

GOOD FRIDAY

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen**

Hymn – 751 O Lord Hear My Prayer (repeat)

O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer:
when I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer:
come and listen to me.

Passion Reading by Bruce Wollenberg (Michael)

Troubled Judas

Makes his way to the Temple.

The chief priests are there,

Glad he's come.

They were waiting for him.

Money changed hands.

And this maverick disciple,

So close to his Master, so far from his mission,

Waits to make his move.

Meanwhile, other disciples

Make ready the Passover celebration.

It is time for all Jews to remember God

Who brought them out of Egypt

With a mighty hand and an outstretched arm.

God, who saved them from their enemies,

And placed them in a good and pleasant land long ago,

So the disciples prepare for the annual feast.

For Jesus it will be a feast of death.

[pause] (Joshua)

Now it's evening.

Gathered around the table are the Teacher and his students.

The Teacher says: "Betrayal is in the air. I can feel it."

"No, Master!" they say as one, "Surely not!"

But the festive mood turns melancholy, their hearts reflecting

The gathering dusk outside.

Hands dip bread in olive oil;

Judas and Jesus lock eyes,

And the soul of Judas is seared.

Then the Teacher catches them by surprise.

He takes bread from the table,

Says the usual grace and

As he's passing around the pieces, says,

"Eat this, my friends. It's my body."

Before they can recover from the shock,

He prays the wine prayer.

*Points to the cup and says: "This is covenant blood, my blood;
For you, friends, and for all, it's the forgiveness of sins.
As for me, no more wine until the kingdom comes."*

[pause] (Michael)

Night falls.

A small group of men gathers on Olive Mountain.

Peter takes Jesus aside.

He says, "What's this talk of betrayal!

I, for one, am in this thing to the end.

You won't find me deserting the movement, leaving you in the lurch.

You can count on me."

*"Not so, Peter," says Jesus. "Dawn won't come before you prove yourself a liar.
Three times over."*

The men move to a spot where an olive press once stood.

"Stay here," says the Teacher. "I'm going over there, to pray."

His usual commanding voice is subdued this night;

He looks distraught; a wave of eerie fear passes over the disciples.

"My Father! This is not a good night, but an evil one.

Do not let me go into it. Nevertheless,

You decide. You decide."

Thus Jesus pours out his heart. Alone.

Again and again he pours out his heart to God.

(Joshua)

Then he goes over to the disciples.

He sees that they're sleeping.

"So you can't stay awake with me?" he says.

"But never mind. My hour is here, and with it, my betrayer."

Now things happen fast. Judas kisses, soldiers seize Jesus.

He asks them, "Why now? Daily I taught in the Temple

And you didn't lay a hand on me.

I'll tell you why; it's so scripture could be fulfilled."

With the disciples scattering in all directions,

Jesus is hauled to the star chamber for a show trial

On trumped-up charges.

The silent Teacher is manhandled, spit upon.

Outside, Peter lurks by a soldier's fire.

Some there want to know who he is.

"A Galilean, perhaps. Like that prisoner in there? You with him?"

"Hell, no! You've got the wrong fellow," cries Peter.

He staggers away from the flames into the darkness

And cries and cries.

Dawn is coming.

The Teacher, silent still, is shoved before Pilate.

There are people there, crowds of them, restless, smelling blood.

Pilate is of two mines: find this innocent man innocent

Or send him to the cross.

The people know their minds: "Send him to the cross!" they shout.

Agonizing to the last, the Governor gives in.

