

Liturgy for Good Friday 2pm Friday 10 April 2020

We begin with a time of silent prayer.

Let us pray

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.

First Reading

Hebrews 4.14-16; 5.7-9

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The Passion

Sung by members of our parish choir, in their homes, for this service.

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

At that time: Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him. And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe, and said, Hail, King of the Jews! and they smote him with their hands. Pilate therefore went forth again, and saith unto them, Behold, I bring him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in him. Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, Behold the man! When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify him: for I find no fault in him. The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God. When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he was the more afraid; and went again into the judgment hall, and saith unto Jesus, Whence art thou? But Jesus gave him no answer. Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin. And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Cæsar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king, speaketh against Cæsar. When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha. And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King! But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Cæsar. Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified.

And they took Jesus, and led him away. And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst. And Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS. This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city; and it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin. Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews. Pilate answered, What I have written I have written. Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout. They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did.

Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, add his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home. After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a spunge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: but one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe. For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken. And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced.

After a short silence, Crux Fidelis, attr. John IV of Portugal, recorded by the Parish Choir.

Sermon

The Revd Russell Dewhurst

Hymn (NEH 90)

O sacred head, sore wounded, Defiled and put to scorn: O kingly head, surrounded With mocking crown of thorn; What sorrow mars thy grandeur? Can death thy bloom deflow'r? O countenance whose splendour The hosts of heav'n adore!

Thy beauty, long desirèd, Hath vanished from our sight: Thy pow'r is all expired, And quenched the light of light. Ah me! for whom thou diest, Hide not so far thy grace: Show me, O Love most highest, The brightness of thy face.

I pray thee, Jesus, own me, Me, Shepherd good, for thine; Who to thy fold hast won me, And fed with truth divine. Me guilty, me refuse not, Incline thy face to me, This comfort that I lose not, On earth to comfort thee.

In thy most bitter passion My heart to share doth cry. With thee for my salvation Upon the cross to die. Ah, keep my heart thus movèd To stand thy Cross beneath, To mourn thee, well-beloved, Yet thank thee for thy death.

My days are few, O fail not, With thine immortal pow'r, To hold me that I quail not In death's most fearful hour: That I may fight befriended, And see in my last strife To me thine arms extended Upon the cross of life.

Veneration of the Cross

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

- *All* because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. This is the wood of the cross on which hung the Saviour of the world.
- All Come, let us worship.

When we are able to observe Good Friday in church, all are invited to approach and venerate a large, rough-hewn wooden cross.

Today, we will spend some moments calling to mind the Cross, with the help of some artists' depictions of the Crucifixion and a recording of the parish choir singing 'Tristis Anima Mea' by Orlande de Lassus.

O Saviour of the world,

who by your cross and precious blood have redeemed us,

All save us and help us, we humbly pray.

The Solemn Prayers

The Solemn Prayers are used each Good Friday in Anglican, Roman Catholic, and many other churches. This year, Pope Francis has asked Christians to add an additional prayer for the afflicted in time of Pandemic.

For the Church For the leaders of the nations For the Jewish people For those who do not believe in Christ For all those who suffer For the afflicted in time of Pandemic For all God's children, living and departed

Lord, hear us

All Lord, graciously hear us.

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 Conclusion

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, set your passion, cross and death between your judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Grant mercy and grace to the living, rest to the departed, to your Church peace and concord and to us sinners forgiveness, and everlasting life and glory; for, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you are alive and reign, God, now and for ever. Amen.

The service ends in silence.