

A service for Good Friday 2nd April, 2021

Welcome: Isaiah chapter 52 verses 3 to 5

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. Amen.

Reading 1: Luke chapter 22 verses 47 to 53

While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus asked him,

"Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?" When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said,

"Lord, should we strike with our swords?" And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear. But Jesus answered,

"No more of this!" And he touched the man's ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns." Amen.

Hymn: 'The servant King'

1. From heaven You came,
Helpless babe, entered our world,
Your glory veiled; not to be served
But to serve and give Your life

That we might live. *Chorus:*

This is our God, the Servant King,

He calls us now to follow Him,

To bring our lives as a daily offering

Of worship to the Servant King.

2. There in the garden of tears,
My heavy load he chose to bear;
His heart with sorrow was torn,

'Yet not My will but Yours,' He said. *Chorus:*

3. Come see His hands and His feet,
The scars that speak of sacrifice;
Hands that flung stars into space

To cruel nails surrendered. *Chorus:*

4. So let us learn how to serve,
And in our lives enthrone Him;
Each other's needs to prefer,

For it is Christ we're serving. *Chorus:*

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Reading 2: Luke chapter 22 verses 54 to 62

Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. But when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the

courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them. A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, "This man was with him." But he denied it.

"Woman, I don't know him," he said. A little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them."

"Man, I am not!" Peter replied. About an hour later another asserted, "Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean." Peter replied, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about!" Just as he was speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the cock crows today, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly. Amen.

Hymn: 'My song is love unknown,'

**1. My song is love unknown,
My Saviour's love for me,
Love to the loveless shown,
That they might lovely be.**

O who am I.

**That for my sake
My Lord should take
Frail flesh and die?**

**2. He came from his blest throne,
Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange and none
The longed-for Christ would know.
But O my Friend,
My Friend indeed,
Who at my need
His life did spend.**

**3. Sometimes they strew his way,
And his sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King.
Then 'Crucify!'
Is all their breath,
And for his death
They thirst and cry.**

**4. Why, what hath my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run,
He gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries!
Yet they at these
Themselves displease
And 'gainst him rise.**

**5. They rise and needs will have
My dear Lord made away:
A murderer they save,**

**The Prince of Life they slay;
Yet cheerful he
To suffering goes,
That he his foes
From thence might free.**

**6. Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine:
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like thine!
This is my Friend,
In whose sweet praise
I all my days
Could gladly spend.**

© *Samuel Crossman {1624 – 1684}*

Reading 3: Luke chapter 22 verses 63 to 71

The men who were guarding Jesus began mocking and beating him. They blindfolded him and demanded,

"Prophecy! Who hit you?" And they said many other insulting things to him.

At daybreak the council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and teachers of the law, met together, and Jesus was led before them.

"If you are the Christ," they said, "tell us." Jesus answered,

"If I tell you, you will not believe me, and if I asked you, you would not answer. But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God."

They all asked,

"Are you then the Son of God?" He replied,

"You are right in saying I am." Then they said,

"Why do we need any more testimony? We have heard it from his own lips." Amen.

Hymn: 'O sacred head, sore wounded,'

**1. O Sacred Head, sore wounded,
With grief and shame weighed down,
How scornfully surrounded
With thorns, thine only crown;
How pale art thou with anguish,
With sore abuse and scorn!
How does that visage languish,
Which once was bright as morn!**

**2. O Lord of life and glory,
What bliss till now was thine!
I read the wondrous story,
I joy to call thee mine.
Thy grief and thy compassion
Were all for sinners' gain;
Mine, mine was the transgression,
But thine the deadly pain.**

**3. What language shall I borrow
To praise thee, dearest friend,
For this thy dying sorrow,
Thy pity without end?**

**Lord, make me thine for ever;
Nor let me faithless prove;
O let me never, never
Abuse such dying love!**

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Reading 4: Luke chapter 23 verses 13 to

Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. Therefore, I will punish him and then release him."

With one voice they cried out, "Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!" (Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.) Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. But they kept shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

For the third time he spoke to them: "Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore, I will have him punished and then release him." But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed. So Pilate decided to grant their demand. He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will. Amen.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, on this solemn day, we recall again how your Son, Jesus, died on a cross at Calvary to save us from the power of sin and death and to give us hope. Thank you for loving us even when we are loveless and hateful, for seeing the best in us when we are at our worst. Help us to turn our hearts and minds to your gentle call, so we live as you want us to.

Faithful Son, our Lord and Saviour, you forgave those who crucified you. Help us, in turn, to forgive our neighbours, rather than giving vent to our anger. Fill us with your loving-kindness and help us to share it freely.

Sacred Spirit, our Guide and Friend, you come to repair this broken world. Fill us with your power, so we may play our part in making the world a better place.

Holy Trinity, all honour, glory, power and praise be rendered to you now and evermore. Amen.

Let us say the Lord's Prayer:

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.

Hymn: 'There is a green hill far away'

**1. There is a green hill far away,
Outside a city wall,
Where our 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. O dearly, dearly has he loved!
And we must love him too,
And trust in his redeeming blood,
And try his works to do.**

© Cecil Frances Alexander {1818 – 1895}

Reading 5: Luke chapter 23 verse 26 and 32 to 43

As they led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said,

"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said,

"He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One."

The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said,

"If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself." There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him:

"Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him.

"Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him,

"I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise." Amen.

Hymn: 'Come and see, come and see,'

**1. Come and see, come and see,
Come and see the King of love;
See the purple robe and crown of thorns he wears.
Soldiers mock, rulers sneer
As he lifts the cruel cross;
Lone and friendless now, he climbs towards the hill. *Chorus:*
*We worship at your feet,
Where wrath and mercy meet,
And a guilty world is washed by love's pure stream.
For us he was made sin –***

Oh, help me take it in.

Deep wounds of love cry out, 'Father, forgive.'

I worship, I worship

The Lamb who was slain.

2. Come and weep, come and mourn

For your sin that pierced him there;

So much deeper than the wounds of thorn and nail.

All our pride, all our greed,

All our fallenness and shame;

And the Lord has laid the punishment on him. *Chorus:*

3. Man of heaven, born to earth

To restore us to your heaven.

Here we bow in awe beneath your searching eyes.

From your tears comes our joy,

From your death our life shall spring;

By your resurrection power we shall rise. *Chorus: © Graham Kendrick (born 1950)*

Reading 6: Luke chapter 23 verses 44 to 56

It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice,

"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last. The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said,

"Surely this was a righteous man." When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea and he was waiting for the kingdom of God. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body. Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no-one had yet been laid.

It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin. The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment. Amen.

Hymn: 'When I survey the wondrous cross'

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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?

4. His dying crimson, like a robe,
Spreads o'er his body on the tree;
Then am I dead to all the globe,
And all the globe is dead to me.

5. Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

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Benediction

Darkness had fallen as the women returned to that house in Jerusalem. All was dark and silent. Everybody was afraid, for the future seemed bleak and all appeared to be lost, but God's love cannot be defeated by the hatred of the world. For us, here, the past year has been a time of trial and loss, but don't be afraid, for Easter teaches us that love and hope will shine through the darkness of despair. May God bless us with his loving presence and remain with us evermore. Amen.