

Good Friday



*St. James' Episcopal Church
Skaneateles, New York
3:00 pm*

The Paschal Triduum – One Liturgy, Three Days

Day Two: Good Friday

The second act is always the low point in any story. The same is true in the story of the Paschal Triduum, the three sacred days at the end of Jesus' life. After washing the feet of his friends and giving them a new mandate to love as he loves them, Jesus is betrayed and killed by the state. We dare to call this day "Good" Friday.

Last week a crowd shouted 'Hosanna!' as Jesus joyfully entered into Jerusalem, proclaiming that the Kingdom of God comes to the world in humility, not military power. But this is a different crowd today. This crowd has been stirred up by those in power who are threatened by Jesus, and in their fear they stoke the flames of intolerance and scapegoating, leaving Jesus at the mercy of Roman occupiers.

Crucifixion took a long time, and according to the Scriptures, Jesus languished on the cross for six hours before finally giving up his spirit. Such a fate was not reserved for common criminals or even murderers, but instead the cross was for insurrections and those who opposed the rule of Caesar. Not only was it the most shameful of deaths - naked and propped up for all to see - but those crucified hung there as a warning to anyone who dared oppose the most powerful nation in the world.

Today, as we gather around the cross in our liturgy, we bring all of our pain and sorrow to it. We recall the crosses in our own country - the lynching trees from which hung the bodies of innocent people used as props to warn others to stay in line. Our tears are our prayer this day, as Jesus' broken body is laid in the arms of his mother, the same as so many children we see today whose parents are forced to bury them prematurely after they are taken by a cruel, violent world.

Can there be any sense in the pain we feel today? Or is the point to simply feel it and know that whenever our hearts grieve, so does the heart of God?

Whatever you feel today, bring it to the cross of Christ, where God may transform it into an instrument of life.

For the benefit of those who wish to pray, we ask that you please enter the Sanctuary quietly. Everything you need to follow the liturgy can be found in your bulletin. We are so glad you are here!


The Ministers enter in silence and take their places. All kneel, solemnly bow, or sit for a period of silent prayer.

Officiant Behold the wood of the Cross, on which was hung the world's salvation.
People Come, let us adore him.

Kyrie, S-85


plainsong

Cantor or Choir *All*




Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Cantor or Choir *All*



Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son.

Cantor or Choir *All*



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Officiant Let us pray.
 Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold 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.**

All are seated.

The First Reading


Isaiah 52: 13-53: 12

A period of silence follows.

The Psalter

Psalms 22

Refrain



My God, my God, O why have you a - ban - doned me?

Verses

1. All who see me laugh at me, they mock me and they shake their heads:
 "He relied on the Lord, let the Lord be his refuge."
2. As dogs around me, they circle me about.
 Wounded me and pierced me, I can number all my bones.
3. My clothing they divided, for my garments casting lots,
 O Lord, do not desert me, but hasten to my aid.
4. I will praise you to my people, and proclaim you in their midst,
 O fear the Lord, my people, give glory to God's name.

Text: Psalm 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24; Marty Haugen, © 1983, GIA Publications, Inc.; refrain trans., © 1969, ICEL
 Music: Marty Haugen, © 1983, GIA Publications, Inc.

The Cantor sings the verses, and the People join in the refrain

The Second Reading

Hebrews 10: 16-25

A period of silence follows.

All stand for the hymn and remain standing for the reading.

Sequence Hymn 171

Petra

The Gospel Reading

John 19: 1-42

All are seated at the invitation of the preacher.

The Sermon

The Rev. Joe T. Mitchell

Devotions at the Cross

Officiant	Let us approach the Cross of Christ.
People	Where we shall receive mercy and find grace.
Officiant	He offered up prayers and supplications.
People	By his blood he reconciled us; by his wounds we are healed.

All who desire to do so may gather for prayer around the cross.

Music During the Devotions:	Meditation on <i>Love Unknown</i>	Francis Jackson (1917-2022)
	Dusk	Nkeiru Okoye (b. 1972), arr. Anne Marsden Thomas
	Gymnopedie No. 1	Erik Satie (1866-1925)

At the conclusion of the Devotions, the people join in singing the following chant.

The image displays two systems of musical notation for a chant. Each system consists of a treble and a bass staff joined by a brace on the left. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics 'Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.' are written below the notes. The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system continues the melody and accompaniment.

Text: Luke 23:42; Taizé Community
Music: REMEMBER ME, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
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The Prayers

All kneel, sit, or solemnly bow. A period of silence follows each petition.

- Officiant* Grieving God, on the cross your Son embraced death even as he had embraced life: faithfully and with courage. Grant that we your church, who have been born out of his wounded side, may find courage in all times of need and may hold fast to our faith in him. Let us pray for the church throughout the world, for unity and for strength, in prayer and in action.
- Assistant* Compassionate God, your love finds full expression in the gift of Jesus Christ your Son, who willingly met betrayal and death, so that he may set us free for love. Give to all nations, leaders, and people the wisdom and humility to live in harmony as we await your coming reign. Let us pray for God's human family, for justice and peace on the earth.
- Officiant* Creating God, maker of the stars and seas: you have filled your creation with blessing and have given it into our care; but we have failed to honor your goodness, and we have violated its substance. Forgive our misuse of the world you so love, and grant that we may be transformed by the mercy of our crucified and risen Lord. Let us pray for God's creation, that we may treat it with renewed reverence and care.
- Assistant* Vulnerable God, your Son suffered neglect and injustice on the cross for refusing to compromise your love. Eliminate our neglect of those who are destitute and who have no one to care for them, and for those who are oppressed for reasons of race or creed or conscience. Give rise in us a righteous will to turn our sorrow into joy and strengthen our commitment to establish equal protection and opportunity for all. Let us pray for all who are poor, neglected, and oppressed, that together we may share in the riches of your blessings.
- Officiant* Wounded God, the body of Christ was broken in a world of violence and war. Reconcile those who are estranged, console those who suffer, protect those in danger, and raise up to new life all that are bound by violence, war, and death. Let us pray for all who suffer violence and conflict, that they may know the protection and comfort of God's abiding presence.
- Assistant* Christ our God, your love is poured out in death for our sake. Hold us in your embrace as we wait for Easter's dawn. Comfort us with the promise that no power on earth, not even death itself, can separate us from your love; and strengthen us to wait until you are revealed to us in all your risen glory. Let us pray for the dying and those who have died, that they may find resurrection hope and fullness of joy in communion with all the saints.
- Officiant* And now, to sum up all these petitions, let us pray the prayer that our Lord taught us.
- All* **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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**
- Officiant* O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility 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.**

Offertory Hymn 458

Love Unknown

Today's offering goes to the aid of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. Since 1922, Episcopalians have supported the ministries of our Anglican sisters and brothers in the Province of Jerusalem & the Middle East through the Good Friday Offering. In a troubled part of the world, these parishes help sustain local communities and promote peace.

All stand.

<i>Officiant</i>	We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
<i>People</i>	Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Hymn at the Closing 172

Were You There

<i>Officiant</i>	Let us bless the Lord.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

All are welcome to linger in the sanctuary for prayer before leaving in silence.

Our worship continues with the Great Vigil of Easter tomorrow evening at 8:00.

Participants in the Liturgy

Officiant

The Rev. Joe T. Mitchell

Assistant

Sr. Marie Patricia Hughes

Minister of Music

Justin Oei

Guest Musician

Maria Constantine

