

# Liturgy for Good Friday & Easter Saturday

## Good Friday – Alone yet Connected

*For the liturgies below I have suggested some times you might like to use them but they are for you as and when you find them helpful.*

### In the morning

Whether we are alone today, or with others, we are connected to the body of Christ.

**O lord let my soul Rise up to meet you  
As the day rises to meet the Sun**

We begin with one of the readings from last night. After the last Supper, Jesus goes to pray in Gethsemane.

Reading: Mathew 26: 36-46

*Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.' He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.' And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.' Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, 'So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.' Again he went away for the second time and prayed, 'My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.' Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, 'Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.'*

In our loneliness and disconnect.

**May we know God's love with us.**

In our frustration and sense that no one cares

**May we know God's love with us**

In our need for Sunday.

**May we know God in these Friday times.**

## **Around midday**

### **Reading: Matthew 27: 1-23**

*When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor. When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said, 'I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.' But they said, 'What is that to us? See to it yourself.' Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, 'It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money.' After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, 'And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me.'*

*Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus said, 'You say so.' But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, 'Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?' But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.*

*Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?' For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him, 'Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.' Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' And they said, 'Barabbas.' Pilate said to them, 'Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?' All of them said, 'Let him be crucified!' Then he asked, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Let him be crucified!'*

**Those who had adored and cried Halleluia for Jesus were now shouting for him to die.**

Recriminations are already flying around in the world. We want someone to blame. But Jesus took it, he held the blame and the anger and tears. He faced the crowd and he did not cow to hatred and blame. He still loved.

In these dark moments

**May we be Love**

In these times where we want to blame

**May we be love**

In everything

**May we be love.**

## **Around 2.30pm**

Reading Matthew 27: 27-66

*Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.*

*As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.'*

*Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, 'You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.' In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, "I am God's Son."' The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.*

*From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'This man is calling for Elijah.' At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.' Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'*

*Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.*

*The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, 'Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, "After three days I will rise again." Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, "He has been raised from the dead", and the last deception would be worse than the first.' Pilate said to them, 'You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.' So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.*

The words below are sometimes used on Thursday as we strip the altar or on Friday. Taken from the Psalms they will be read with different voices. As you read it aloud if there is more than one of you in the house you may want to read this together; if not I invite you to imagine the voices with you.

*My people, what wrong have I done to you?  
What good have I not done for you?*

*Listen to me.*

I am your Creator, Lord of the universe;  
I have entrusted this world to you,  
but you have created the means to destroy it.

*My people, what wrong have I done to you?*

*What good have I not done for you?*

*Listen to me.*

I made you in my image,  
but you have degraded body and spirit  
and marred the image of your God.  
You have deserted me and turned your backs on me.

*My people, what wrong have I done to you?*

*What good have I not done for you?*

*Listen to me.*

I filled the earth with all that you need,  
so that you might serve and care for one another,  
as I have cared for you;  
but you have cared only to serve your own wealth and power.

**Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

*My people, what wrong have I done to you?*

*What good have I not done for you?*

*Listen to me.*

I made my children of one blood  
to live in families rejoicing in one another;  
but you have embittered the races and divided the nations.

*My people, what wrong have I done to you?*

*What good have I not done for you?*

*Listen to me.*

I commanded you to love your neighbour as yourself,  
to love and forgive even your enemies;  
but you have made vengeance your rule and hate your guide.

*My people, what wrong have I done to you?*

*What good have I not done for you?*

*Listen to me.*

In the fullness of time I sent you my Son,

that in him you might know me,  
and through him find life and peace;  
but you put him to death on the cross.

**Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

*My people, what wrong have I done to you?  
What good have I not done for you?  
Listen to me.*

Through the living Christ, I called you into my Church  
to be my servants to the world,  
but you have grasped at privilege and forgotten my will.  
*My people, what wrong have I done to you?  
What good have I not done for you?  
Listen to me.*

I have given you a heavenly gift and a share in the Holy Spirit;  
I have given you the spiritual energies of the age to come;  
but you have turned away  
and crucified the Son of God afresh.  
*My people, what wrong have I done to you?  
What good have I not done for you?  
Listen to me.*

I have consecrated you in the truth;  
I have made you to be one  
    in the unity of the Father and the Son,  
    by the power of the Spirit;  
but you have divided my Church and shrouded my truth.

**Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

*Turn again, my people, listen to me.*

Let your bearing to one another arise out of your life in Christ Jesus.  
He humbled himself  
and in obedience accepted the death of the cross.  
But I have bestowed on him the name that is above every name,  
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow

and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

*Turn again, my people, listen to me.*

**Amen**

*As you sit, I invite you play some music, perhaps if you have A requiem mass, or some quiet reflective music. You are invited to sit and pray as 3pm approaches. At 3pm imagine many of us saying together "It is Finished".*

## **Saturday – preparing for Easter**

### **Tonight**

*In church tonight we would normally light a fire outside the building and carry the light inside. Maybe you may want to light a candle in your home in a moment.*

Eternal God,  
who made this most holy night  
to shine with the brightness of your one true light,  
set us aflame with the fire of your love,  
and bring us to the radiance of your heavenly glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*You may light a candle now*

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,  
Banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

*As you sit with the candle. You can read some or all the following readings, imagining the many many years of waiting in the old testament, all the stories that came before Jesus. As we read, perhaps this year we might want to imagine ourselves in the waiting and the lament. Waiting for our Sunday to come.*

Genesis 1.1 – 2.4a    *The Creation*

Genesis 22.1-18	<i>Abraham and Isaac</i>
Exodus 12.1-24	<i>The Passover</i>
Exodus 14	<i>Crossing the Red Sea</i>
Jeremiah 31.31-34	<i>God promises a new heart</i>
Ezekiel 36.24-28	<i>Sprinkled with the water of life</i>
Ezekiel 37.1-14	<i>The valley of dry bones</i>
Ezekiel 47.1-12	<i>The river of life</i>

*We then declare together some words of hope, and promise.*

Jesus Christ is Risen from the dead

**Alleluia**

He has defeated the powers of death

**Alleluia**

Jesus turns our sorrow into dancing

**Alleluia**

He has the words of eternal life

**Alleluia.**

Alleluia Christ is Risen indeed

**He is Risen indeed Alleluia.**

May the peace of the Lord go with you wherever he may send you

May he guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm

May he bring you home rejoicing: at the wonder he has shown you

May he bring you home rejoicing: once again into our doors.

## Easter Sunday

*Please see the liturgy produced by Caraway for Easter Sunday*