

Holy Week

It is still uncertain when Christians first began to make an annual (as opposed to a weekly) memorial of the death and resurrection of Christ. This Pascha (a word derived indirectly from pesach, Hebrew 'Passover') was at first a night-long vigil, followed by the celebration of the Eucharist at cock-crow, and all the great themes of redemption were included within it: incarnation, suffering, death, resurrection, glorification.

Over time, the Pascha developed into the articulated structure of Holy Week and Easter. Through participation in the whole sequence of services, the Christian shares in Christ's own journey, from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem on **Palm Sunday** to the empty tomb on Easter morning. The procession with palms, which was already observed in Jerusalem in the fourth century, is accompanied by the reading or singing of the Passion Narrative, in which the whole story of the week is anticipated. **Maundy Thursday** (from mandatum, 'commandment') contains a rich complex of themes: humble Christian service expressed through Christ's washing of his disciples' feet, the institution of the Eucharist, the perfection of Christ's loving obedience through the agony of Gethsemane. After keeping vigil ('Could you not watch with me one hour?') Thursday passes into **Good Friday**, remembering the day Jesus was crucified, with its veneration of the Cross. The church remains stripped of all decoration. It continues bare and empty through the following day, which is a day without a liturgy: there can be no adequate way of recalling the being dead of the Son of God, other than silence and desolation. But within the silence there grows a sense of peace and completion, and then rising excitement as the **Easter Vigil** draws near.

Good Friday

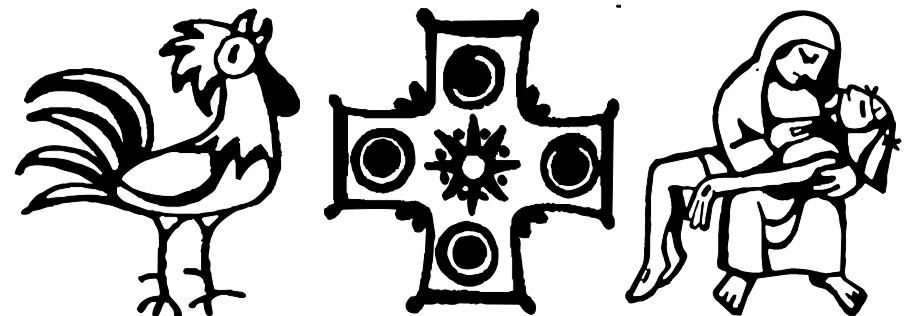
This is the day when Christ was crucified. It is the most important day of the Christian year. Without Good Friday there can be no Easter day. There is often a temptation to jump straight to the joy of the resurrection without taking into account the reality of human life. This service offers space for personal reflection in front of the cross. As we confront the cross we encounter the messiness of humanity and only when we come to Christ in total honesty can we meet him again on Easter morning.

TRING TEAM PARISH

St. John the Baptist, Aldbury - All Saints, Long Marston -
St Mary, Puttenham - St Peter & St Paul, Tring -
St Cross, Wilstone

GOOD FRIDAY

LAST HOUR AT THE CROSS



LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom :

**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.**

CONCLUSION

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved mankind:
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.

All **Amen.**

All leave in silence

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THE GATHERING

*The ministers enter in silence and all kneel for a time of silent prayer.
(for a note about Holy Week and Good Friday please see the back cover)*

HYMN

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Lord Jesus, think on me,
and purge away my sin;
from earthborn passions set me free
and make me pure within. | 4. Lord Jesus, think on me,
nor let me go astray;
through darkness and perplexity
point thou the heavenly way. |
| 2. Lord Jesus, think on me,
with care and woe opprest;
let me thy loving servant be,
and taste thy promised rest. | 5. Lord Jesus, think on me,
when flows the tempest high:
when on doth rush the enemy,
O Saviour, be thou nigh. |
| 3. Lord Jesus, think on me,
amid the battle's strife;
in all my pain and misery
be thou my health and life. | 6. Lord Jesus, think on me,
that, when the flood is past,
I may the eternal brightness see,
and share thy joy at last. |

COLLECT

*The minister introduces another period of silent prayer and then says the
Collect.*

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,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen**

PSALM

1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me, *
and are so far from my salvation, from the words of my distress?
2 **O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; *
and by night also, but I find no rest.**
3 Yet you are the Holy One, *
enthroned upon the praises of Israel.
4 **Our forebears trusted in you; *
they trusted, and you delivered them.**
5 They cried out to you and were delivered; *
they put their trust in you and were not confounded.
6 **But as for me, I am a worm and no man, *
scorned by all and despised by the people.**
7 All who see me laugh me to scorn; *
they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,
8 **'He trusted in the Lord; let him deliver him; *
let him deliver him, if he delights in him.'**
9 But it is you that took me out of the womb *
and laid me safe upon my mother's breast.
10 **On you was I cast ever since I was born; *
you are my God even from my mother's womb.**
11 Be not far from me, for trouble is near at hand *
and there is none to help.
12 **Mighty oxen come around me; *
fat bulls of Bashan 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; all my bones are out of joint; *
my heart has become like wax melting in the depths of my body**
15 My mouth is dried up like a potsherd;
my tongue cleaves to my gums; *
you have laid me in the dust of death.
16 **For the hounds are all about me;
the pack of evildoers close in on me;
they pierce my hands and my feet.**
17 I can count all my bones; *
they stand staring and looking upon me.

