

# Good Friday Worship



## Objects of the Cross

Holy Trinity Stratford

## Call to Worship

“Being found in human form, Jesus humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.”

*Philippians 2:8-11*

## Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God,  
look with mercy on this your family,  
for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed  
and to be 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.**

## 1st Reading: Luke 23:13-26

Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him.”

Then they all shouted out together, “Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!” (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting, “Crucify, crucify him!” A third time he said to them, “Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.” But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus.

## **THE CROSS**

Reader: So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull.

*(The Cross is brought in to the church and placed in front of the altar)*

*Silence*

## **THE CUP OF WINE**

Reader: They offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it.

*(The Cup is placed on the altar)*

*Silence*

## **THE HAMMER AND NAILS**

Reader: There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them.

*(The hammer and the nails are placed on the altar)*

*Silence*

## **2nd Reading: Luke 23:27-38**

A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him.

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

## **THE INDICTMENT**

Reader: Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross.  
It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.  
*(The Notice is placed at the foot of the cross)*

*Silence*

## **THE ROBE**

Reader: The soldiers arrayed him in a purple robe.  
*(The Robe is draped over the cross)*

*Silence*

## **3rd Reading: Luke 23:39-43**

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

## **THE CROWN OF THORNS**

Reader: And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head.

*(The crown is placed on the cross)*

*Silence*

## **THE SPONGE**

Reader: Now there was a bowl full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth.

*(The bowl is placed on the altar)*

*Silence*

## **4th Reading: Luke 23: 44-46**

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

## **THE SPEAR**

Reader: One of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe.

*(The spear is leant against the Cross)*

*Silence*

## **Homily**

## **Time of Reflection/Proclamation of the Cross**

*During this time, you are invited to spend time meditating upon the meaning of Christ's death for the world and for your own life.*

## Prayers

Jesus willingly submitted to suffer in our place. Let us pray to God our Father, and place in his hands the suffering of the world.

We pray for the church,  
that we may bear our cross and follow Jesus.

This is our prayer:

**have mercy on your people, Lord.**

We pray for those who have sinned, like Peter.  
Teach us to be sorry for our sins and forgive us for Jesus' sake. This is our prayer:

**have mercy on your people, Lord.**

We pray for prisoners and criminals like Barabbas.  
May they find true freedom by trusting in you.

This is our prayer:

**have mercy on your people, Lord.**

We pray for people in government, like Pilate.  
May they be responsible and serve truth and justice.

This is our prayer:

**have mercy on your people, Lord.**

We pray for those who are dying, like the thieves who died with Jesus. May they die with Jesus by their side and be received into your kingdom.

This is our prayer:

**have mercy on your people, Lord.**

We pray for parents like Mary who have lost a child.  
May they bear their suffering and know the comfort of your love.

This is our prayer:

**have mercy on your people, Lord.**

We pray for the whole human race, that we may all come to know Jesus as our Lord and Saviour.

This is our prayer:

**have mercy on your people, Lord.**

Father, may the suffering and death of Jesus lighten the burdens of all those who suffer. Lead us in the way of the cross, so that, as we suffer with Jesus, we may rise to life in his glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,

**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.**

### **Hymn – ‘How deep the Father’s love’ – MP 988**

1 How deep the Father’s love for us,  
how vast beyond all measure,  
that He should give His only Son  
to make a wretch His treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss –  
the Father turns His face away,  
as wounds which mar the chosen one  
bring many sons to glory.

2 Behold the man upon a cross,  
my sin upon His shoulders;  
ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held Him there  
until it was accomplished;  
His dying breath has brought me life –  
I know that it is finished.

3 I will not boast in anything,  
no gifts, no power, no wisdom;  
but I will boast in Jesus Christ,  
His death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from His reward?  
I cannot give an answer,  
but this I know with all my heart,  
His wounds have paid my ransom.

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## Final Prayer

**Lord Jesus Christ,  
The story of your suffering is written on our hearts,  
and the salvation of the world is in your outstretched hands.  
Keep your victory always before our eyes,  
your praise on our lips,  
your peace in our lives. Amen.**

*Silence*

*Feel free to remain as long as you wish in meditation, reflection or prayer.*

