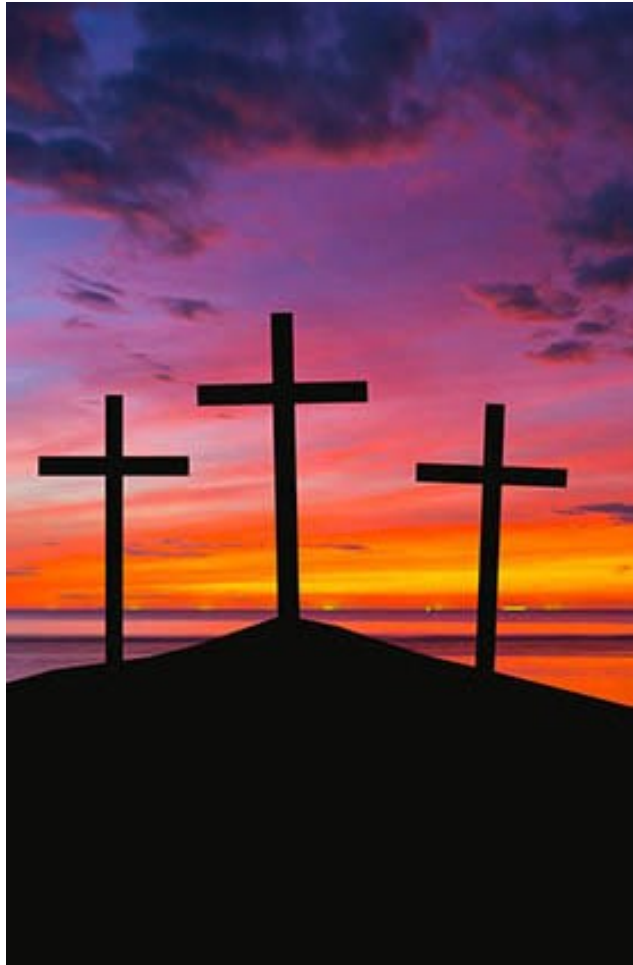


St. Luke's Church
Maidenhead



**The Liturgy of
Good Friday**

Welcome to this service which marks the time during which Jesus was nailed to the cross. We come to keep watch, and to pray in contrition for our sins, and to give thanks for the new life of forgiveness and hope, which his crucifixion made possible. We are helped in our prayers by music, silence and solemnity. We are invited to use our whole bodies in prayer and self offering as we keep silence, listen, sing, pray or kneel at the foot of the cross.

This service is a version of the traditional Good Friday Liturgy, including the Veneration of the Cross.

The service flows without announcement.

At the end we leave in silence.

Evening Prayer will be said ten minutes after this service, in the chapel. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The church will then be locked and padlocked for the night, just as Jesus' tomb was sealed. Please do not attempt to enter the church before it is re-opened for Morning Prayer at 9.00 am tomorrow morning.

The Liturgy of Good Friday

¶ *The Gathering*

We sit or kneel for a time of silent prayer.

A minister says

Collect

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.

All **Amen.**

We sit for the readings

¶ *The Liturgy of the Word*

First Reading

Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12

Second Reading

Hebrews 4: 14-16; 5: 7-9

Hymn

**We sing the praise of him who died,
of him who died upon the cross;
the sinner's hope let men deride,
for this we count the world but loss.**

**Inscribed upon the cross we see
in shining letters, 'God is love';
he bears our sins upon the tree;
he brings us mercy from above.**

**The cross! It takes our guilt away;
it holds the fainting spirit up;
it cheers with hope the gloomy day,
and sweetens every bitter cup.**

**It makes the coward spirit brave,
and nerves the feeble arm for fight;
it takes its terror from the grave,
and gilds the bed of death with light:**

**the balm of life, the cure of woe,
the measure and the pledge of love,
the sinner's refuge here below,
the angels' theme in heaven above.**

Thomas Kelly

We sit for the Gospel reading

Gospel of the Passion

John 18 and 19

¶ The Proclamation of the Cross

A minister says

Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?
Look and see if there is any sorrow like my
sorrow
which was brought upon me,
which the Lord inflicted on the day of his
fierce anger.

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

O my people, O my Church,
What have I done to you,
or in what have I offended you?
Testify against me.
I led you forth from the land of Egypt,
and delivered you by the waters of baptism,
but you have prepared a cross
for your Saviour.

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

I led you through the desert forty years,
and fed you with manna.
I brought you through tribulation and
penitence,
and gave you my body, the bread of heaven,
but you prepared a cross for your Saviour.