1. **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**
2. **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.**
3. **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?**
4. **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.**
5. **Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

 INTERCESSION

God sent his Son into the world,
not to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved through him.
Therefore we pray to our heavenly Father
for people everywhere according to their needs.

this response is used

Lord, hear us.
All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

But I have bestowed on him the name that is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow
and every tongue confess, Jesus Christ is Lord.

Turn again, my people, listen to me.

All **Father, hear our prayer
and forgive us.
Unstop our ears
that we may receive the gospel of the cross.
Lighten our eyes that we may see your glory
in the face of your Son.
Penetrate our minds
that your truth may make us whole.
Irradiate our hearts with your love
that we may love one another for Christ's sake.
Father, forgive us.**

You are worthy, O Christ, for you were slain;
for by your blood you ransomed men for God:
from every race and language, from every people and nation,
to make them a kingdom of priests
to stand and serve before our God.

All **We adore you, O Christ,
and we bless you,
because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.**

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,
and made us a kingdom of priests
to stand and serve before our God;

All **To him who sits upon the throne
and to the Lamb
be praise and honour,
glory and might,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

All are invited to come and pray before the cross if they so wish

18 **They divide my garments among them; *
they cast lots for my clothing.**
19 Be not far from me, O Lord; *
you are my strength; hasten to help me.
20 **Deliver my soul from the sword, *
my poor life from the power of the dog.**
21 Save me from the lion's mouth, from the horns of wild oxen. *
You have answered me!
22 **I will tell of your name to my people; *
In the midst of the congregation will I praise you.**
23 Praise the Lord, you that fear him; *
O seed of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, O seed of Israel.
24 **For he has not despised nor abhorred the suffering of the poor; *
neither has he hidden his face from them; *
but when they cried to him he heard them.**
25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those that fear you.
26 **The poor shall eat and be satisfied; *
those who seek the Lord shall praise him; *
their hearts shall live for ever.**
27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
28 **For the kingdom is the Lord's *
and he rules over the nations.**
29 How can those who sleep in the earth bow down in worship, *
or those who go down to the dust kneel before him?
30 **He has saved my life for himself; *
my descendants shall serve him; *
this shall be told of the Lord for generations to come.**
31 They shall come and make known his salvation,
to a people yet unborn, *
declaring that he, the Lord, has done it.

PASSION GOSPEL

John 18.1 - 19. end is read, you may prefer to sit for this

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

SERMON

HYMN

1. *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.*

2. *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.*

3. *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.*

4. *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.*

5. *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 thine arms extended
upon the cross of life.*



PROCLAMATION OF THE CROSS

A wooden cross is placed in the sight of the people.

My people, what wrong have I done to you?
What good have I not done for you? Listen to me.
I am your Creator, Lord of the universe;
I have entrusted this world to you,
but you have created the means to destroy it.
I made you in my image, but you have degraded body and spirit
and marred the image of your God.

You have deserted me and turned your backs on me.
I filled the earth with all that you need,
so that you might serve and care for one another,
as I have cared for you;
but you have cared only to serve your own wealth and power.

All **Holy God, holy and strong,
holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

I made my children of one blood
to live in families rejoicing in one another;
but you have embittered the races and divided the nations.
I commanded you to love your neighbour as yourself,
to love and forgive even your enemies;
but you have made vengeance your rule and hate your guide.
In the fullness of time I sent you my Son,
that in him you might know me,
and through him find life and peace;
but you put him to death on the cross.

All **Holy God, holy and strong,
holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

Through the living Christ, I called you into my Church
to be my servants to the world,
but you have grasped at privilege and forgotten my will.
I have given you a heavenly gift and a share in the Holy Spirit;
I have given you the spiritual energies of the age to come;
but you have turned away and crucified the Son of God afresh.
I have consecrated you in the truth; I have made you to be one
in the unity of the Father and the Son, by the power of the Spirit;
but you have divided my Church and shrouded my truth.

All **Holy God, holy and strong,
holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

Turn again, my people, listen to me.

Let your bearing to one another
arise out of your life in Christ Jesus.
He humbled himself
and in obedience accepted the death of the cross.