

## Good Friday Service

### Rubrics

*This is one of the many format that can be used for the three hours meditation. Hymns and prayers can be change to choose the text and the sermons.*

*Symbols of Good Friday can be place at the chancel as a visual help.*

*It is good to get the all the ministries of the church to be involved in the service.*

### The Cross of Christ

*Below are 10quotes from Cross of Christ John Stott to freshly inspire your faith in Jesus Christ! (Note: All quotes and page references are from the 20th anniversary edition of Cross of Christ by IVP Books in 2006.)*

- 1.)“From Jesus’ youth, indeed even from his birth, the cross cast its shadow ahead of him. His death was central to his mission. Moreover, the church has always recognized this.” (pg. 23)
- 2.)“The fact that a cross became the Christian symbol, and that Christians stubbornly refused, in spite of the ridicule, to discard it in favor of something less offensive, can have only on explanation. It means that the centrality of the cross originated in the mind of Jesus himself. It was out of loyalty to him that his followers clung so doggedly to this sign.” (pg. 31)
- 3.)“God could quite justly have abandoned us to our fate. He could have left us alone to reap the fruit of our wrongdoing and to perish in our sins. It is what we deserved. But he did not. Because he loved us, he came after us in Christ. He pursued us even to the desolate anguish of the cross, where he bore our sins, guilt, judgement and death. It takes a hard and stony heart to remain unmoved by love like that.”  
(pg. 85)
- 4.)“The essential background to the cross, therefore, is a balanced understanding of the gravity of sin and the majesty of God. If we diminish either, we thereby diminish the cross.” (pg. 111)
- 5.)“Moved by the perfection of his holy love, God in Christ substituted himself for us sinners. That is the heart of the Cross of Christ.” (pg. 165)
- 6.)“It would be hard to exaggerate the magnitude of the changes that have taken place as a result of the cross, both in God and in us, especially God’s dealings with us and in our relations with him. Truly, when Christ died and was raised from death, a new day dawned, a new age began.” (pg. 165)
- 7.)“If the cross is to mark our Christian life in the home and the church, this should be even more so in the world. The church tends to become very preoccupied with its own affairs, obsessed with petty, parochial trivia, while the needy world outside is waiting. So the Son sends us out into the world, as the Father had sent him into the world.” (pg. 283)
- 8.)“The cross calls us to a much more radical and costly kind of evangelism than most churches have begun to consider, let alone experience. The cross calls us to social action too, because it summons us to the imitation of Christ...” (pg. 284)
- 9.)“On the cross, by both demanding and bearing the penalty of sin and so simultaneously punishing and overcoming evil, God displayed and demonstrated his holy love; holy love of the cross should characterize our response to evil-doers today.” (pg. 302)
- 10.)“I could never myself believe in God, if it were not for the cross. The only God I believe in is the One Nietzsche ridiculed as ‘God on the cross.’ In the real world of pain, how could one worship a God who was immune to it?” (pg. 326)

**ORDER OF SERVICE FOR GOOD FRIDAY**  
**12.00 noon - 3.00 p.m.**

Prelude

Words of Welcome & Call to Worship:  
(Isaiah 53:1-3)

L: The Lord be with you.

P: **And also with you.**

L: We gather here to worship God.

P: **We gather to remember how Jesus suffered and died for us and to thank God for his love and his mercy.**

L: Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?  
**He grew up before God 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. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering.  
**Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.**

Hymn: **There Is A Green Hill Far Away**

*Litany*

L: O God, Our Father in heaven

A: **have mercy upon us.**

L: O God the Son, Redeemer of the world:

A: **have mercy upon us**

L: O God, the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of the faithful.

A: **have mercy upon us.**

L: From all lust and desire of worldly goods, which would make us unfaithful to you, as was Judas:

A: **Good Lord, deliver us.**

L: From all strange and worldly associations, such as provoked the denial of Peter:

A: **Good Lord, deliver us.**

L: From all misguided zeal and false standard of your kingdom's need, such as provoked the drawn sword of Peter:

A: **Good Lord, deliver us.**

L: From all deceitfulness and false discipleship, such as wounded You in the kiss of Judas.