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

What more could I have done for you
that I have not done?
I planted you, my chosen and fairest vineyard,
I made you the branches of my vine;
but when I was thirsty, you gave me vinegar
to drink,
and pierced with a spear the side of your
Saviour.

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

I went before you in a pillar of cloud,
and you have led me to the judgement hall of
Pilate.

I scourged your enemies
and brought you
to a land of freedom,
but you have scourged, mocked and beaten
me.

I gave you the water of salvation from the
rock,
but you have given me gall and left me to
thirst.

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

I gave you a royal sceptre,
and bestowed the keys of the kingdom,
but you have given me
a crown of thorns.
I raised you on high with great power,
but you have hanged me on the cross.

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

My peace I gave,
which the world can not give,
and washed your feet
as a sign of my love,
but you draw the sword
to strike in my name,
and seek high places in my kingdom.
I offered you my body and blood,
but you scatter and deny and abandon me.

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

I sent the Spirit of truth to guide you,
and you close your hearts
to the Counsellor.
I pray that all may be one
in the Father and me,
but you continue to quarrel and divide.
I call you to go and bring forth fruit,
but you cast lots for my clothing.

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

I grafted you into the tree
of my chosen Israel,
and you turned on them with persecution
and mass murder.
I made you joint heirs with them
of my covenants,
but you made them scapegoats
for your own guilt.

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

I came to you as the least
of your brothers and sisters;
I was hungry and you gave me no food,
I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,
I was a stranger
and you did not welcome me,
naked and you did not clothe me,
sick and in prison and you did not visit me.

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

Hymn

**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.**

**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.**

**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?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

Isaac Watts

A minister says

All **We glory in your cross, O Lord,
and praise you
for your mighty resurrection;
for by virtue of your cross
joy has come into our world.**

God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,
That your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.
Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
O let the nations rejoice and be glad,
for you will judge the peoples righteously
and govern the nations upon earth.
Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
Then shall the earth
bring forth her increase,
and God, our own God, will bless us.
God will bless us,
and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

All **We glory in your cross, O Lord,
and praise you
for your mighty resurrection;
for by virtue of your cross
joy has come into our world.**

Acclamations

A minister says

We adore you, O Christ,
and we bless you,
All **because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.**
This is the wood of the cross,
on which hung the Saviour of the world.
All **Come, let us worship.**
O Saviour of the world,
who by your cross and precious blood
has redeemed us.
All **Save us and help us,
we humbly pray.**

*During the next hymns, you are invited to come up to the
foot of the cross, to kneel, or touch it, or to spend time in
prayer.*

*You may wish to take a flower from the basket to place
on the cross.*

**O sacred head, sore wounded,
defiled and put to scorn;
O kingly head, surrounded
with mocking crown of thorn:
What sorrow mars thy grandeur?
Can death thy bloom deflower?
O countenance whose splendour
the hosts of heaven adore.**

**Thy beauty, long-desired,
hath vanished from our sight;
thy power is all expired,
and quenched the light of light.
Ah me! For whom thou diest,
hide not so far thy grace:
show me, O love most highest,
the brightness of thy face.**

**I pray thee, Jesus, own me,
me, Shepherd good, for thine;
who to thy fold hast won me,
and fed with truth divine.
Me guilty, me refuse not,
incline thy face to me,
this comfort that I lose not,
on earth to comfort thee.**

**In thy most bitter passion
my heart to share doth cry,
with thee for my salvation
upon the cross to die.
Ah, keep my heart thus moved
to stand thy cross beneath,
to mourn thee, well-beloved,
yet thank thee for thy death.**

**My days are few, O fail not,
with thine immortal power,
to hold me that I quail not
in death's most fearful hour;
that I may fight befriended,
and see in my last strife
to me thine arms extended
upon the cross of life.**

Paul Gerhardt, transl. Robert Bridges

**Cross of Jesus, cross of sorrow,
Where the blood of Christ was shed,
Perfect Man on thee did suffer,
Perfect God on thee has bled!**

**Here the King of all the ages,
Throned in light ere worlds could be,
Robed in mortal flesh is dying,
Crucified by sin for me.**

**Who shall fathom that descending,
From the rainbow circled throne,
Down to earth's most base profaning,
Dying desolate alone.**

**From the "Holy, Holy, Holy,
We adore Thee, O most High,"
Down to earth's blaspheming voices
And the shout of "Crucify."**

**Cross of Jesus, cross of sorrow,
Where the blood of Christ was shed,
Perfect Man on thee did suffer,
Perfect God on thee has bled!**

W.J. Sparrow-Simpson

We sit or kneel

Prayers of Intercession

The president introduces the prayers

God sent his Son into the world, not to
condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved
through him.
Therefore we pray to our heavenly Father
for people everywhere
according to their needs.

