

A Good Friday Liturgy (at home)

Introduction

As we celebrate the Passion of Jesus Christ and hear the account from John's Gospel (which may well be available on Zoom) of his suffering and death, we are reminded of the injustices that pervade our world. Often these systems of oppression, hate, and fear are so commonplace in our world that perhaps we do not even notice them. Good Friday serves as a good reminder of this reality. It is easy to become discouraged, to see the work that has to be done and look away. Today we pray that we may have the conscience to see and the courage to act, remembering that death never wins. Life and love always prevail in Christ.

The traditional Good Friday liturgy contains three unique components: the reading of John's Passion, the praying of The Solemn Intercessions, and the Adoration of the Holy Cross. Each of these helps us enter more fully into our relationship with Christ and recommits us to pray and work for the good of the church and world.

Ritual at Home

The Adoration of the Holy Cross begins with a Showing of the Holy Cross. While there are two options for this ritual, unveiling the cross or processing the cross through church, both forms include a proclamation: This is the wood of the cross on which hung the Saviour of the world. The rubrics for the Adoration of the Cross call for a cross rather than a crucifix, as it highlights the major symbol of the crucified and risen Christ. Rather than an act of idolatry, the Adoration of the Cross points us to the Risen Christ.

Place a plain cross in front of you on a table with candles if you wish.

Opening Prayer

Eternal God,
in the cross of Jesus we see the cost of our sin and the depth of your love: in humble hope and fear may we place at his feet all that we have and all that we are, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Passion Gospel

John 18:1–19:42 is read

Reflecting on the Cross

Place a cross on a table or some other place of honour, adding candles if you wish. Be sure to allow some time in silent reflection as you gaze upon the cross and grow in relationship with Jesus.

Part of the beauty of the Adoration of the Cross is the time for personal prayer and reflection, as well as performing individual acts of reverence. Do not let this time be

cluttered by words but bask in the power of the cross as a symbol of not only death but ultimately of Resurrection.

To begin and end the time of reflection, simply proclaim and respond:

Behold, the wood of the Cross, on which hung the Saviour of the world

Litany for Forgiveness

For the times we have not loved as we are called to love . . . *Father, forgive.*

For the times we have cultivated doubt instead of hope . . . *Father, forgive.*

For the times that selfishness, greed, and lust influence our decisions . . . *Father, forgive.*

For the times we nurture isolation instead of community . . . *Father, forgive.*

For the times we hear the needs of others but refuse to act . . . *Father, forgive.*

For the times we pass judgment on ourselves
and those whom we encounter . . . *Father, forgive.*

For the times we create divisions . . . *Father, forgive.*

For the times we neglect care for our common home . . . *Father, forgive.*

For the times we are not good stewards of the gifts you give us . . .
Father, forgive.

Intercessions:

Let us pray for the church of God throughout the world:

- for unity in faith, witness and service,
- for bishops and other ministers and those whom they serve
- for our bishops and the people of this diocese
- for all Christian people
- for those who are mocked and persecuted for their faith

Lord, hear our prayers for your church, through your son Jesus Christ, that all your faithful people may serve you in holiness and truth, confirmed in faith, increased in love, preserved in peace.

Let us pray for the nations of this world and their leaders:

- for all who administer the law and all who serve in public office
- for all who have power, and the responsibility that it implies
- for all who strive for justice and for peace.

Lord, hear our prayers for your world, through your Son Jesus Christ, that by the power of your Spirit, the peace that is your will may be established throughout the world.

Let us pray for those of other faiths, and those who are without faith:

- for greater understanding between Christians and those of other faiths
- for all who have not heard the message of salvation
- for those who have lost faith

- for the grace to be faithful to God's covenant and to grow in the love of his name.
Lord, hear our prayers for all the people of the earth, through your son Jesus Christ, that we may dwell together in mutual compassion and understanding.

Let us pray for those who suffer

- for those who are deprived and oppressed
- for all who are ill
- for those in darkness, doubt and despair, in loneliness and in fear
- for prisoners,
- for the victims of false accusation and violence
- for all at the point of death and those who watch beside them.

Lord, hear our prayers for all in any kind of suffering, through your Son Jesus Christ, that they may be sustained by the knowledge of your love and find comfort, strength, and hope.

Let us commend ourselves and all God's children to his unfailing love, and pray for the grace of a holy life, that with all who have died in the peace of Christ, we may come to the fullness of eternal life and the joy of the resurrection.

Merciful Father

**Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**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.**

Prayer

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world. Grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; 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.

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