



**St. Michael and All Angels
Amersham on the Hill**



THE LITURGY FOR GOOD FRIDAY

A warm welcome to this service

This booklet is designed to help you follow the service and includes guidance notes. Do please ask a “Welcomer” if you need any further help.

Today we remember that Christ died for us all because he loves us.

We gather in silence around the empty table. Please remain seated as the ministers enter the church.

The Gathering

Please remain seated..

Taizé chants

The service starts with Taizé chants printed on the Reflection sheet, led by the choir. Please join in, if you wish.

The Collect

The priest gathers together, or collects, our prayers.

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.

or

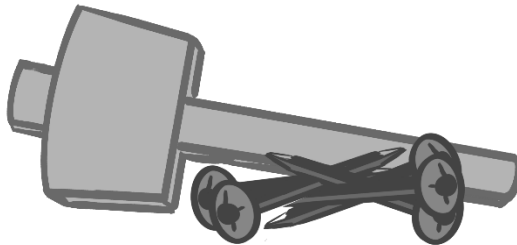
Eternal God,
in the cross of Jesus
we see the cost of our sin
and the depth of your love:
in humble hope and fear may we place at his feet
all that we have and all that we are,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All

Amen.

Hymn

Please remain seated.



First Reading

(Isaiah 52.13 – 53.12)

Read from within the congregation.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

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.

(No response is made)

Psalm 22. 1-11

Choir

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me,
and are so far from my salvation, from the words of my distress?

O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer;
and by night also, but I find no rest.

Yet you are the Holy One,
enthroned upon the praises of Israel.

Our forebears trusted in you;
they trusted, and you delivered them.

They cried out to you and were delivered;
they put their trust in you and were not confounded.

But as for me, I am a worm and no man,
scorned by all and despised by the people.

All who see me laugh me to scorn;
they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,

'He trusted in the Lord; let him deliver him;
let him deliver him, if he delights in him.'

But it is you that took me out of the womb
and laid me safe upon my mother's breast.

On you was I cast ever since I was born;
you are my God even from my mother's womb.

Be not far from me, for trouble is near at hand
and there is none to help.

Second Reading

(Mark 15. 1-15)

Read from within the congregation.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' He answered him, 'You say so.' Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, 'Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.' But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

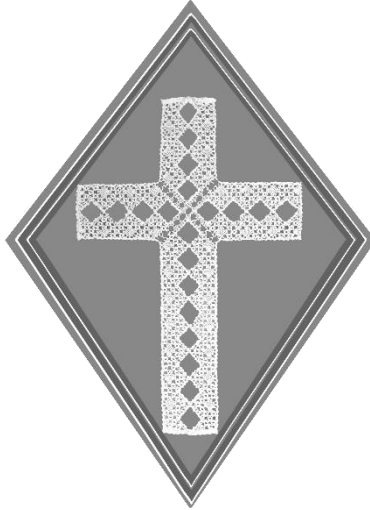
Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, 'Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?' For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, 'Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?' They shouted back, 'Crucify him!' Pilate asked them, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Crucify him!' So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

(No response is made)

Silence is kept.

Good Friday Reflection

Please see separate sheet.



The Proclamation of the Cross

Please stand, if able.

The cross is carried in, stopping three times. At each pause the following is said:

Minister

The cross of Christ.

All

The cross on which the Saviour of the world was hung.

As the cross is placed in position in its stand, the following is said:

This is the wood of the cross,
on which hung the Saviour of the world.

All

Come, let us worship.

*We are invited to stand or kneel at the foot of the cross to make our devotion or prayer. When you have approached the cross, please return to your seat and sit in **silent** prayer.*

Jesus, Saviour of the world,
come to us in your mercy:
we look to you to save and help us.

By your cross and your life laid down,
you set your people free:
we look to you to save and help us.

The Lord's Prayer

Please sit or kneel.

Standing at the foot of the cross, in our own language let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has 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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn

Please stand, if able.

The Conclusion

Minister

Father God, you waited
through the long hours of agony,
when he was robbed even
of the sense of your love, your presence,
when the sin and disease and hatred
and darkness overwhelmed him so greatly.
He was wounded for my transgressions.

All

He was wounded for my transgressions.

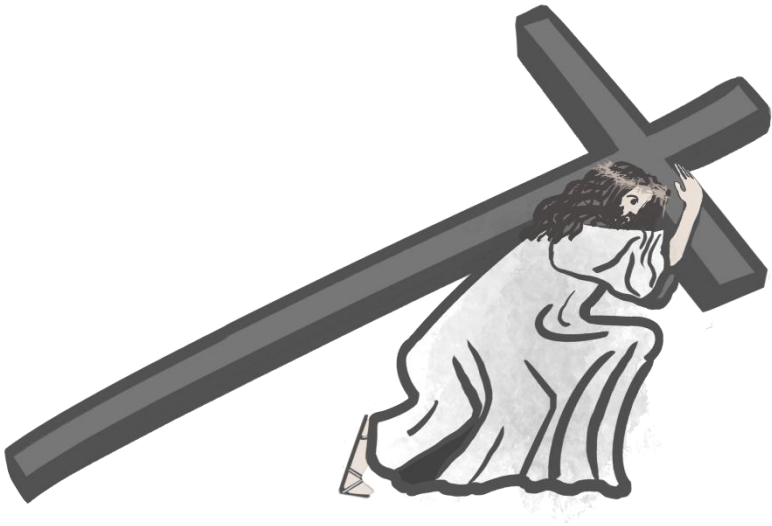
Father, what love is this of his?
What love is this of yours
that his dying love reflects?
Your forgiveness for me,
as we gaze upon his sacrificial death,
is as truly an undeserved gift
as the pardon he spoke to the dying thief.
It is mine if I will only receive:
He was wounded for my transgressions.

All

He was wounded for my transgressions.

The cross is now carried down through the Narthex and placed centrally on the forecourt of the church, proclaiming his love for all.

Please leave in silence.



Material from the following may be included in this service: *Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England* (2000), *Patterns for Worship* (1995), *New Patterns for Worship* (2002), *Times and Seasons* (2006), *The Promise of His Glory* (1991) all copyright © The Archbishops' Council; *Celtic Daily Prayer Book 1 & 2* (2015) © The Northumbria Community Trust; *Enriching the Christian Year* (SPCK, 1993) compilation © Michael Perham. CCL No 908682.



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