

Livestreamed Liturgy of the Passion for Good Friday

St Philip's Anglican Church, O'Connor ACT, 10 April 2020, 10am

The priests enter in silence bearing a large wooden cross.

Standing in the midst of the altar and facing the body of the church, the priest elevates the cross.

The Rector says

Behold the wood of the cross, on which is hung the saviour of the world.

The cross is placed before the altar.

Introduction

The Rector says

Welcome to St Philip's, O'Connor—an Anglican church in the inner-North of Canberra, Australia. Once again we gather for this livestreamed liturgy without a congregation and behind closed doors, as required by Australian social distancing laws currently in force. My name is Father Martin Johnson and I am the Rector of this parish. Joining me in this liturgy is Canon Scott Cowdell, with Mr Colin Forbes providing the music.

As we celebrate the Passion of Jesus Christ and hear John's Gospel account 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 we may not even notice them. Good Friday serves as a good reminder of this reality. It is easy to become discouraged, to see how much work has to be done and so to 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 through Jesus Christ.

The traditional Good Friday liturgy has three key elements: the reading of St. John's Passion, the praying of Solemn Intercessions, and Adoration of the Holy Cross. It is also very fitting that Christians receive Holy Communion on Good Friday from the reserved sacrament, usually consecrated at the Eucharist for Maundy Thursday. Each of these elements helps us enter more fully into our relationship with Christ and recommits us to pray and work for the good of his church and world. In our limited circumstances, we offer today a highly compressed version of this liturgy.

The Rector continues

Let us pray.

Lord of Glory, we proclaim your death and as ever we look forward to your Resurrection. As we

contemplate your Cross, the tree on which you hung so that we may have life, may we be ever aware of the life that springs from death, the light that rises from darkness, and the hope that banishes fear. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Reading of the Passion Narrative (John 18:1–19:42)

The priest says

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, chapter 18, beginning at verse 1.

+Glory to +you +Lord Jesus Christ.

18 After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. ² Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³ So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴ Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, 'For whom are you looking?' ⁵ They answered, 'Jesus of Nazareth.' Jesus replied, 'I am he.' Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶ When Jesus said to them, 'I am he', they stepped back and fell to the ground. ⁷ Again he asked them, 'For whom are you looking?' And they said, 'Jesus of Nazareth.' ⁸ Jesus answered, 'I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go.' ⁹ This was to fulfil the word that he had spoken, 'I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me.' ¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. ¹¹ Jesus said to Peter, 'Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?'

12 So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. ¹³ First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. ¹⁴ Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

15 Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, ¹⁶ but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. ¹⁷ The woman said to Peter, 'You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?' He said, 'I am not.' ¹⁸ Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing round it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

19 Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. ²⁰ Jesus answered, 'I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. ²¹ Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said.' ²² When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, 'Is that how you answer the high priest?' ²³ Jesus answered, 'If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?' ²⁴ Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

25 Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, 'You are not also one of his disciples, are you?' He denied it and said, 'I am not.'²⁶ One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, 'Did I not see you in the garden with him?'²⁷ Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

28 Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover.²⁹ So Pilate went out to them and said, 'What accusation do you bring against this man?'³⁰ They answered, 'If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.'³¹ Pilate said to them, 'Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law.' The Jews replied, 'We are not permitted to put anyone to death.'³² (This was to fulfil what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

33 Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?'³⁴ Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?'³⁵ Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?'³⁶ Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.'³⁷ Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.'³⁸ Pilate asked him, 'What is truth?'

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, 'I find no case against him.'³⁹ But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?'⁴⁰ They shouted in reply, 'Not this man, but Barabbas!' Now Barabbas was a bandit.

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged.² And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe.³ They kept coming up to him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' and striking him on the face.⁴ Pilate went out again and said to them, 'Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him.'⁵ So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, 'Here is the man!'⁶ When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, 'Crucify him! Crucify him!' Pilate said to them, 'Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him.'⁷ The Jews answered him, 'We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God.'

8 Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever.⁹ He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, 'Where are you from?' But Jesus gave him no answer.¹⁰ Pilate therefore said to him, 'Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?'¹¹ Jesus answered him, 'You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.'¹² From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, 'If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor.'

13 When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. ¹⁴Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, 'Here is your King!' ¹⁵They cried out, 'Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!' Pilate asked them, 'Shall I crucify your King?' The chief priests answered, 'We have no king but the emperor.' ¹⁶Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus; ¹⁷and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. ¹⁹Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.' ²⁰Many 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. ²¹Then 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." ' ²²Pilate answered, 'What I have written I have written.' ²³When 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. ²⁴So 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.'

²⁵And 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. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

28 After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfil the scripture), 'I am thirsty.' ²⁹A 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. ³⁰When Jesus had received the wine, he said, 'It is finished.' Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

31 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. ³²Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. ³⁵(He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) ³⁶These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, 'None of his bones shall be broken.' ³⁷And again another passage of scripture says, 'They will look on the one whom they have pierced.'

38 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. ³⁹Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. ⁴⁰They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to

the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹Now 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. ⁴²And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

The Rector offers a short reflection.

Adoration of the Cross

Kneeling before the cross the Rector says

Behold the wood of the cross, on which is hung the saviour of the world.

A Litany

The priest says

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 when selfishness, greed, and lust influence our decisions:

Father, forgive.

For the times we nurture isolation instead of community:

Father, forgive.

For the times we know the needs of others but refuse to act:

Father, forgive.

For the times we are judgemental, self-righteous and hard of heart:

Father, forgive.

For the times we create divisions:

Father, forgive.

For the times we neglect to care for the Earth, our common home:

Father, forgive.

For the times we are not good stewards of the gifts you give us:

Father, forgive.

The priest continues

Confident that God the Father hears our prayers through Jesus Christ, let us offer our petitions with hearts open to the Holy Spirit.

For Holy Church throughout the world, for our diocese and parish, for Mark our bishop, for the clergy, and for all your faithful people: may we all grow in faith and discipleship.

Lord, hear us. **Lord hear our prayer.**

For all who are sick or suffering in body, mind, or spirit, and especially the many victims of COVID-19: May they know the great compassion of God through those who care for them.

Lord, hear us. **Lord hear our prayer.**

For peace in our families, communities, our nation, and the world: May all disagreement and hostility be resolved in ways that protect the life and dignity of all people.

Lord, hear us. **Lord hear our prayer.**

For all who are unemployed or otherwise suffer misfortune, especially the many economic victims of COVID-19: May they find opportunities to use their gifts for the service of others in ways that are sustaining and life-giving, and in time come to rebuild their lives and livelihoods.

Lord, hear us. **Lord hear our prayer.**

For all who grieve: May they know the consolation of hope found in Jesus Christ.

Lord, hear us. **Lord hear our prayer.**

The priest says

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray

**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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory, are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Rector concludes

Behold the wood of the cross, on which is hung the saviour of the world.

The Holy Communion

The priests unveil the reserved sacrament and receive communion on behalf of the absent congregation.

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

The Rector says

+ Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sins of the world.
Happy are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Blessing and Departure

The Rector says

Let us pray
Most merciful God, by the death and resurrection of your Son
Jesus Christ you have delivered and saved all people of the world.
Grant that, by faith in him who suffered on the cross,
we may triumph in the power of his victory over sin and death,
and live in newness of life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord, send down your abundant +blessing upon your people
who have devoutly recalled the death of your Son
in the sure 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. **Amen.**

The priests leave in silence.