



The Liturgy of Good Friday 29th March 2024 at 9am

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Welcome to Coventry Cathedral

Welcome to this service for Good Friday. Good Friday is the most solemn day of the Church's year. On this day, we enter into the darkness and dereliction of the cross as Jesus cries out, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'
The liturgy shows us that Good Friday is also a celebration of divine love poured out in death, a thanksgiving for the victory of the cross. At the heart of this service stands the passion account of St John, for whom the cross of Jesus is, supremely, his throne, from where, 'lifted up' he reigns in glory as King. 'It is finished!' he cries: not in despair, but in triumph, as he accomplishes the work of salvation his Father sent him to perform.

The service attempts to capture this twofold aspect of Good Friday. It allows us to ponder the mystery of Christ crucified by inviting us to hear the Scriptures read and the passion preached, to keep silence, offer prayer, and enter into the meaning of the cross.

There are three sections:

The Liturgy of the Word

in which the cross is set forth through scripture and preaching.

The Proclamation of the Cross

enabling the worshippers to respond to the ministry of the word by an act of devotion and adoration before the cross at the Chancel step.

The Solemn Intercession

offered at the foot of the cross, in which the Church prays for the unity of all Christians through the death of Christ, and for the healing of the whole human family for which he died.

In this service, we STAND and SIT as indicated, though do stay seated if you prefer. We say words in **bold** together.

The Cathedral Choir is directed by Rachel Mahon, Director of Music.

The artwork on the cover is by Julia Stankova.

The Liturgy of the Word

We STAND as the choir and ministers enter in silence.

The Collect

The Right Reverend Ruth Worsley, Acting Bishop of Coventry, presiding, says,

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 wicked men and to suffer death upon the cross; who is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Reading

We SIT to hear the reading, read by the Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry Cathedral.

See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. Just as there were many who were astonished at him — so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate. Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account. Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases: yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich. although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the Lord shall prosper. Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12

At the end, the Dean says,

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Silence is kept.

Psalm 22

The choir sings:

 My God, my God, look upon me; why hast thou forsaken me: and art so far from my health, and from the words of my complaint?
 O my God, I cry in the day-time, but thou hearest not: and in the night-season also I take no rest.

3. And thou continuest holy: O thou worship of Israel.

4. Our fathers hoped in thee: they trusted in thee, and thou didst deliver them.

5. They called upon thee, and were holpen: they put their trust in thee, and were not confounded.

6. But as for me, I am a worm, and no man: a very scorn of men, and the outcast of the people.

7. All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot our their lips, and shake their heads, saying,

8. He trusted in God, that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, if he will have him.

9. But thou art he that took me out of my mother's womb: thou wast my hope, when I hanged yet upon my mother's breasts.

10. I have been left unto thee ever since I was born: thou art my God, even from my mother's womb.

II. O go not from me, for trouble is hard at hand: and there is none to help me.

12. Many oxen are come about me: fat bulls of Basan close me in on every side.

13. They gape upon me with their mouths: as it were a ramping and a roaring lion.

14. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart also in the midst of my body is even like melting wax.

15. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue cleaveth to my gums: and thou shalt bring me into the dust of death.

16. For many dogs are come about me: and the council of the wicked layeth siege against me.

17. They pierced my hands and my feet; I may tell all my bones: they stand staring and looking upon me.

18. They part my garments among them: and cast lots upon my vesture.

19. But be not thou far from me, O Lord: thou art my succour, haste thee to help me.

20. Deliver my soul from the sword: my darling from the power of the dog.

21. Save me from the lion's mouth: thou hast heard me also from among the horns of the unicorns.

vv. 1 - 21Chant by Matthew Camidge (1758-1844)

The Passion Gospel

We remain SEATED for the first part of the Passion Gospel. The Gospel is read in dramatic form, the congregation taking the part of the soldiers, priests and bystanders, printed in **bold** in the text.

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. Evangelist: When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples across the Kidron valley, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas, procuring a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to befall him, came forward and said to them: Whom do you seek? Jesus: Soldiers: lesus of Nazareth. lesus: I am he. Evangelist: Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When he said to them, 'I am he', they drew back and fell to the ground. Again, he asked them: Whom do you seek? lesus: Soldiers: lesus of Nazareth. lesus: I told you that I am he; so, if you seek me, let these men go. Evangelist: This was to fulfil the word which he had spoken, 'Of those whom you gave me I lost no one'. Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high

Jesus: Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup which the Father has given me?