A: **Good Lord, deliver us.**

L: From all weakness of the flesh and lack of watchfulness, such as brought you sorrow in slumber of your friends in the garden of Gethsemane:

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

L: From all false witness and abuse of public trust, such as was manifested in your trials:

**A: Good Lord, deliver us.**

L: From the judgment of the false masses and the wrong choice of the multitude, as in the case of Barabbas:

**A: Good Lord, deliver us.**

L: From cruel jesting and the mockery of your kingship, as committed by the soldiers of Rome:

**A: Good Lord, deliver us.**

L: From lack of faith in the hour of death and from the mockery of your divine power to save, as was the case with the lost thief:

**A: Good Lord, deliver us.**

**A: Almighty God, the Father of Him who died for us, grant us always to find through Jesus, deliverance from all sins and sorrows of this life and entrance into the eternal joys of paradise. Amen.**

L: O Saviour of the world, who by Thy Cross and precious blood has redeemed us.

**A: Save us, and help us we humbly beseech thee O Lord.**

L: Let us pray.

**A: Merciful God - as we remember how your Son Jesus bore our sins in his body on the cross, how seven times he spoke, seven words of love, we ask you to bless our hearing.**

L: Father, as we recall how all three hours His silence cried for mercy on the souls of all, we ask you to help us to understand the mystery of your love, and make us into a people who are ever more worthy of it.

**A: Amen.**

### **FIRST WORD FROM THE CROSS**

Preacher:

*Hymn: The Old Rugged Cross*

**“Father, forgive them , for they know not what they do.” Luke 23: 34**

The first words that Jesus spoke after being nailed to the cross were ones of forgiveness. The timing of this suggests that Jesus was referring to those enemies – the soldiers, those who mocked, scourged, tortured, and nailed him to the cross. Even though his enemies did not recognize Him as the Messiah, Christ displays his limitless compassion.

Sermon

*Leader: Question for Reflection*

Do you really believe God has forgiven your sins? Do you take time on a regular basis to confess your sins so that you might enjoy the freedom of forgiveness? Do you need to experience God's forgiveness in a fresh way today?

*Prayer*

Gracious Lord Jesus, it's easy for me to speak of your forgiveness, even to ask for it and to thank you for it. But do I really believe I'm forgiven? Do I experience the freedom that comes from the assurance that you have cleansed me from my sins? Or do I live as if I'm "semi forgiven"? Even though I've put my faith in you and confessed my sins, do I live as sin still has power over me? Do I try to prove myself to you, as if I might be able to earn more forgiveness?

Dear Lord, though I believe at one level that you have forgiven me, this amazing truth needs to penetrate my heart in new ways. Help me to know with fresh conviction that I am fully and finally forgiven, not because of anything I have done, but because of what you have done for me.

May I live today as a forgiven person, opening my heart to you, choosing not to sin because the power of sin has been broken by your salvation.

All praise be to you, Lord Jesus, for your matchless forgiveness! **Amen.**

*Silence*

*Litany*

L: That it may please Thee to forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn their hearts.

A: **We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

L: That it may please Thee to give us true repentance, to forgive us all our sins, negligence and ignorance's, and to endue us with grace of the Holy Spirit, to amend our lives according to Thy Holy Word.

A: **We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

**SECOND WORD FROM THE CROSS**

Preacher:

*Hymn:*

**"Amen I say to thee, this day thou shalt be with me in paradise."**

**Luke 23: 43**

Christ says these words to a man who is being crucified next to him. Just like the first word, His second is that of forgiveness. God generously opens the door to heaven for those who will to repent of their sins. The sinner recognized Christ for who he was. The mercy of God is always ready to reach out to and save a soul, even at the last minute.

Sermon

*Leader: Question for Reflection*

Have you risked your life on Jesus? Have you put your ultimate trust in him? Do you know that,

when your time comes, you will be with him in paradise?

*Prayer*

Dear Lord Jesus, how I wonder at your grace and mercy! When we cry out to you, you hear us. When we ask you to remember us when you come into your kingdom, you offer the promise of paradise. Your mercy, dear Lord, exceeds anything we might imagine. It embraces us, encourages us and heals us.

O Lord, though my situation is so different from the criminal who cried out to you, I am nevertheless quite like him. Today I live, trusting you and you alone. My life, but now and in the world to come, is in your hands. And so I pray: Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom! Jesus, remember me today as I seek to live within your kingdom! **Amen.**

*Silence*

*Litany*

L: That it may please Thee to raise up them that fall, and finally to beat down Satan under our feet;

A: **We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

L: That it may please Thee to show Thy pity upon all prisoners and captives;

A: **We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

L: In the hour of death and in the Day of Judgment.

