



St Maxentius Church WORSHIP AT HOME

10 April 2020



As it's not possible to join together for worship in church at this time this outline is designed to help you have a short time of worship in your home.

To prepare, choose a place where you can sit comfortably and if you wish, gather a few things that will help you create a sacred space. But today all you really need is a cross, unadorned, unlit, empty.

Introduction

Good Friday needs no introduction: the most solemn day in the Christian year, when we face the cross, the death of Christ.

In one sense that's all we need: a cross and ourselves, kneeling in prayer with the rest of the Christian world. This is what our worship today is built round: hearing again of the terrible events of that day, bringing ourselves to that place, and offering our deepest intercessions for our world.

Today there's an added meaning to our not being able to share communion at this time. For on this day of dereliction and desolation it is appropriate not to celebrate what he wrought by the resurrection. We are not there yet, Easter is two days off and although we know what happens then we deliberately put it out of mind.

We read all three passages from the Bible set for today to focus our minds on how Jesus' sacrifice fits into the salvation history of Israel. Isaiah talks about the Servant of God who suffers for the nation. The letter to the Hebrews helps us understand what Jesus achieved through his death. The Gospel reading takes again to Calvary and the cross.

As we pray through the service we offer ourselves to him in all our failings and frailty.

Prayer for the Day

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, now and for ever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 52.13-53.12 The Suffering Servant

The Lord says, "My servant will succeed in his task; he will be highly honoured.

Many people were shocked when they saw him; he was so disfigured that he hardly looked human.

But now many nations will marvel at him, and kings will be speechless with amazement. They will see and understand something they had never known.

The people reply, "Who would have believed what we now report? Who could have seen the Lord's hand in this?"

It was the will of the Lord that his servant grow like a plant taking root in dry ground.

He had no dignity or beauty to make us take notice of him.

There was nothing attractive about him, nothing that would draw us to him.

We despised him and rejected him; he endured suffering and pain. No one would even look at him - we ignored him as if he were nothing.



But he endured the suffering that should have been ours, the pain that we should have borne. All the while we thought that his suffering was punishment sent by God. But because of our sins he was wounded, beaten because of the evil we did. We are healed by the punishment he suffered, made whole by the blows he received.

All of us were like sheep that were lost, each of us going his own way. But the Lord made the punishment fall on him, the punishment all of us deserved. He was treated harshly, but endured it humbly; he never said a word. Like a lamb about to be slaughtered, like a sheep about to be sheared, he never said a word.

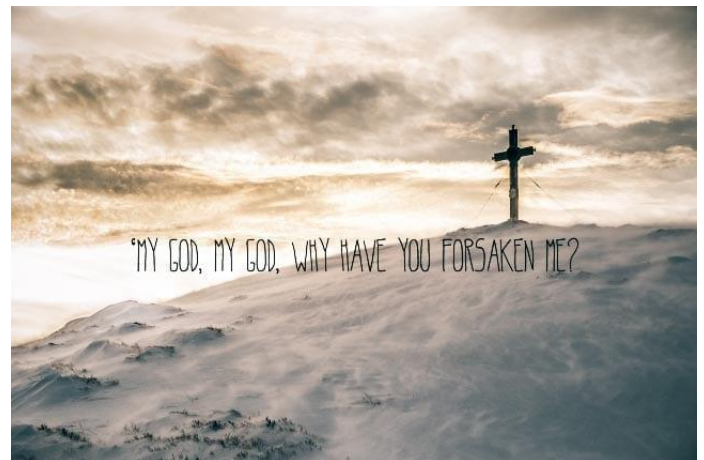
He was arrested and sentenced and led off to die, and no one cared about his fate. He was put to death for the sins of our people. He was placed in a grave with those who are evil, he was buried with the rich, even though he had never committed a crime or ever told a lie."

The Lord says, "It was my will that he should suffer; his death was a sacrifice to bring forgiveness. And so he will see his descendants; he will live a long life, and through him my purpose will succeed.

After a life of suffering, he will again have joy; he will know that he did not suffer in vain. My devoted servant, with whom I am pleased, will bear the punishment of many and for his sake I will forgive them. And so I will give him a place of honor, a place among the great and powerful. He willingly gave his life and shared the fate of evil men. He took the place of many sinners and prayed that they might be forgiven."