Evangelist: So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews seized Jesus and bound him. First they led him to Annas; for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had given counsel to the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people. Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. As this disciple was known to the high priest, he entered the court of the high priest along with Jesus, while Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the maid who kept the door, and brought Peter in. The maid who kept the door said to Peter:

Maid: Are you not also one of this man's disciples?

Peter: I am not.

- *Evangelist:* Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves; Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself. The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. Jesus answered him:
- Jesus: I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together; I have said nothing secretly. Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them: they know what I said.
- *Evangelist:* When he had said this, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying:
- Officer: Is that how you answer the high priest?
- Jesus: If I have spoken wrongly, bear witness to the wrong; but if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?

Evangelist:	Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They said to him:
Bystanders:	Are you not also one of his disciples?
Peter:	l am not.
Evangelist:	One of the servants of the high priest, a kinsman of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked:
Servant:	Did I not see you in the garden with him?
Evangelist:	Peter again denied it; and at once the cock crowed. Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the praetorium. It was early. They themselves did not enter the praetorium, so that they might not be defiled, but might eat the passover. So Pilate went out to them and said:
Pilate:	What accusation do you bring against this man?
Priests:	If this man were not an evildoer, we would not
	have handed him over.
Pilate:	Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.
Priests:	It is not lawful for us to put any man to death.
Evangelist:	This was to fulfil the word which Jesus had spoken to show by what death he was to die. Pilate entered the praetorium again and called Jesus, and said to him:
Pilate:	Are you the King of the Jews?
Jesus:	Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?
Pilate:	Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me; what have you done?
Jesus:	My kingship is not of this world; if my kingship were of this world, my servants would fight, that I might not be handed over to the Jews; but my kingship is not from the world.

Pilate:	So you are a king?
Jesus:	You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice.
Pilate:	What is truth?
Evangelist:	After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them:
Pilate:	I find no crime in him. But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover; will you have me release for you the King of the Jews?
Priests:	Not this man, but Barabbas!
Evangelist:	Now Barabbas was a robber. Then Pilate took Jesus and scourged him. And the soldiers plaited a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and arrayed him in a purple robe; they came up to him, saying:
Soldiers:	Hail, King of the Jews!
Evangelist:	Pilate went out again, and said to them:
Pilate:	Behold, I am bringing him out to you, that you may know that I find no crime in him.
Evangelist:	So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe.
Pilate:	Here is the man!
Evangelist:	When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out:
Priests:	Crucify him! Crucify him!
Pilate:	Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no crime in him.
Priests:	We have a law, and by that law he ought to die, because he has made himself the Son of God.
Evangelist:	When Pilate heard these words, he was the more afraid; he entered the praetorium again and said to Jesus:

Pilate:	Where are you from?
Evangelist:	But Jesus gave no answer.
Pilate:	You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?
Jesus:	You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore he who delivered me to you has the greater sin.
Evangelist:	Upon this Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out:
Priests:	If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend; every one who makes himself a king sets himself against Caesar.
Evangelist:	When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement, and in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews:
Pilate:	Here is your King!
Priests:	Away with him, away with him, crucify him!
Pilate:	Shall I crucify your King?
Priests:	We have no king but Caesar.
Evangelist:	Then he handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.
We STAND.	
Evangelist:	So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Skull, which is called in Hebrew Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote a title and put it on the cross; it read, 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews'. Many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city;

	and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek.
	The chief priests of the Jews then said to Pilate:
Priests:	Do not write, 'The King of the Jews', but, 'This man said, ''I am the King of the Jews'''.
Pilate:	What I have written, I have written.
Evangelist:	When the soldiers had crucified Jesus they took his garments and made four parts, one for each soldier. But his tunic was without seam, woven from top to bottom; so they said to one another:
Soldiers:	Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.
Evangelist:	This was to fulfil the scripture, 'They parted my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots'. So the soldiers did this. But standing by 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 near, he said to his mother:
Jesus:	Woman, behold your son.
Evangelist:	Then he said to the disciple:
Jesus:	Behold your mother.
Evangelist:	And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfil the scripture):
Jesus:	l thirst.
Evangelist:	A bowl full of vinegar stood there; so they put a sponge full of the vinegar on hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said:
Jesus:	It is finished.
Evangelist:	And he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Silence is kept and the choir sings -

Crucifixus etiam pro nobis, sub Pontio Pilato. Passus et sepultus est.