A: **Good Lord, deliver us!**

**THIRD WORD FROM THE CROSS**

Preacher:

*Hymn:*

**“When Jesus therefore had seen his mother and the disciple standing whom he loved, he said to his mother: Woman, behold thy son. After that, he said to the disciple: Behold thy mother.”**

**John 19: 26-27**

Yet again Jesus is continuously compassionate to those around him, making sure that his Mother is cared for after his death. Most scholars speculate that Mary was a widower at the time of the crucifixion. The good son Jesus, without brothers and sisters to provide for his Mother, looks to John to care for her. Just as Christ gave His mother to John, he gives Mother Mary to us.

Sermon

*Leader: Question for Reflection*

What does Mary's presence at the cross evoke in you? Why do you think was it necessary for Jesus to suffer physical pain as he died?

*Prayer*

Lord Jesus, the presence of your mother at the cross engages my heart. You are no longer only the

Saviour dying for the sins of the world. You are also a fully human man, a son with a mother.

O Lord, how can I begin to thank you for what you suffered? My words fall short. My thoughts seem superficial and vague. Nevertheless, I offer my sincere gratitude for your suffering. Thank you for bearing my sin on the cross. I give you my praise, my love, my heart... all that I am, because you have given me all that you are.

All praise be to you, Lord Jesus, fully God and fully human, Saviour of the world... my Saviour!  
**Amen.**

*Silence*

*Litany*

L: That it may please thee Lord Jesus, who was pleased to be born of a Virgin Mother, to sanctify the home life among us that we may abound in love toward one another, and so be led in love to thee.

**A: We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

L: To bless the sons and daughters of homes, that they may be be faithful, loving and obedient, doing their duty in that state of life to which it may please Thee to call them.

**A: We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

L: To increase among all Christian a due reverence for the sanctity of marriage, and to deliver us from the evils of divorce.

**A: We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

L: To bless all human ties and friendships, and to make us worthy of Thy saving friendships.

**A: We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

#### **FOURTH WORD FROM THE CROSS**

Preacher:

*Hymn: When I Survey The Wondrous Cross*

**“And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying:  
Eli, Eli, lamma sabacthani? that is, My God, my God,  
why hast thou forsaken me?” Matt 27:46**

These four words were uttered shortly before His death. This is the only passage where the original Aramaic language is preserved. Here, Jesus was expressing His feelings of abandonment. God placed the sins of the entire world on Him, which overwhelms the humanity of Jesus. His followers, once at His side, are nowhere to be found. Jesus lives the human experience, and it was by His death that we are redeemed.

Sermon

*Leader: Question for Reflection*

Have you taken time to consider that Jesus was abandoned by the Father so that you might not be? What does this “word” from the cross mean to you?

*Prayer*

O Lord Jesus, though I will never fully grasp the wonder and horror of your abandonment by the Father, every time I read this “word,” I am overwhelmed with gratitude. How can I ever thank you for what you suffered for me? What can I do but to offer myself to you in gratitude and praise? Thank you, dear Lord, for what you suffered. Thank you for taking my place. Thank you for being forsaken by the Father so that I might never be

***(To be read)***

*Silence*

*Litany*

L: That it may please Thee to comfort and help the weak-hearted.

A: **We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

L: That it may please Thee to sustain, help and comfort all who are in danger, necessity and tribulation the oppressed and marginalized. The victims of violence and discrimination.

A: **We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

L: That it may please Thee to defend, and provide for the Fatherless children, and widows, and all who are desolate and without hope:

A: **We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

***Presentation by Choir or any other groups***

### **FIFTH WORD FROM THE CROSS**

Preacher:

*Hymn:*

*Offertory will be taken*

**“Afterwards, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, said: I thirst.” John 19:28**

Earlier in the Gospel, Jesus was prepared a drink of wine and myrrh. It was customary in those days to prepare an anesthetic drink for those about to be crucified. To appease the soldiers Jesus took a sip, but not enough to deaden the pain. In this passage He prompted the guards for his final drink, this one consisting of vinegar and water. He was scourged, crowned with thorns, walked the Way of the Cross, and was nailed to the Cross. Among His seven last words, this is the only verbal expression of his physical suffering.

Sermon

*Leader: Question for Reflection*

How do you respond to Jesus' statement "I am thirsty"? What does this statement suggest to you about Jesus? About yourself?

*Prayer*

O Lord, once again I thank you for what you suffered on the cross.

Besides extraordinary pain, you also experienced extreme thirst. All of this was part and parcel of your taking on our humanity so that you might take away our sin.

