

A LITURGY FOR GOOD FRIDAY

Prayer for the Day.

Hymn - O sacred head sore wounded.

1 O sacred head sore wounded,
with grief and shame weighed down;
O kingly head surrounded
with thorns your only crown;
death's shadows rise before you,
the glow of life decays;
yet hosts of heaven adore you
and tremble as they gaze.

2 What language shall I borrow
to praise you, heavenly friend,
for this your dying sorrow,
your mercy without end?
Such agony and dying!
Such love to sinners free!
O Christ, all grace supplying,
turn now your face on me.

3 In this your bitter Passion,
good Shepherd, think of me,
look on me with compassion,
unworthy though I be:
beneath your cross abiding
for ever would I rest,
in your dear love confiding,
and with your presence blessed.

4 Lord, be my consolation,
my shield when death is near;
remind me of your Passion,

be with me when I fear.
My eyes shall then behold you,
upon your cross shall dwell,
my heart by faith enfold you;
and who dies thus, dies well.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 53.1-12

^{53.1} Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ² He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. ³ He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. ⁴ Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished. ⁹ He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. ¹⁰ Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of

the LORD will prosper in his hand. ¹¹ After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. ¹² Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Psalm 22:15-31

Response: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

15 My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death. ***Response***

16 Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet. ***Response***

17 All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me.

Response

18 They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment. ***Response***

19 But you, LORD, do not be far from me. You are my strength; come quickly to help me. ***Response***

20 Deliver me from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dogs. ***Response***

21 Rescue me from the mouth of the lions; save me from the horns of the wild oxen. ***Response***

22 I will declare your name to my people; in the assembly I will praise you. ***Response***

23 You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!

Response

24 For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help. ***Response***

25 From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you I will fulfill my vows.

Response

26 The poor will eat and be satisfied; those who seek the LORD will praise him— may your hearts live forever! ***Response***

Gospel Reading John 18.28 – 19.18

²⁸ Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they did not enter the palace, because they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. ²⁹ So Pilate came out to them and asked, “What charges are you bringing against this man?”

³⁰ “If he were not a criminal,” they replied, “we would not have handed him over to you.”

³¹ Pilate said, “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.” “But we have no right to execute anyone,” they objected. ³² This took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die.

³³ Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” ³⁴ “Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?”

³⁵ “Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?”

³⁶ Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

³⁷ “You are a king, then!” said Pilate.

Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

³⁸ “What is truth?” retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, “I find no basis for a charge

against him. ³⁹ But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release ‘the king of the Jews’?” ⁴⁰ They shouted back, “No, not him! Give us Barabbas!” Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising. ¹ Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ² The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe ³ and went up to him again and again, saying, “Hail, king of the Jews!” And they slapped him in the face.

⁴ Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him.” ⁵ When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!” ⁶ As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, “Crucify! Crucify!” But Pilate answered, “You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him.”

⁷ The Jewish leaders insisted, “We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.” ⁸ When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, ⁹ and he went back inside the palace. “Where do you come from?” he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ “Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate said. “Don’t you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?”

¹¹ Jesus answered, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.” ¹² From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, “If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.”

¹³ When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge’s seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which

in Aramaic is Gabbatha). ¹⁴ It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon.

“Here is your king,” Pilate said to the Jews.

¹⁵ But they shouted, “Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!” “Shall I crucify your king?” Pilate asked.

“We have no king but Caesar,” the chief priests answered.

¹⁶ Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. ¹⁷ Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). ¹⁸ There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Message - Where were you in Jesus’s trial and crucifixion?

The Confession

God shows great love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. Let us confess our sins.

O Christ, we are stripped bare by your suffering. You see our lives, our dreams, and the secrets we keep even from ourselves. Forgive all that needs to be forgiven, healed all that needs to be healed. Awaken all the good that sleeps in us, banish all the fears that paralyse us. Clothe us with your hope and love through the power of your cross. Amen

Absolution

Our sins are laid bare before the cross of Jesus Christ, and we have turned our hearts to God in faith and repentance. In the name of the living God, our sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

Hymn - When I survey the wondrous cross

1 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.

2 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.

3 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?

4 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.