He was crucified for us, under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried.

Words from the Nicene Creed, Music by Antonio Lotti (1667-1740)

The Address

We remain STANDING until the Reverend Mary Gregory, Canon for Arts and Reconciliation, has prayed, then we SIT. After the address, silence is kept.

Hymn

We STAND to sing, following the choir and ministers to gather at the Chancel Steps.

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 cross 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?

His dying crimson, like a robe, spreads o'er his body on the tree: then am I dead to all the globe, and all the globe is dead to me. 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.

Words by Isaac Watts (1674-1749) Tune CP 127 Rockingham melody adapted by Edward Miller (1731-1807)

The Proclamation of the Cross

Those who are able KNEEL at the foot of the cross. The Bishop proclaims, and everyone responds:

We glory in your cross, O Lord, and praise you for your mighty resurrection; for by virtue of your cross, joy has come into our world.

Silence is kept, in homage to the crucified Christ. The choir sings the Reproaches.

O my people, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me!

Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal; have mercy.

I. For forty years I led you safely through the desert: I fed you with manna from heaven but you led your Saviour to the cross. What more could I have done for you? When I was thirsty you gave me vinegar to drink.

2. I planted you as my fairest vine, but you yielded only bitterness: and you pierced your Saviour's side with a lance. For your sake I scourged your captors and their first-born sons: but you brought your scourges down on me.

3. I led you from slavery to freedom and drowned your captors in the sea: but you handed me over to your high priests. I opened the sea before you, but you opened my side with a spear: I led you on your way in a pillar of cloud, but you led me to Pilate's court.

4. I bore you up with manna in the desert, but you struck me down and scourged me: I gave you saving water from the rock but you gave me gall and vinegar to drink. For you I struck down the kings of Canaan: but you struck my head with a reed.

5. I gave you a royal sceptre, but you gave me a crown of thorns: I raised you to the height of majesty, but you have raised me high on a cross.

Set by John Sanders (1933-2003)

Silence is kept before the Bishop proclaims, and everyone responds:

We glory in your cross, O Lord, and praise you for your mighty resurrection; for by virtue of your cross, joy has come into our world.

The Choir sings:

Drop, drop, slow tears, And bathe those beauteous feet Which brought from Heaven The news and Prince of Peace.

Cease not, wet eyes, His mercy to entreat; To cry for vengeance Sin doth never cease.

In your deep floods Drown all my faults and fears; Nor let His eye See sin, but through my tears.

> Words by Phineas Fletcher (1582-1650) Composed by William Walton (1902-1983)

Silence is kept before the Bishop proclaims, and everyone responds:

We glory in your cross, O Lord, and praise you for your mighty resurrection; for by virtue of your cross, joy has come into our world.

Hymn

We STAND to sing the hymn:

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 deflower? O countenance whose splendour The hosts of heaven adore.

Thy beauty, long desired, hath vanished from our sight; thy power 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 moved 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 power, 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 thin arms extended Upon the Cross of life.

Words by Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676) from a 14th century Latin hymn translated by Robert Bridges (1844-1930) Tune CP 119 Passion Chorale Traditional secular melody

The Solemn Intercession

We KNEEL or SIT, and the Bishop says,

Let us pray to the Father through his Son, who suffered on the cross for the world's redemption.

Bless all who work and pray for the unity of the Church. Give to Christian people everywhere a deep longing to take up the cross and to enter into its mysterious glory. Bless the bishops, the clergy and readers of this Diocese, our Cathedral community, and the Community of the Cross of Nails throughout the world. Strengthen those who are preparing for baptism and confirmation, together with their teachers, sponsors and families.

Teach us what it means to die and rise with Christ, and ready them to receive his Spirit.

