

A Service for Good Friday

April 10, 2020 • Good Friday

(adapted from the *Book of Alternative Services*, pages 308-320)

If you are praying with one or more others, the service can be divided between the plain and bold text. If you are praying by yourself, you can say all of the prayers aloud or silently. During Holy Week, it is fitting that a cross be placed near where you will be praying.

The Preparation

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way,
And the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Christ the Lord became obedient unto death,
Even death on a cross.

The collect of the day may be said. This is the collect for the Fifth Sunday of Lent:

Almighty God,
look graciously, we pray, on this your family,
for whom our Lord Jesus Christ
was willing to be betrayed
and given into the hands of sinners,
and to suffer death upon the cross;
who now lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Reading

The Passion According to John may be read. John 18:1–19:42 is the Gospel appointed for Good Friday.

Following the reading you may contemplate in silence, or discuss the Gospel passage with others, or read a related work of literature.

Hymn

A hymn may be sung. This one can go to the tune Love Unknown.

1. My song is love unknown,
My Saviour's love to 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 oh, 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 has 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.
2. 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.

The Solemn Intercessions

Prayers may be offered for the church, those in authority, the world, those in need, and the departed. You may use the following litany alone or with others:

Dear people of God, our heavenly Father sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved, that all who believe in him might be delivered from the power of sin and death and become heirs with him of eternal life.

Let us pray for the one holy catholic and apostolic Church of Christ throughout the world: for its unity in witness and service, for all bishops and other ministers and the people whom they serve, for Bruce our bishop, and all the people of this diocese, for all Christians in this community, for those being prepared for baptism, that the Lord will confirm his Church in faith, increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.

Silence

Almighty and everlasting God,
by your Spirit the whole body of your faithful people
is governed and sanctified.
Receive our supplications and prayers
which we offer before you
for all members of your holy Church,
that in our vocation and ministry
we may truly and devoutly serve you;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Let us pray for all nations and peoples of the earth, and for those in authority among them:
for Elizabeth the Queen and all the Royal Family, for Justin the Prime Minister and for the
government of this country, for François the premier of this province and the members of the
National Assembly, for the mayors of our municipalities and those who serve with them, for
health and humanitarian organisations, for doctors and nurses, for all those who work to
provide for our daily needs, and for all who serve the common good, that by God's help they
may seek justice and truth, and live in peace and concord.

Silence

Almighty God,
kindle, we pray, in every heart
the true love of peace,
and guide with your wisdom
those who take counsel for the nations of the earth,
that justice and peace may increase,
until the earth is filled
with the knowledge of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for all who suffer and are afflicted in body or in mind: for the hungry and
homeless, the destitute and the oppressed, and all who suffer persecution or prejudice,
for the sick, the wounded, and the handicapped, for those in loneliness and isolation, fear, and
anguish, for those who face temptation, doubt, and despair, for the sorrowful and bereaved,
for prisoners and captives and those in mortal danger, that God in his mercy will comfort and
relieve them, and grant them the knowledge of his love, and stir up in us the will and patience
to minister to their needs.

Silence

Gracious God,
the comfort of all who sorrow,
the strength of all who suffer,
hear the cry of those in misery and need.
In their afflictions show them your mercy,
and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them,
for the sake of him who suffered for us,
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for all who have not received the gospel of Christ: for all who have not heard the words of salvation, for all who have lost their faith, for all whose sin has made them indifferent to Christ, for all who actively oppose Christ by word or deed, for all who are enemies of the cross of Christ, and persecutors of his disciples, for all who in the name of Christ have persecuted others, that God will open their hearts to the truth, and lead them to faith and obedience.

Silence

Merciful God,
creator of the peoples of the earth and lover of souls,
have compassion on all who do not know you
as you are revealed in your Son Jesus Christ.
Let your gospel be preached with grace and power
to those who have not heard it,
turn the hearts of those who resist it,
and bring home to your fold those who have gone astray;
that there may be one flock under one shepherd,
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us commit ourselves to God, and pray for the grace of a holy life, that with all who have departed this life and have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to God alone, we may be accounted worthy to enter into the fullness of the joy of our Lord, and receive the crown of life in the day of resurrection.

Silence

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light,
look favourably on your whole Church,
that wonderful and sacred mystery.
By the effectual working of your providence,
carry out in tranquillity the plan of salvation.
Let the whole world see and know
that things which were cast down are being raised up,
and things which had grown old are being made new,
and that all things are being brought to their perfection
by him through whom all things were made,
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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.

Conclusion

Send down your abundant blessing, Lord,
upon your people
who have devoutly recalled the death of your Son
in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection.
Grant them pardon; bring them comfort.
May their faith grow stronger
and their eternal salvation be assured.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.