



A death in the wilderness

Good Friday, 2019
Knox Church, Christchurch

Good Friday

Good Friday is the day on which the Church remembers the crucifixion and death of Jesus. On this day we recall the people's cruelty to Jesus, and interpret it as human nature's desire to push God away. Accordingly several aspects of the usual service that assert the presence of God are omitted. There is no opening greeting ("May God be with you") and no benediction at the end. Further, following the Prayer of Confession there is no Assurance of Pardon.

The heart of the Good Friday service is the reading of Jesus' Passion. This year the Passion is taken from John's gospel.

The service ends when, at the conclusion of the closing reflection, the minister leaves the church. Please keep a silence in the church after the service, and when you feel moved to leave, please do so quietly. Feel no pressure to leave the church immediately; the minister will not be waiting at the door.

While Good Friday is a day of sorrow, and a stark occasion in the calendar of the Christian Faith, it does not stand alone. On Easter Day the sequel to Good Friday begins. It is important that you hear the second part of the story of the death of Jesus. Please make an effort to attend Church on Sunday. If you are travelling beyond Christchurch, and cannot attend the service at Knox, find another good church at which you can hear the Good News of Easter.

The Service

Before the service, we keep a silence.

The Solemn Sentences:

Those whose delight is in the law of the Lord . . .
are like trees
planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.

Psalm 1: 2a, 3

Yet,
Jesus said: "I thirst"

John 19: 28

And Peter said:
“Let this be known to you, and listen to what I say:
Jesus of Nazareth,
a man attested to you by God with deeds of power,
wonders and signs
that God did through him among you -
this man, handed over to you,
you crucified and killed”

Acts 2: 14a, 22-23

A death in the wilderness . . .

The Prayer of Confession

Lord have mercy.
CHRIST HAVE MERCY.
Lord have mercy.

We keep a silence

Without announcement, we stand to sing

Hymn:

Passion Chorale

Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612), arr. J.S. Bach



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|---|---|
| <p>1. O sacred head sore wounded,
with grief and shame weighed down;
O kingly head surrounded
with thorns thine only crown.
Death's pallor now comes o'er thee,
the glow of life decays;
yet hosts of heaven adore thee
and tremble as they gaze.</p> | <p>2 What language shall I borrow
to praise thee, heavenly friend,
for this thy dying sorrow,
thy pity without end?
O agony and dying!
O love to sinners free!
O Christ, all grace supplying,
turn thou thy face on me.</p> |
|---|---|

3. In this thy bitter Passion,
good Shepherd, think of me
with thy most sweet compassion,
unworthy though I be:
beneath thy cross abiding
for ever would I rest,
in thy dear love confiding,
and with thy presence blest.

4. Be thou my consolation,
my shield, when I must die;
remind me of thy passion
when my last hour draws nigh.
Mine eyes shall then behold thee,
upon thy cross shall dwell,
my heart by faith enfold thee;
who dieth thus, dies well.

*Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676),
from Salve caput cruentatum
attrib. Bernard of Clairvaux (1091-1153)
tr. James Waddell Alexander (1804-1859) and others*

A Lesson: Deuteronomy 26: 1-11

A Reflection: because today he dies

Hymn:

Love Unknown

John Nicholson Ireland (1879-1962)



1. My song is love unknown,
my Saviour's love to me,
love to the loveless shown,
that they might lovely be.
O who am I
that for my sake
my God should take
frail flesh, and die?

2. He came from his blest throne
salvation to bestow:
but Christ as flesh and bone
the world refused to know.
But O my friend!
my friend indeed,
who at my need
his life did spend.

3. Sometimes they threw down palms
and sweetest praises sang.
Hosannas and glad psalms
through streets and markets rang.
Then "Crucify!"
is all their breath
and for his death
they thirst and cry.
4. Why, what has my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
Christ gave new strength to run,
restored the gift of sight.
Sweet injuries!
Yet they at these
themselves displease,
and 'gainst him rise.
5. I sing my plain belief,
one song my heart outpours;
never was pain nor grief,
never was love like yours.
This is my friend,
in whose sweet praise
I all my days
could gladly spend.

Samuel Crossman (1624-1684), alt.

The Reading of the Passion: St. John 18 & 19

Hymn:

Kilmarnock

Neil Dougall (1776-1862)



1. Come, let us to the Lord our God
with contrite hearts return;
our God is gracious, nor will leave
the desolate to mourn.
2. His voice commands the tempest forth,
and stills the stormy wave,
and though his arm be strong to smite
'tis also strong to save.

3. Long hath the night of sorrow reigned,
the dawn shall bring us light:
God shall appear, and we shall rise
with gladness in his sight.
4. Our hearts, if God we seek to know,
shall know him and rejoice;
his coming like the morn shall be,
like morning songs his voice.
5. As dew upon the tender herb,
diffusing fragrance round;
as showers that usher in the spring
and cheer the thirsty ground:
6. so shall his presence bless our souls
and shed a joyful light;
that hallowed morn shall chase away
the sorrows of the night.

John Morrison (1750-1798)

Prayers for the World and the Lord's Prayer

One person struggles in the wilderness,
hearing many destructive voices:
voices that play on our vulnerability,
voices that tell us to jump.
We pray for that person
A WAY OUT OF THE WILDERNESS.

One person struggles in the wilderness,
with a sense that all is loss
and nothing is lasting.
Grief,
inability to offer anything good.
We pray for that person
A WAY OUT OF THE WILDERNESS.

One person struggles in the wilderness,
feeling frightened of fire,
not understanding what is required,
feeling useless.

We pray for that person
A WAY OUT OF THE WILDERNESS.

Jesus, son of the wandering Aramean,
thirsts on a cross.
He meets his end.
Now he dies,
there is no way out.
For those for whom there is no way out
WE MAKE OUR PRAYERS.

Silence

Indeed, we make these prayers
in the name of Jesus,
who taught us to pray, saying:

**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.**

Without announcement, we stand to sing

Hymn:

Rockingham

Edward Miller (1731-1807)



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?

The fourth verse is sung unaccompanied

4. 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.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Epilogue: "I am your Saviour"

No Benediction