Dear Lord, in your words "I am thirsty" I hear the cry of my own heart. I too am thirsty, Lord, not for physical drink. I don't need sour wine.

Rather, I need the new wine of your kingdom to flood my soul. I need to be refreshed by your living water. I yearn for your Spirit to fill me once again. I am thirsty, Lord, for you. **Amen.**

*Silence*

*Litany*

L: That it may please Thee to inspire all men with a great hunger and thirst after righteousness:

A: **We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

L: That it may please Thee to fill us with a longing and desire for the conversion of the world;

A: **We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please Thee to have mercy upon all who suffer in body, mind or estate:

A: **We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

L: That it may please Thee to comfort and relieve them according to their several necessities, giving them patience in their suffering, and a happy issue out of all their suffering.

A: **We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

### **SIXTH WORD FROM THE CROSS**

Preacher:

*Hymn:*

**"Jesus therefore, when he had taken the vinegar, said:  
It is consummated." John 19:30**

Amazingly, Jesus is still conscious after hours of being on the cross. This expression, "It is finished", did not simply mean that death was upon him, but rather that He fulfilled his mission. His preaching, miracles, and finally His earthly suffering would soon be over. His ministry and resulting death would pay the debt of sin for all humanity.

Sermon



*Leader: Question for Reflection*

Do you live as if Jesus finished the work of salvation? Do you have confidence that God will finish that which he has begun in you?

*Prayer*

How can I ever find words to express my gratitude to you, dear Lord Jesus? You did it. You finished that for which you had been sent, faithful in life, faithful in death. You accomplished that which no other person could do, taking the sin of the world upon your sinless shoulders...taking my sin so that I might receive your forgiveness and new life.

All praise be to you, gracious Lord, for finishing the work of salvation. All praise be to you, dear Jesus, for saving me! Alleluia! **Amen.**

*Silence*

*Litany*

L: That it may please Thee to deliver us from all laziness, idleness and lust of riches; from the selfish desire of possessions and to preserve in us the spirit of quietness and contentment.

A: **We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please Thee in mercy to provide for all those who are unemployed and in want, for those who cannot work; and for those whose work in life is done;

A: **We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

L: That it may please Thee to grant that in all our work and service we may ever seek Thy glory, and the good of our fellowmen.

A: **We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

### **SEVENTH WORD FROM THE CROSS**

Preacher:

*Hymn: Burdens Are Lifted At Calvary*

**“And Jesus crying with a loud voice, said: Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit. And saying this, he gave up the spirit.”**

**Luke 23:46**

These are the very last words Jesus spoke on the Cross before His final breath. Jesus is willingly giving up His soul to His Father in Heaven. Jesus has been perfectly obedient to His father's will. It is here that the Lamb of God has been slain for our sins. By contemplating this, and all the last words of Jesus, we can better appreciate Christ's sacrifice on the cross. Meditate on Our Lord's words and include it as part of your Lenten preparation, especially during Holy Week. What other significance and meaning can you draw from His last words?

Sermon –

Leader: Question for Reflection

Have you put your life and, indeed, your life beyond this life, in God's hands? How do you experience God's salvation through Christ in your life today?

*Prayer*

Gracious Lord, even as you once entrusted your spirit into the hands of the Father, so I give my life to you. I trust you, and you alone to be my Saviour. I submit to you sovereignty over my life, and seek to live for your glory alone. Here I am, Lord, available to you, both now and in the future.

How good it is to know, dear Lord, that the cross was not the end for you. As you entrusted your spirit into the Father's hands, you did so in anticipation of what was to come. So, we reflect upon your death, not in despair, but in hope. With Good Friday behind us, Easter Sunday is on the horizon. **Amen.**

*Silence*

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

Christ was manifested in the body,  
vindicated in the spirit,  
seen by angels,  
proclaimed among the nations,  
believed in throughout the world,  
glorified in high heaven.

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

**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.

**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.**

### **The Vicar**

Depart now in peace - and may the Spirit of Christ, go with you, may his faith and trust abide within you, and may the knowledge of his love support you both now and forevermore, **Amen**

Closing Hymn: I Have Decided To Follow Jesus

*Light refreshment will be served. Hot Cross Buns and soup can be prepared for those who wish to break fast*

*Encourage members to by adding to complete the Holy Triduum—Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, is the service of Easter Eve y and the lighting of the new Paschal candle followed by Easter Day service.*