Look in your mercy on this world for love of which you gave your Son to suffer and die.

Bring peace to its troubled people, and healing to its wounds. Strengthen those who work to share your reconciliation, won at such a cost upon the cross.

Bring healing to all who suffer pain and injustice, especially the poor and dispossessed, and those known to us. Help the lonely and the betrayed, the suffering and the dying, to find strength in Christ's companionship, and in his passion to know their salvation.

Welcome into paradise all who have left this world in your friendship. According to your promises, bring them with all your saints to share in all the benefits of Christ's death and resurrection.

We SIT as the choir sings:

Miserere mei, Deus: secundum magnam misericordiam tuam. Et secundum multitudinem miserationum tuarum, dele iniquitatem meam. Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness;

according to the abundance of your compassion blot out my offences.

Amplius lava me ab iniquitate mea: et a peccato meo munda me. Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin. Quoniam iniquitatem meam ego cognosco: et peccatum meum contra me est semper.

For I acknowledge my faults and my sin is ever before me.

Tibi soli peccavi, et malum coram te feci: ut iustificeris in sermonibus tuis, et vincas cum iudicaris.

Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, So that you are justified in your sentence and righteous in your judgement.

Ecce enim in inquitatibus conceptus sum: et in peccatis concepit me mater mea.

I have been wicked even from my birth, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

Ecce enim veritatem dilexisti: incerta et occulta sapientiae tuae manifestasti mihi. Behold, you desire truth deep within me and shall make me understand wisdom in the depths of my heart.

Asperges me, hyssopo, et mundabor: lavabis me, et super nivem dealbabor. Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean; wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

Auditui meo dabis gaudium et laetitiam: et exsultabunt ossa humiliata.

Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the bones you have broken may rejoice.

Averte faciem tuam a peccatis meis: et omnes iniquitates meas dele. Turn your face from my sins and blot out all my misdeeds.

Cor mundum crea in me, Deus: et spiritum rectum innova in visceribus meis. Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Ne proiicias me a facie tua:

et spiritum sanctum tuum ne auferas a me.

Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy spirit from me.

Redde mihi laetitiam salutaris tui:

et spiritu principali confirma me.

Give me again the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your gracious spirit;

Docebo iniquos vias tuas: et impii ad te convertentur.

Then shall I teach your ways to the wicked and sinners shall return to you.

Libera me de sanguinibus, Deus, Deus salutis meae: et exsultabit lingua mea iustitiam tuam.

Deliver me from my guilt, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

Domine, labia mea aperies: et os meum annuntiabit laudem tuam.

O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Quoniam si voluisses sacrificium, dedissem utique:

holocaustis non delectaberis.

For you desire no sacrifice, else I would give it; you take no delight in burnt offerings.

Sacrificium Deo spiritus contribulatus:

cor contritum, et humiliatum, Deus, non despicies.

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Benigne fac, Domine, in bona voluntate tua Sion: ut aedificentur muri lerusalem.

O be favourable and gracious to Zion; build up the walls of Jerusalem.

Tunc acceptabis sacrificium iustitiae, oblationes, et holocausta: tunc imponent super altare tuum vitulos. Then you will accept sacrifices offered in righteousness, the burnt offerings and oblations; then shall they offer up bulls upon your altar.

Psalm 51 Music by Gregorio Allegri (1582-1652)

Silence is kept before the Bishop leads us in the Lord's Prayer:

Kneeling at the foot of the cross, let us pray together:

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 for ever. Amen.

The Bishop says,

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved us all, grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross, we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** The choir and ministers move to the West Screen, as the choir sings:

Thou didst suspend the earth immovably upon the waters. Now creation beholds thee suspended on Calvary. Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy.

From a Bulgarian Orthodox Chant

You are warmly invited to stay for a drink and hot cross bun after the service.

Our Worship on Sunday 31st March, Easter Day

We hope you will be able to join us on Sunday to celebrate the risen Christ! Below are our services for the day. You will receive a warm welcome at all of them. **6am:** Dawn Eucharist with Baptism and Confirmation

10:30am: Cathedral Eucharist for Easter Day

4pm: Festal Evensong

Please note that the clocks go <u>forward</u> in the early hours of 31st March!