GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY

with the reading of the Passion, the proclamation of the Cross, and the prayers for Good Friday

We enter the meeting in silence. All keep a time of silent prayer.

The officiant prays the collect.

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

Amen.

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

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.

(Isaiah 52.12-end of 53)

SILENCE

PSALM (Psalm 22.1–11)

1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

2 O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.

- 3 Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.
- 4 In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.
- 5 To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.
- 6 But I am a worm, and not human; scorned by others, and despised by the people.
- 7 All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;
- 8 'Commit your cause to the Lord; let him deliver let him rescue the one in whom he delights!'
- 9 Yet it was you who took me from the womb; you kept me safe on my mother's breast.
- 10 On you I was cast from my birth, and since my mother bore me you have been my God.
- 11 Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

THE PASSION GOSPEL (John 18 and 19; no responses)

THE SERMON

SILENCE

HYMN 157 (TUNE: ROCKINGHAM)

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 that charm me most, I sacrifice them through 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?

His dying crimson, like a robe, spreads o'er his body on the tree: then am I dead to all the globe, and all the globe is dead to me.

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.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE CROSS

The crucifix that hangs in the church becomes our focus during the devotion.

This is the wood of the cross, on which hung the Saviour of the world.

All: Come, let us worship.

During the showing of the cross members of the congregation acknowledge the cross briefly.

We worship you, Lord, we venerate the cross, we praise your resurrection.
Through the cross you brought joy to the world.
May God be gracious to us and bless us: a nd let his face shed its light upon us.
We worship you, Lord, we venerate the cross, we praise your resurrection.
Through the cross you brought joy to the world.

The Reproaches

I led you out of Egypt, from slavery to freedom, but you led your Saviour to the cross.

My people, what have I done to you?

How have I offended you? Answer me!

Holy is God! Holy and strong!
Holy immortal One, have mercy on us!
For forty years I led you safely through the desert.
I fed you with manna from heaven
and brought you to a land of plenty;
but you led your Saviour to the cross.

Holy is God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.

What more could I have done for you?
I planted you as the fairest vine,
but you yielded only bitterness:
when I was thirsty you gave me vinegar to drink,
and you pierced your Saviour's side with a lance.
Holy is God,

Holy is God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.

For your sake I scourged your captors and their firstborn sons, but you brought your scourges down on me.

My people, what have I done to you?

How have I offended you? Answer me!

I led you from slavery to freedom and drowned your captors in the sea, but you handed me over to your high priests. My people, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me!

I opened the sea before you, but you opened my side with a spear. My people, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me! I led you on your way in a pillar of cloud, but you lead me to Pilate's court.

My people, what have I done to you?

How have I offended you? Answer me!

I bore you up with manna in the desert, but you struck me down and scourged me. My people, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me!

I gave you saving water from the rock, but you gave me gall and vinegar to drink. My people, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me!

For you I struck down the kings of Canaan, but you struck my head with a reed.

My people, what have I done to you?

How have I offended you? Answer me!

I gave you a royal sceptre, but you gave me a crown of thorns. My people, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me!

I raised you to the height of majesty, but you raised me high on a cross. My people, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me!

THE INTERCESSIONS

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

HYMN 181 (TUNE: PASSION CHORALE)

O sacred head, surrounded by crown of piercing thorn! O bleeding head, so wounded, so shamed and put to scorn! Death's pallid hue comes o'er thee, the glow of life decays; yet angel-hosts adore thee, and tremble as they gaze.

Thy comeliness and vigour is withered up and gone, and in thy wasted figure I see death drawing on. O agony and dying! O love to sinners free! Jesu, all race supplying, turn thou thy face on me.

In this thy bitter passion, good Shepherd, think of me with thy most sweet compassion, unworthy though I be: beneath thy cross abiding for ever would I rest, in thy dear love confiding, and with thy presence blest.

Standing at the foot of the cross we pray:

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 service concludes with the following prayer. No blessing or dismissal is added.

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world:
Grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross, we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ your son our Lord.

Amen.

We leave the service in silence.