*He gives the order.
The Teacher's fate is sealed.*

Hymn 353 Were You There vs 1 & 2

1 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

(Michael)

*Captive Jesus is led away to Golgotha,
Simon dragging the cross behind him.
Offered a numbing drink, Jesus refuses.
Then he's nailed down.
The cross is hauled upright against the lowering sky.
Soldiers eye his clothes. They throw dice to see who gets them.
They nail up a sign. It tells anybody who cares
Who this pathetic creature is: Jesus the King of the Jews.
Presently, two more unfortunates
Join the Jewish monarch, one left, one right.
They're criminals, robbers.
In front of the three, scoffers are having a field day.
"You said you'd destroy the Temple," they yell,
"And rebuild it – in three days, yet.
So, Mr. Son of God, let's see you save yourself!"*

(Joshua)

*Among themselves, others say: "This so-called savior,
If he can get himself out of this one, maybe we'll believe in him.
He trusts God. Who knows? Maybe God will deliver him."
From their posts of agony, the robbers chime in:
"King? You're supposed to be a king?
Give us a break!"*

*The sun has long since died.
Inky night is upon the land.
Out of the darkness comes a cry:
"God! My God! Where are you?
Have you left me alone to perish?"*

*Shortly, Jesus shouts out incoherently
And it's over.*

*An earthquake rocks the place.
Tombs pop open and the soldiers, awestruck, gasp,
"Truly this was the Son of God."*

Hymn 353 Were You There vs 3-4-5

3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble.
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

4 Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble.
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

(Karen/Emily)

*As always, the women are there; they are inconsolable.
Their high shrieking carries across the valley.*

*And Joseph, a rich man and a disciple,
Gently wraps the body in sparkling linen.
He puts it in his own burial cave, sealing it with a great stone.*

*Two Marys see all this, and they stay put, immobilized by grief.
Back in Jerusalem, enemies of Jesus bend Pilate's ear.
"This fraud Jesus," they say, "his shifty friends will try to steal his body,
Then tell everyone he's risen from the dead.
It's best you don't let that happen."*

*"You're right," Pilate answers,
"I'll send some guards to seal off the area."*

And so he does.

(Chelsea)

Crucifixion: Jesus is nailed to the cross – Malcom Guite

See, as they strip the robe from off his back
And spread his arms and nail them to the cross,
The dark nails pierce him and the sky turns black,
And love is firmly fastened on to loss.
But here a pure change happens. On this tree
Loss becomes gain, death opens into birth.
Here wounding heals and fastening makes free,
Earth breathes in heaven, heaven roots in earth.
And here we see the length, the breadth, the height,
Where love and hatred meet and love stays true,
Where sin meets grace and darkness turns to light,
We see what love can bear and be and do.
And here our Saviour calls us to his side,
His love is free, his arms are open wide.

[Malcolm Guite](#) is a poet, priest, and singer-songwriter. This sonnet from his book [Sounding the Seasons: Seventy Sonnets for the Christian Year](#).

Silence for reflection

(Karen/Emily)

Bidding Prayers and Lord's Prayer (adapted)

Let us pray for all the people of God.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God,
you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ.
By your Holy Spirit guide the church
and gather it throughout the world.
Help each of us in our various vocations
to do faithfully the work to which you have called us.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God,
long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and your teaching to Moses.
Hear our prayers that the people you called and elected as your own
may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ
and for those who do not believe in God.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God,
you created humanity
so that all may long to know you and find peace in you.
Gather into your embrace

all those who call out to you under different names.

Grant that all may recognize the signs of your love and grace
in the world and in the lives of Christians,
and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for God's creation.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God,
you are the creator of a magnificent universe.
Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care
and bring all things to fulfillment in you.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God,
you are the champion of the poor and oppressed.
In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority,
so that all people may enjoy justice, peace, freedom,
and a share in the goodness of your creation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those in need.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God,
you give strength to the weary
and new courage to those who have lost heart.

Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers,
free those unjustly deprived of liberty,
and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger, and disease.
Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble,
that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn 348 Stay With Me (repeat)

Stay with me,
remain here with me,
watch and pray.
Watch and pray.

The prayers conclude:

Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask,
as Jesus taught us.

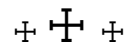
**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

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 forever. Amen.**



Remain as long as desired for silent reflection.

When you are ready, leave quietly. Worship will resume on Sunday

*On this day, Jesus gave the greatest offering of all,
his life for the sake of the world. No formal offering is received.*

An offering plate is available in the back of the church for those who wish to leave an offering