



Parish of St Mary Portsea



THE WAY OF THE CROSS

A PASSIONTIDE SEQUENCE OF WORDS AND MUSIC

Sunday, 21st March 2021

4pm



Welcome to St Mary's

Welcome to St Mary's for this special service of Readings, Hymns and Anthems, reflecting on the Cross and the story of the Passion.

The Church has traditionally marked the last 2 weeks of Lent as 'Passiontide' and during this period we are encouraged to turn our thoughts, prayers and worship towards the cross and the suffering and death of Christ. The Church's liturgy enables us to do this in a number of ways – not least in our hearing the Passion Gospel read in Church in its entirety on Palm Sunday, and the keeping of the Tridium (the 3 special services of the end of Holy Week). This reflection enables us to prepare for this season by spending time before the Cross in prayer, music and readings.

As we come to the Cross we bring our lives and our world. Please respect the silence of the space around the music and readings.

Please remain in your seats throughout the service and at the end of the reflection please feel free to leave when you are ready. Please also be aware that others may want to continue in prayer and stillness, so simply leave the Church in silence. In doing so please respect others and their space and do not gather at the entrances for any conversations

The building is equipped with a hearing loop system, to take advantage of this please switch your hearing device to the "T" position.

In this service, the Trisagion (Greek for 'thrice-holy') is sung. It is an ancient trinitarian Christian hymn from the Eastern Orthodox Churches, where it is traditionally sung before the readings. In the West, the Trisagion has traditionally been associated with the Reproaches in the Good Friday Liturgy. Here it acts as a concluding response to each of the prayers, building up from a single solo voice, layering musical intensity as we journey on our way to the cross.

THE GATHERING

A solo voice sings

Trisagion I

The following prayer is said over quiet organ music

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. **Amen.**

*Collect for Good Friday,
Common Worship: Additional Collects*

The organ music leads into the Hymn (Sung by the Cantor)

We sing the praise of him who died

Text: Thomas Kelly (1769-1855) Tune: BOW BRICKHILL Sydney H Nicholson (1875-1947)

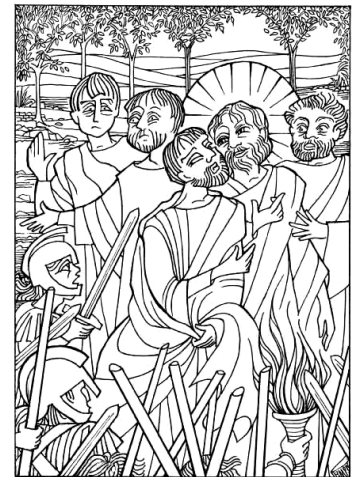
I – JESUS IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

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

Reading

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and Jesus said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I pray.' He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.' And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, 'Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.'

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, 'The one I will kiss is the



man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.’ So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, ‘Rabbi!’ and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him.

Mark 14: 32–36, 43–46

Silence is kept

He Was Despised from “Messiah” (short form)

Music by George Frederick Handel (1685-1759)

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you were betrayed by the kiss of a friend:
be with those who are betrayed and slandered and falsely accused.
You knew the experience of having your love
thrown back in your face for mere silver:
be with families which are torn apart by mistrust or temptation.
To you, Jesus, who offered your face to your betrayer,
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever.

Amen.

Trisagion 2

II – PETER DENIES JESUS

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

Reading

At that moment the cock crowed for the second time.

Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, ‘Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.’

And he broke down and wept.



Mark 14: 72

Silence is kept

Drop, Drop Slow Tears

Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)
Text: Phineas Fletcher (1582–1650)

Prayer

Lord Jesus, as Peter betrayed you,
you experienced the double agony
of love rejected and friendship denied:
be with those who know no friends and are rejected by society.
You understood the fear within Peter:
help us to understand the anxieties of those who fear for their future.
To you, Jesus, who gazed with sadness at his lost friend,
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever.
Amen.

Trisagion 3

III – JESUS BEFORE PILATE

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

Please sit.

Reading

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.

And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’ They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him.

