

Good Friday Service of Prayer and Reflection

Blessed be our God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Let us pray.

Holy and ever living God, look graciously on this your family for which our Saviour Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and to suffer death upon the cross; and grant us to grow into the fullness of new life in Christ who now is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE GOSPEL READING

INTERCESSIONS

Let us pray for the Church of Christ throughout the world:
for its unity in witness and service, for all bishops and other ministers
and the people whom they serve and all the people of this diocese, for all Christians in
this community,

Silence

Faithful and compassionate God, your Spirit guides the Church and makes it holy; hear
the prayers we offer, that in the particular ministry
to which you have called us, we may serve you faithfully, through Jesus Christ our
Saviour. **Amen.**

Let us pray for the earth, for its conservation and protection from greed and exploitation:
for all nations and peoples of the earth, and for those in authority among them: for the
government of this country and all nations, for all who serve the common good, that by
God's help they may seek justice and truth, that all might live in peace and harmony.

Silence

Faithful and compassionate God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace,
and guide with your wisdom those in authority, that justice, peace, and freedom may
increase, until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ
our Saviour. **Amen.**

Let us pray for all who suffer: for the hungry and the homeless, the deprived and the oppressed, for the sick, the wounded, and the frail, for those in loneliness and in fear, for those in confusion, doubt, and despair, for the sorrowful and bereaved and all at the point of death, that God's love will comfort and sustain them, and that we may be stirred up to minister to them.

Silence

Faithful and compassionate God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer, hear the cry of all who call on you, grant them the joy of receiving your help in their need and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Let us pray for all who do not believe the gospel of Christ: for those who have never heard the message of salvation, for those who have lost their faith, for those who are indifferent to Christ, for those who actively oppose Christ by word or deed, for those who in the name of Christ have persecuted others, that God will open their hearts to the truth, and lead them to faith and obedience.

Silence

Faithful and compassionate God, you create and love all the peoples of the earth; may your good news be so lived and proclaimed, that all are brought home to your presence, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Let us commit ourselves to God, and pray for the grace of a holy life, that with all who have died in the peace of Christ, and with those whose faith is known to God alone, we may enter the fullness of life in the joy of Christ's resurrection.

Silence

God, our refuge and strength, accept the fervent prayers of your people, and bring to fulfilment your plan for all creation, through Jesus Christ who is alive with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

MEDITATING ON THE CROSS OF JESUS

Behold the cross, on which hung the Saviour of the world.
Come let us worship.

My people, what wrong have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me!
Through baptism, I led you from slavery to freedom, but you lead your Saviour to the cross.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and just, have mercy upon us.

I led you through the wilderness. I fed you with the bread of life,
the manna from heaven, but you lead your Saviour to the cross.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and just, have mercy upon us.

I planted you as my fairest vineyard, I grafted you into the one true vine,
I gave you the water of salvation, but you give me gall and vinegar to drink, and leave me
thirsting upon a cross.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and just, have mercy upon us.

I gave you a royal sceptre, but you give me a crown of thorns.
I raised you up to newness of life, but you raise me high upon a cross.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and just, have mercy upon us.

What more could I have done for you? I gave you my peace and my truth, but you fight
in my name, and divide my Church.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and just, have mercy upon us.

I come in your brother and sister, hungry, yet you give me no food,
thirsty, yet you give me no drink, a stranger, and you do not welcome me, naked, and you
do not clothe me, sick and in prison, and you do not visit me.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and just, have mercy upon us.

CLOSING PRAYER

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

God of our redemption, abundantly bless your people who have devoutly recalled the
death of Christ; grant us forgiveness, renew us, strengthen our faith, and increase in us
the fullness of life;

we ask this through Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

We leave in silence and quiet contemplation

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