Let us pray for the Church of God
throughout the world -

for unity in faith, in witness and in service
for bishops and other ministers, and those
whom they serve
for Steven and Andrew our bishops, and the
people of this diocese
for all Christians in this place
for those to be baptized
for those who are mocked and persecuted for
their faith
that God will confirm his Church in faith,
increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.

Silence

Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the
Church
is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer
for all your faithful people;
that in their vocation and ministry
each may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your Name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus
Christ.

All **Amen.**

Let us pray for the nations of the world
and their leaders -

for Elizabeth our Queen and the Parlia-
ments of this land
for those who administer the law and all
who
serve in public office
for all who strive
for justice and reconciliation
that by God's help the world may live in
peace and freedom.

Silence

Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Most gracious God and Father,
in whose will is our peace:
turn our hearts and the hearts of all to
yourself,
that by the power of your Spirit
the peace which is founded on justice
may be established throughout the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Let us pray for God's ancient people, the
Jews, the first to hear his word -
for greater understanding between Chris-
tian and Jew
for the removal of our blindness
and bitterness of heart
that God will grant us grace to be faithful
to his covenant
and to grow in the love of his name.

Silence

Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Lord God of Abraham,
bless the children of your covenant, both
Jew and Christian;
take from us all blindness
and bitterness of heart,
and hasten the coming of your kingdom,
when Israel shall be saved,
the Gentiles gathered in,
and we shall dwell together in mutual love
and peace
under the one God and Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

Let us pray for those who do not believe the
Gospel of Christ -

for those who have not heard the message
of salvation
for all who have lost faith
for the contemptuous and scornful
for those who are enemies of Christ
and persecute those who follow him
for all who deny the faith of Christ crucified
that God will open their hearts to the truth
and lead them to faith and obedience.

Silence

Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Merciful God,
creator of all the people of the earth,
have compassion on all who do not know
you,
and by the preaching of your Gospel with
grace and power,
gather them into the one fold of the one
Shepherd;
Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Let us pray for all those who suffer -

for those who are deprived and oppressed
for all who are sick
for those in darkness, in doubt
and in despair,
in loneliness and in fear
for prisoners, captives and refugees
for the victims of false accusations
and violence
for all at the point of death
and those who watch beside them
that God in his mercy will sustain them
with the knowledge of his love.

Silence

Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Almighty and everlasting God,
the comfort of the sad,
the strength of those who suffer;
hear the prayers of your children
who cry out of any trouble:
and to every distressed soul
grant mercy, relief,
and refreshment,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Let us commend ourselves
and all God's children
to his unfailing love,
and pray for the grace of a holy life,
that, with all who have died in the peace of
Christ,
we may come to the fullness of eternal life
and the joy of the resurrection.

Silence

Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

O God of unchangeable power
and eternal light,
look favourably on your whole Church,
that wonderful and sacred mystery.
By the effectual working of your providence,
carry out in tranquillity the plan of salvation.
Let the whole world see and know
that things which were cast down
are being raised up,
and things which had grown old
are being made new,
and that all things are being brought
to their perfection
by him through whom all things were made,
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

¶ *The Conclusion*

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour
has taught us

All **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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection
of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved mankind:
grant that by faith in him
who suffered on the cross,
we may triumph
in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Hymn

We stand to sing

**It is a thing most wonderful,
almost too wonderful to be,
that God's own Son should come
from heaven,
and die to save a child like me.**

**And yet I know that it is true:
he chose a poor and humble lot,
and wept and toiled and mourned
and died
for love of those who loved him not.**

**But even could I see him die,
I could but see a little part
of that great love which like a fire,
is always burning in his heart.**

**It is most wonderful to know
his love for me so free and sure;
but 'tis more wonderful to see
my love for him so faint and poor.**

**And yet I want to love thee, Lord!
O light the flame within my heart,
and I will love thee more and more,
until I see thee as thou art.**

W. Walsham How

*Feel free to sit and pray for as long as you wish.
When you leave please do so in silence.*

*Please keep silence in the whole body of the church,
and immediately outside. Thank you.*

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