Mark 15: 14–15, 17–19

Silence is kept



Prayer

Lord Jesus, you faced the torment of barbaric punishment and mocking tongue:
be with those who cry out in physical agony and emotional distress.

You endured unbearable abuse:

be with those who face torture and mockery in our world today.

To you, Jesus, the King crowned with thorns,

be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever.

Amen.

Trisagion 4

IV – JESUS IS LED OUT TO BE CRUCIFIED

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,

All **because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**



Reading

After mocking Jesus, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.

Mark 15: 20–21

Silence is kept

The Organ plays

Chorale Prelude: *O Mensch, beweine deine Sünde groß*, BWV 622

(“O man, bewail thy sins so great”)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you were worn down by fatigue:
be with those from whom life drains all energy.
You needed the help of a passing stranger:
give us the humility to receive aid from others.
To you, Jesus, weighed down with exhaustion and in need of help,
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever.
Amen.

Trisagion 5

V – JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

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

Reading

And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among
them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

Silence is kept

Ecce Lignum Crucis

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you bled in pain as the nails were driven into your flesh:
transform through the mystery of your love
the pain of those who suffer.
To you, Jesus, our crucified Lord,
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever.
Amen.



Mark 15: 24

Plainsong

Text: Antiphon for Good Friday

Trisagion 6

VI – JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

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



Reading

At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.' And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.' Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

Mark 15: 34–37

A lengthy silence is kept

Please sit. An improvisation based on the Passion Chorale is played on the Piano.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you died on the cross
and entered the bleakest of all circumstances:
give courage to those who die at the hands of others.
In death you entered into the darkest place of all:
illumine our darkness with your glorious presence.
To you, Jesus, your lifeless body hanging on the tree of shame,
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever.

Amen.

After a period of silent reflection, the service continues:

VII – THE GLORY OF THE CROSS

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

Acclamation

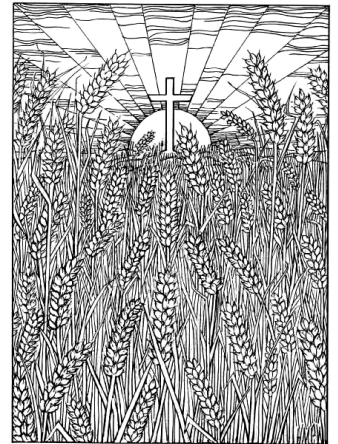
Praise to you O Christ, King of Eternal Glory.

Christ humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross: Therefore God has highly exalted him and given him the name that is above every name.

All **Praise to you O Christ, King of Eternal Glory.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**



Reading

Jesus said to the crowd,

‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say - “Father, save me from this hour”? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.’ Then a voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, ‘An angel has spoken to him.’ Jesus answered, ‘This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.’

John 12: 23–32

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The following canticle is sung:

Canticle: The song of Christ’s glory

Christ Jesus was in the form of God, but he did not cling to equality with God. He emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, and was born in our human likeness. Being found in human form he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him, and bestowed on him the name above every name, That at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth; And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Words: Philippians 2: 5–11

Music: Plainsong

Prayer

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Collect for the Fifth Sunday of Lent, Common Worship

Trisagion 7

THE CONCLUSION

Standing at the foot of the cross,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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.**

Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of the living God,
set your passion, cross,
and death between your judgement and us,
now and at the hour of our death.

Give mercy and grace to the living,
rest to the faithful departed,
to your holy Church peace and concord,
and to us sinners eternal life and glory;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The following Hymn is Sung:

My Song is Love Unknown

Text: Samuel Crossman (1624–84)

Tune: LOVE UNKNOWN – John Ireland (1879-1962)

Blessing

May the Father,
who so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
bring you by faith to his eternal life.

All **Amen.**

May Christ,
who accepted the cup of sacrifice in obedience to the Father's will,
keep you steadfast as you walk with him the way of his cross.

All **Amen.**

May the Spirit,
who strengthens us to suffer with Christ that we may share his glory,
set your minds on life and peace.

All **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

The service ends in silence.

This Order of Service has been adapted from the Way of the Cross service from the RSCM
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