Verses from Psalm 22

My God my God why have you forsaken me,
and are so far from my salvation, from the words of my distress?
O my God I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer,
and by night also, but I find no rest.
Yet you are the Holy One, enthroned upon the praises of Israel.
Our forebears trusted in you, they trusted and you delivered them.
They cried out to you and were delivered;
they put their trust in you and were not confounded.
But as for me, I am a worm and no man,
scorned by all and despised by the people.
All who see me laugh me to scorn,
they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,
'He trusted in the Lord; let him deliver him;
let him deliver him if he delights in him.'
But it is you that took me out of the womb,
and laid me safe upon my mother's breast.
On you was I cast ever since I was born;
you are my God even from my mother's womb.
Be not far from me, for trouble is near at hand,
and there is none to help.



New Testament Reading Hebrews 4.14-16; 5.7-9

Since therefore we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast to the religion we profess. For ours is not a high priest unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who, because of his likeness to us, has been tested every way, only without sin. Let us therefore boldly approach the throne of our gracious God, where we may receive mercy and in his grace find timely help.

In the days of his earthly life he offered up prayers and petitions, with loud cries and tears, to God who was able to deliver him from the grave. Because of his humble submission his prayer was heard: son though he was, he learned obedience in the school of suffering, and, once perfected, became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.



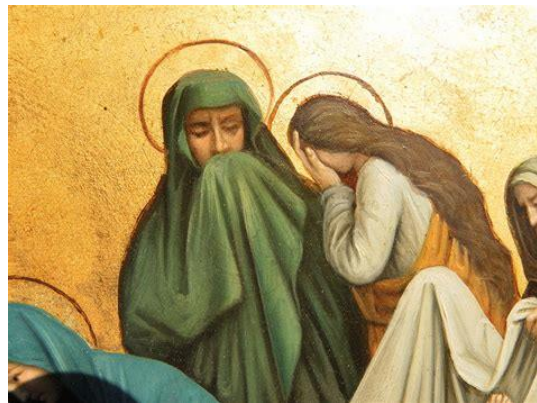
The Passion Gospel John 19

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 Jews.' Many of the Jews 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 of the Jews said to Pilate, 'Do not write,

"The King of the Jews", but, "This man said, I am King of the Jews." ' 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. 24 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 fulfil what the scripture says, 'They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.' And that is what the soldiers did.



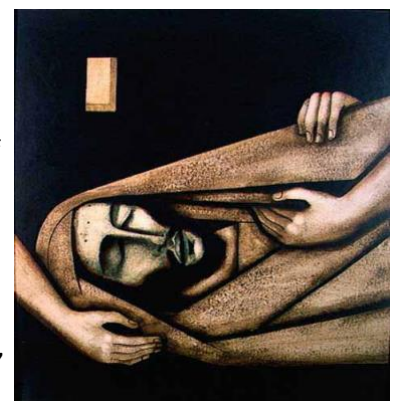
Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your 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 fulfil 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.

Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews 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 Jews, 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.



Proclamation of the Cross

Hold your cross in your hand as you say (or sing) the words of the hymn.

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.

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.

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?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.



Prayers for the world and for ourselves

Pray for the Church of God throughout the world:

for unity in faith, in witness and in service, for David and Mark, our bishops, and the people of this diocese,

for all Christians across the world, for those who are mocked and persecuted for their faith; that God will strengthen and preserve his Church in faith, as it carries out his mission in the world.



Pray for the nations of the world and their leaders:

for Elizabeth our Queen and the Parliaments of this land, for those who administer the law

and all who serve in public office, for all who strive for justice and reconciliation; that by God's help the world may live in peace and freedom, and emerge from the crisis of

these days with a stronger sense of commitment to each other.



Pray for God's chosen people, the Jews, entrusted with the Scriptures and the first to hear his word:

for greater understanding between Christian and Jew,

for the removal of our blindness and bitterness of heart;

that God will grant us grace to be faithful to his covenant and to grow in the love of his name.



Pray for those who do not believe the gospel of Christ:

for those who have not heard the message of salvation, for all who have lost faith,

for the contemptuous and scornful, for those who are enemies of Christ and persecute those who follow him, for all who deny the faith of Christ crucified;

that God will open their hearts to the truth and lead them to faith and obedience.

Pray for all those who suffer:

for those who are deprived and oppressed, for all who are sick, for those in darkness, in doubt and in

despair, in loneliness and in fear, for prisoners, captives and refugees, for the victims of false accusations and violence, for all at the point of death and those who watch beside them;

that God in his mercy will sustain them with the knowledge of his love.

Pray for ourselves and all God's children to his unfailing love,

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.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, set your passion, cross and death

between your judgement 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.

