are the one 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.
- ¹² **Many young bulls encircle me; ***
strong bulls of Bashan surround me.
- ¹³ They open wide their jaws at me, *
like a ravening and a roaring lion.
- ¹⁴ **I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint; ***
my heart within my breast is melting wax.
- ¹⁵ My mouth is dried out like a potsherd;
my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; *
and you have laid me in the dust of the grave.
- ¹⁶ **Packs of dogs close me in**
and gangs of evildoers circle around me; *
they pierce my hands and my feet.
- ¹⁷ I can count all my bones *
while they stare and gloat over me.
- ¹⁸ **They divide my garments among them; ***
they cast lots for my clothing.
- ¹⁹ Be not far away, O Lord; *
you are my strength; hasten to help me.

- ²⁰ **Save me from the sword, ***
my life from the power of the dog.
- ²¹ Save me from the lion's mouth, *
my wretched body from the horns of wild bulls.
- ²² **I will declare your name to my kindred; ***
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.
- ²³ Praise the Lord, you that fear God; *
stand in awe of God, O offspring of Israel;
all you of Jacob's line, give glory.
- ²⁴ **For God does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;**
neither turns away from them; *
when they cry to the Lord, they are heard.
- ²⁵ My praise is of God in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows
in the presence of those who worship the Lord.
- ²⁶ **The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**
and those who seek the Lord shall give praise: *
"May your heart live for ever!"
- ²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before God.
- ²⁸ **For sovereignty belongs to the Lord, ***
who rules over the nations.
- ²⁹ To God alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before God.
- ³⁰ **My soul shall live for God;**
my descendants shall serve God; *
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.
- ³¹ They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that God has done.

Holy One, Jesus felt abandoned and cried out in anguish from the cross, yet you delivered him. He overcame the bonds of death and you raised him in triumph from the grave. Do not hide your face from those who cry out to you: feed the hungry, strengthen the weak, and break the chains of the oppressed, so that your people

may rejoice in your saving deeds. This we ask in the name of your Beloved, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Reading: John 19.1-42

A reading from the Gospel according to John.

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, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. 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." So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" 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." The chief priests and the police 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."

Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. 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?" 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." 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."

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. He said to the chief priests and

police, "Here is your King!" 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." 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 Judeans." Many of the Judeans 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 said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Judeans,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Judeans.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." 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." 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, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." 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), "I am thirsty." 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, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Silence is kept.

Since it was the day of Preparation, the religious authorities 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 religious authorities, 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.

After the Reading the following said or sung.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will receive mercy.

THE PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

The Litany

Before the Litany specific intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings may be offered in silence or aloud. Among these concerns it is appropriate to remember

- *the persecuted Church;*
- *the oppressed peoples of the world;*
- *all who are lonely;*
- *all who are near to death and*
- *all who are facing loss.*

The Litany is then said or sung.

Send forth your strength, O God,
establish what you have wrought in us.
Uphold all those who fall
and raise up those who are bowed down.
Open the eyes of the blind
and set the prisoners free.
Sustain the orphan and widow
and give food to those who hunger.
Grant them the joy of your help again
and sustain them with your Spirit.
O Lord, judge the peoples
and take all nations for your own.

The Collect

Let us pray.

O Holy and Immortal One, hear us as we pray through Jesus, our high priest: heal all our divisions, reconcile all who are estranged, console all who suffer, and finally raise up to new life all that is bound by death. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Standing at the foot of the cross and gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,
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.

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE COMMUNITY

The Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

May Christ, who bore our sins on the cross, set us free to serve with him in joy. **Amen.**