

Good Friday 2020

Jesus, remember me (sung by Clare)

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom

This afternoon we'll spend time at the Cross of Christ. Our time together will include prayers, readings and music as we reflect on the sacrifice and the victory of the cross and our Lord's willingness to suffer and die for our salvation.

The Collect for Good Friday

Almighty Father, look with mercy on this your family
For which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed
and given up into the hands of sinners and to suffer death upon the cross;
who is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

A reading from Isaiah 52:13-end 53 – Tom Studman

¹³See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high.

¹⁴Just as there were many who were astonished at him – so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals – ¹⁵so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

¹Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ²For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like appearance that we should desire him. ³He was despised a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.

⁴Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. ⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

⁸By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people.

⁹They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain.
When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.

¹¹Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.
The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹²Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Hymn

**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.**

**He died that we might be forgiven,
He died to make us good,
That we might go at last to heaven,
Saved by His precious blood.**

**There was no other good enough
To pay the price of sin;
He only could unlock the gate
Of heaven and let us in.**

**O dearly, dearly has He loved,
And we must love Him, too,
And trust in His redeeming blood,
And try His works to do.**

Seven Words from the Cross
(separate leaflet on the website)

Intercessions – Alison Peacock

c. John Pritchard 1997

Lord Jesus Christ,

On the cross, on the nails, you loved beyond reason and forgave beyond measure.

On the cross, on the nails, you gave the forces of evil their notice to quit.

On the cross, on the nails, you soaked up this world's sadness like sponge in vinegar.

On the cross, on the nails, you lost – and won- in a single, glorious throw of the dice.

On the cross, on the nails.

In the hands, in the side, you felt the misery of this world's cruelty.

In the hands, in the side, you endured the hammer blows of the world, the flesh and the devil.

In the hands, in the side, you experienced the pain of tortured, disfigured humanity.

In the hands, in the side, you lost the power to live, and won the right to glory.

In the hands, in the side.

Through the sweat, through the blood, we see the eternal face of a suffering God.

Through the sweat, through the blood, we glimpse the anguish of the crucified Creator.

Through the sweat, through the blood, we begin to believe the impossible is happening.

Through the sweat, through the blood, we begin to know that our God saves to the uttermost – and then beyond.

Through the sweat, through the blood.

In the darkness, in the darkness

All our prayers have died, save this:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner

The Lord's Prayer

We join all our prayers together in the prayer that Jesus gave us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

the power and the glory, for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Closing Litany

Merciful God, we meet each other today at the cross as inhabitants of one world and members of the community of faith.

As those who inflict wounds on each other

Be merciful to us

As those who deny justice to others

Be merciful to us

As those who seize wealth

Be merciful to us

As those who put others on trial

Be merciful to us

As those who refuse to receive

Be merciful to us

As those afraid of this world's torment

Be merciful to us

Giver of life, we wait with you to bear your hope to earth's darkest places.

Where love is denied

Let love break through

Where justice is destroyed

Let righteousness rule

Where hope is crucified

Let faith persist

Where truth is denied

Let the struggle continue

Where compassion is lacking

Let kindness triumph

A reading from St Luke 23:26-46 – Clare Lowe

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. 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."

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

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.

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 cross of Christ my God;
all the vain things than 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 an offering far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Conclusion

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,
set your passion, cross and death between your judgement of our souls,
now and in the hour of our death.

Grant mercy and grace to the living, rest to the departed,
to your Church peace and concord and to us sinners forgiveness,
and everlasting life and glory;
for, with the Father and the Holy Spirit
you are alive and reign, God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Blessing

Lord Jesus,
stretch forth your wounded hands in blessing over your people,
to heal and to restore,
and to draw them to yourself and to one another in love

And the blessing.....