

## Good Friday



10 April 2020

### SENTENCE OF THE DAY

Jesus said: Now is the judgment of this world, now shall the ruler of this world be cast out: and I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, Jesus Christ, to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life. In penitence and faith let us confess our sins to almighty God.

*A pause for self examination is observed:*

**Merciful God, our maker and our judge, we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, and in what we have failed to do: we have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.**

**Father, forgive us.**

**Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### FIRST READING from the Prophet Isaiah Chapter 52 beginning at verse 13

See, my servant shall prosper;

he shall be exalted and lifted up,  
and shall be very high.

Just as there were many who were astonished at him  
—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance,  
and his form beyond that of mortals—

so 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.

Who has believed what we have heard?

And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

For he grew up before him like a young plant,  
and like a root out of dry ground;

he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,  
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

He was despised 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.

Surely he has borne our infirmities  
and carried our diseases;  
yet we accounted him stricken,  
struck down by God, and afflicted.  
But 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.  
All 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.

He 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.  
By 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.  
They 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.

Yet 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.  
Out 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.  
Therefore 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.

## PSALM 22

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me:  
**why are you so far from helping me and from the words of my groaning?**  
My God, I cry to you by day, but you do not answer:  
**and by night also I take no rest.**  
But you continue holy:  
**you that are the praise of Israel.**  
In you our fathers trusted:  
**they trusted, and you delivered them;**  
To you they cried and they were saved:  
**they put their trust in you and were not confounded.**  
But as for me, I am a worm and no man:  
**the scorn of men and despised by the people.**  
All those that see me laugh me to scorn:  
**they shoot out their lips at me and wag their heads, saying,**  
**‘He trust in the Lord let him deliver him:**  
**let him deliver him, if he delights in him.’**  
But you are he that took me out of the womb:  
**that brought me to lie at peace on my mother’s breast.**  
On you have I been cast since my birth:  
**you are my God, even from my mother’s womb.**  
O praise the Lord, all you that fear him:  
hold him in honour, O seed of Jacob,  
and let the seed of Israel stand in awe of him.  
For he has not despised nor abhorred the poor man in his misery:  
**nor did he hide his face from him, but heard him when he cried.**  
From you springs my praise in the great congregation:  
**I will pay my vows in the sight of all that fear you;**  
The meek shall eat of the sacrifice and be satisfied:  
**and those who seek the Lord shall praise him may their hearts rejoice for ever!**  
Let all the ends of the earth remember and turn to the Lord:  
**and let all the families of the nations worship before him.**  
For the kingdom is the Lord’s:  
**and he shall be ruler over the nations.**

How can those who sleep in the earth do him homage:  
**or those that descent to the dust bow down before him?**  
But he has saved my life for himself:  
**and my posterity shall serve him.**  
This shall be told of my Lord to a future generation:  
**and his righteousness declared to a people yet unborn, that  
he as done it.**

SECOND READING from the letter to the Hebrews  
Chapter 10 beginning at verse 16

‘This is the covenant that I will make with them  
after those days, says the Lord:  
I will put my laws in their hearts,  
and I will write them on their minds’,  
he also adds,  
‘I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.’  
Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for  
sin.

Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the  
sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he  
opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since  
we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a  
true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean  
from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he  
who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one  
another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is  
the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as  
you see the Day approaching.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to JOHN  
Chapter 18 beginning at the first verse.

After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the  
Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples  
entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus  
often met there with his disciples. So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers  
together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came  
there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was  
to happen to him, came forward and asked them, ‘For whom are you look-  
ing?’ They answered, ‘Jesus of Nazareth.’ Jesus replied, ‘I am he.’ Judas, who  
betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, ‘I am he’,  
they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them, ‘For whom are  
you looking?’ And they said, ‘Jesus of Nazareth.’ Jesus answered, ‘I told you  
that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go.’ This was to fulfil  
the word that he had spoken, ‘I did not lose a single one of those whom you  
gave me.’ Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high  
priest’s slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave’s name was Malchus. Jesus  
said to Peter, ‘Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup  
that the Father has given me?’

So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound  
him. First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the  
high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it  
was better to have one person die for the people.

Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was  
known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high  
priest, but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who  
was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the  
gate, and brought Peter in. The woman said to Peter, ‘You are not also one of  
this man’s disciples, are you?’ He said, ‘I am not.’ Now the slaves and the  
police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing  
round it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and  
warming himself.

Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. Jesus answered, 'I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said.' When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, 'Is that how you answer the high priest?' Jesus answered, 'If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?' Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, 'You are not also one of his disciples, are you?' He denied it and said, 'I am not.' One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, 'Did I not see you in the garden with him?' Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said, 'What accusation do you bring against this man?' They answered, 'If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.' Pilate said to them, 'Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law.' The Jews replied, 'We are not permitted to put anyone to death.' (This was to fulfil what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?' Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?' Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.' Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.' Pilate asked him, 'What is truth?'

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, 'I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?' They shouted in reply, 'Not this man, but Barabbas!' Now Barabbas was a bandit.

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' and striking him on the face. Pilate went out again and said to them, 'Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him.' So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, 'Here is the man!' When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, 'Crucify him! Crucify him!' Pilate said to them, 'Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him.' The Jews answered him, 'We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God.'

Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, 'Where are you from?' But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, 'Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?' Jesus answered him, 'You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.' From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, 'If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor.'

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, 'Here is your King!' They cried out, 'Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!' Pilate asked them, 'Shall I crucify your King?' The chief priests answered, 'We have no king but the emperor.' Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.' Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, 'Do not write, "The King of the Jews", but, "This man said, I am King of the Jews."' Pilate answered, 'What I have written I have written.' When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, 'Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.' This was to fulfil what the scripture says,

They divided my clothes among themselves,  
and for my clothing they cast lots.'  
And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfil the scripture), 'I am thirsty.' A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, 'It is finished.' Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, 'None of his bones shall be broken.' And again another passage of scripture says, 'They will look on the one whom they have pierced.'

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

## THE SERMON

+Carol Wagner

God sent his 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.

## INTERCESSIONS

We pray for the needy of our world: For those who are lost and confused,  
For those who are sick and in anguish.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Comfort those who are hungry and lonely, strengthen those who are striving to be free and guard with your protection those who are in danger of any kind.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all our sisters and brothers in Jesus Christ,  
May we live in peace and unity and show to the world by our love for each other, that we are your sons and daughters.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the peoples of the Holy Land and the Middle East that the peace and reconciliation of Christ, longed for through millennia and accomplished by His redeeming death, may come to reign among them.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who do not yet believe in Jesus Christ  
May your Spirit open their eyes and teach them the richness of salvation which Christ has won for all people.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Finally, Father, we place before you the needs of our world and the needs of our hearts.  
At this time of international crisis we pray for those who are sick with the corona virus, the families of those who have died and for all who live in fear of what the future may bring.  
We pray for your comfort and courage at this time.

We are confident that you will be faithful to your promises to us, the covenant sealed by the blood of your Son.

**Bless us, Father in our doubts and in our faith,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## RECOGNITION OF THE CROSS

### 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 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 an offering far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all*

*Isaac Watts 1674-1748*

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your Kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those 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,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Dean says,

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these that had happened. While they were talking and discussing Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognising him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The thing about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?"

*Luke 24.13-26*

Father, our hearts are heavy as we focus our gaze on the death of your Son.

Yet sadness has given way to joy,  
and death has yielded the promise of new life.

In this lies our hope:

that Jesus Christ who has died, has risen from the dead,  
and summons everyone to follow him and share his eternal life.

May we who have walked with him in his hour of sorrow  
be united with him in his victory  
and in his glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

