

A HOME LITURGY FOR GOOD FRIDAY

Opening Prayer.

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.

Hymn: There is a Green Hill Far Away

There is a green hill far away,
Without a city wall,
Where the dear Lord was crucified,
Who died to save us all.

We may not know, we cannot tell,
What pains he had to bear,
But we believe it was for us
He hung and suffered there.

There was no other good enough
To pay the price of sin.
He only could unlock the gate
Of heav'n and let us in.

Oh, dearly, dearly has he loved!
And we must love him too,
And trust in his redeeming blood,
And try his works to do.

Confession:

O Christ, we are stripped bare by your suffering.
You see our dreams, our demons,
and the secrets we keep even from ourselves.
Forgive all that needs to be forgiven,
heal all that needs to be healed,
awaken all the good that sleeps in us,
banish all the fears that paralyse us.
Put the power of your cross into our lives for ever,
and clothe us with hope and love.

Absolution:

God desires that none should perish, but that all should turn to Christ, and live.
In response to his call we acknowledge our sins.

God pardons those who humbly repent, and truly believe the gospel. Therefore we have peace with God, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Psalm 22

The Passion Reading: John 18:1 - 19:42



Reflection (Fr Ron Rolheiser OM) Standing Near the Cross

When we listen to this account, we find it to be simply overwhelming. It is almost too much to take in at once. The passion of Jesus is a gripping drama that reaches down inside of us and evokes our deepest and strongest emotions. It almost defies words of commentary or explanation.

*Each of us has stood near the cross at particular moments in our lives. We know this place well. The situation may have involved the serious illness or loss of a family member, grappling with a broken relationship, experiencing a terrible disappointment, or a thousand other things. Whatever the situation, we know that **standing near the cross** is indeed a painful place to be. The Gospels do not suppress or gloss over the pain of the cross. In an era in which talk about a Messiah who had been crucified sounded ludicrous to many people, the Christian Scriptures presented the death of Jesus directly and vividly. For Christians, keeping the memory of Jesus' death is a living reminder that we are never alone as we stand near the cross in our own lives. While our faith does not magically remove the pain of that place, you and I are assured that Jesus, the crucified Son of God, is in solidarity with us at that place. He is intimately close to us because he has experienced that place in the most personal and intense way possible.*

Standing near the cross of Jesus is also, however, a powerful place to be. It is powerful not because God finds any joy in human suffering but because it is the place where the power of God is present and at work – quietly, faithfully, patiently at work from within. At his own moment of death, Jesus held on to the hand of his Abba God, and, even in this hour of darkness, experienced communion with this tenaciously faithful God. And God was present and on the move to bring life out of death.

Standing near the cross of Jesus is a painful and a powerful place to be. As we pray this Good Friday, we are invited to stand there with Jesus and his disciples. And we are called to trust that what is happening there is what happens wherever the God of Jesus Christ is present: God is faithfully present and at work to bring life out of death.

Intercessory Prayers

God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but so that the world might be saved through him.

So let us bring the needs of the whole world to the foot of the cross of Christ.

For the Church of God throughout the world, that God the almighty, eternal One will guide it, and gather it in unity and peace *(pause for silent prayer)*.

For all God's people in their vocation and ministry, for all bishops, priests and deacons, for Kay, Kate and Jeremy our bishops and Philip our Primate, and for all who are preparing for baptism and confirmation *(pause)*

For all who confess Christ crucified, that God will heal our divisions *(pause)*

For the peace of Jerusalem, and for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God *(pause)*

For all who do not look to Christ as Saviour, and all who do not believe in God *(pause)*

For the peace of the world, for those in authority, and for all who shape our common life. *(pause)*

For the sick, the dying, those affected by coronavirus and all in need; for the homeless, the hungry and the oppressed; for those in darkness and despair *(pause)*

God of grace, hear our prayer.

Most merciful God,
we commit ourselves to you
and pray for the grace of a holy life,
that, with all who have died
and are alive in Christ,
we may come to the fullness of eternal life,
and the joy of the resurrection
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Proclamation of the Cross

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

Take a moment to silently look upon a cross and contemplate its meaning for you.

O Saviour of the world,
By your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us.

**Save us, and help us,
we humbly beseech you, O Lord**

Hymn: When I survey the wondrous cross

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.

Closing 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