INTERCESSIONS

Response: Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive them 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn - There is a green hill far away

1 There is a green hill far away,
outside a city wall,
where the dear Lord was crucified,
who died to save us all.

2 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.

3 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.

4 There was no other good enough
to pay the price of sin,
he only could unlock the gate
of heaven, and let us in.

5 O dearly, dearly has he loved,
and we must love him too,
and trust in his redeeming blood,
and try his works to do.

Final prayer.

Please depart silently and meditatively

Cooma Anglican - Good Friday 2026 Sermon - John 18.28 – 19.18

Where were you in Jesus's trial and crucifixion?

Today I want us to think about each of the characters in our gospel reading. I want us to think about whether we see each character, or group of characters, in ourselves, and then to think about what this can teach us about ourselves.

Firstly, the Jewish leaders - so desperate to avoid ritual uncleanness and have to miss the Passover, so desperate to maintain their religious credibility - but willing to murder the innocent Jesus. They say they had no authority to have Jesus executed, but openly let people be stoned and they defile themselves by falsely accusing an innocent man. Their nationalistic sensibilities did not prevent them claiming that Caesar, the hated Roman oppressor, was their only king, and they couldn't accept that their local Jewish boy Jesus, was actually the King of kings. They absolutely hated Jesus, because they thought he claimed to be God, then they shouted "Crucify, crucify" He couldn't possibly really have been God, could he?

Next, Pilate, the Roman governor - the man who represented Caesar, and had all the power that went with that, but had no strength of character. He said Jesus had done nothing wrong. He could have had him released with a wave of his hand - but he had him flogged and executed to keep the Jewish leaders quiet. He had the man he was absolutely certain was innocent flogged, and brutally executed in the most painful method ever devised. Ultimately, truth for Pilate is just a game. He hears Jesus telling the truth, and the Jewish leaders telling obvious lies, but he goes with the obvious liars, just so he can have a quiet life, or perhaps because Caesar, thousands of miles away might care that a riot started under his watch. Then he tries to relent and set Jesus free, to execute Barabbas in his place, but just ends up giving into the crowd, washing his hands of Jesus's blood. Do you have unwavering faith in Jesus, or does it waver from circumstance to circumstance like Pilate?

Then there were the Soldiers. Just doing their job, but also having a little fun humiliating Jesus, dressing him up, mocking him, slapping his face, even dividing his clothes between themselves. Could faith in Christ just be some sport for us too?

Perhaps you are like the crowds. Many of them had worshipped Jesus when he entered Jerusalem five days ago. They had shouted "Hosanna!" "Blessed

is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the king of Israel!” but now they are baying for his blood. Are we just as fickle, worshipping or denying at the drop from moment to moment?

And then there is Jesus. He was steadfastly moving towards his death, the perfect fulfilment of God's plans. Never wavering, never bending the truth, never currying Pilate's favour, never deviating away from the absolute truth, a truth he had always declared throughout his ministry, and was never going to change. He was constantly, unwaveringly, devoted to God, his Father's plans

But what about you? Is there something of you in any of these people? Are you like the Jewish leaders? Fundamentally opposing the very idea that Jesus might be who he claimed to be, to the extent that you want to make him go away, even to the extent of compromising everything else that is important to you? Are you like Pilate, knowing the truth, but wavering to and from it depending who you are with at the time, never having the strength of character to be really committed to the truth. Are you like the soldiers, treating Jesus as basically your job, all the while taking any opportunity to profit personally from the circumstances it brings you. Are you part of the crowd, fully committed to Jesus one day, baying for his blood the next.

Perhaps it sounds a bit like heresy to think you are like Jesus - but are you as committed to your faith in him as he is to fulfilling God the fathers plan for the salvation of mankind? He was so committed to God's plan that nothing, no one could make his steps waver from his journey to the cross. Is your faith committed to his death and resurrection to the extent that no other means of salvation is conceivable to you, nothing by your own efforts, no other price you could possibly pay? Are you committed to Jesus' death on the cross for your salvation, as much as Jesus was committed to dying on the cross for your salvation? This is the message of Jesus's journey to the cross, is that the faith you are committed to? It should be.