

# THE LITURGY OF GOOD FRIDAY

April 2, 2021 at 7:30pm

Livestreamed worship available at [facebook.com/stpaulsnorwalk/videos](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsnorwalk/videos).

St. Paul's on the Green | 60 East Avenue, Norwalk, Connecticut 06851

*On this day the ministers enter in silence.*

## The Opening Collect

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## The Lesson *Isaiah 53:1-6*

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 God has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 22:1-11** *sung by the cantors*

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? \*  
and are so far from my cry  
and from the words of my distress?

O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; \*  
by night as well, but I find no rest.

Yet you are the Holy One, \*  
enthroned upon the praises of Israel.

Our forebears put their trust in you; \*  
they trusted, and you delivered them.

They cried out to you and were delivered; \*  
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.

But as for me, I am a worm and less than human, \*  
scorned by all and despised by the people.

All who see me laugh me to scorn; \*  
they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,

“You trusted in God for deliverance; \*  
let God rescue you, if God delights in you.”

Yet you, O God, are the one who took me out of the womb, \*  
and kept me safe upon my mother’s breast.

I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; \*  
you were my God when I was still in my mother’s womb.

Be not far from me, for trouble is near, \*  
and there is none to help.

setting: plainsong

**The Epistle** *Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9*

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.  
**Thanks be to God.**

# Hymn

1 O sa - cred head, sore wound - ed, de - filed and put to scorn;  
 \*4 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,  
 \*5 My days are few, O fail not, with thine im - mor - tal power,

1 O king - ly head, sur - round - ed with mock - ing crown of thorn:  
 4 for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pi - ty with - out end?  
 5 to hold me that I quail not in death's most fear - ful hour;

1 what sor - row mars thy gran - deur? Can death thy bloom de - flower?  
 4 Oh, make me thine for - ev - er! and should I faint - ing be,  
 5 that I may fight be - friend - ed, and see in my last strife

1 O coun - te - nance whose splen - dor the hosts of heaven a - dore!  
 4 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er, out - live my love for thee.  
 5 to me thine arms ex - tend - ed up - on the cross of life.

words: Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676); tr. Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930);  
 music: *Herzlich tut mich verlangen* [*Passion Chorale*], Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612);  
 adapt. and harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

## The Passion Gospel *John 19:1-30, sung by the choir*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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, O King of the Jews!" and they struck 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 claimed to be the Son of God."

Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid. 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 crucify you and have power to release 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 saying, "If you release this man, you are no friend of Caesar. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against Caesar."

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 Gabatha. Now it was the day of preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" But they cried out, "Take him! Take him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no other king, none but Caesar." Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus and led him away. 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 two others with him, one on either side, with Jesus between them. And Pilate also had an inscription written and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." And many of the Jews read this inscription, since 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 has 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 whose it will be." This was to fulfill 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 fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." Now 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.

*Silence is kept.*

## **The Sermon**    *The Rev. Daniel Simons*

*A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.*

## **Troparion**    *sung by the St. Paul's choir*

The noble Joseph, taking down thy most pure Body from the Tree,  
wrapped it in clean linen and anointed it with spices and placed it in a new tomb.

setting: traditional Bulgarian

## **The Solemn Collects**

### **For the Nations**

Let us pray: For politicians, statespersons, government officials, leaders, especially those in our own country, that they may seek the common good – peace, equity and justice; For judges and magistrates, that they may administer true justice impartially and with mercy; For those who have power of life and death over others; For every occasion when human beings use their skill to hurt and kill;

Lord have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

**Lord have mercy.**

Let us pray: For those condemned to death for whatever reason; For those imprisoned, lawfully and unlawfully, justly and unjustly; For those serving very long or indeterminate sentences;

Lord have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

**Lord have mercy.**

Let us pray: For ourselves; When we judge others, and for those we condemn; When we stand judged or condemned, rightly or wrongly; That we may know the witness and humility of Christ.

Lord have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

**Lord have mercy.**

Gracious God, your Wisdom spans the world, ordering all things for good. Blow your Spirit freely among the nations, sweeping away whatever divides us. Guide all who govern to serve justice and peace, until your will is done on earth and in heaven, and your reign is fully come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **For the Suffering**

Let us pray: For those who are weak and in pain, especially those living with incurable diseases; For those who experience physical exhaustion; For those who are weak and sick with hunger; For those suffering the weakness of advanced age; For those facing failure;

Lord have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

**Lord have mercy.**

Let us pray: For those who care for the physically weak, the sick, the elderly; For doctors and nurses, social workers, counselors, hospital workers and families;

Lord have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

**Lord have mercy.**

Let us pray: For ourselves; When we face sickness, physical weakness, tiredness, and exhaustion; When we experience failure; That we may know the power of Christ's experience on the Cross.

Lord have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

**Lord have mercy.**

Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: Let the cry of those in misery and need come to you, that they may find your mercy present with them in all their afflictions; strengthen our hearts in loving service, and make Christ's love fruitful in our works of compassion, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **For the Unbelieving**

Let us pray: For those who experience moral weakness and failure; For those who know what it is to lose their faith; For those who have lost hope in this world or the next; For those who are at the very limits of their mental, physical, spiritual, or moral strength;

Lord have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

**Lord have mercy.**

Let us pray: For those who counsel the despairing or suicidal; For chaplains and those who minister in prisons;

Lord have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

**Lord have mercy.**

Let us pray: For ourselves; When we know moral failure; When everything and everyone seems to be against us and hope flees; That we may remember Jesus waiting for crucifixion and know his patience, presence, and resolve;

Lord have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

**Lord have mercy.**

Save, O merciful God, all who do not know you, or wander on the path to destruction. As your Son sought the lost and poured out his life for sinners, reform and purify your Church. Make us like Christ, a beacon of hope, a path of reconciliation, a doorway to new life, and a sign of welcome, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **For the Departed**

Let us pray: For the dying; For ourselves, in our last days, in our last hour; In gratitude that because of the loneliness of Jesus on the cross no one need ever die alone or without hope;

Lord have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

**Lord have mercy.**

Let us pray: For those who care for the dying: their families, friends, nurses, doctors, counselors, and the communion of saints; For all hospices for the dying;

Lord have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

**Lord have mercy.**

Let us pray: For all persons who have died, whoever they may be; That they may know Christ and share his risen and eternal life;

Lord have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

**Lord have mercy.**

O Jesus Christ, by your death you took away the sting of death. We pray for those we love but see no longer: grant them your peace. And grant to us your servants so to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in you and wake up in your likeness; for your tender mercies' sake. **Amen.**

## For the Church

Let us pray: In awe and gratitude, we stand before the mystery of the Cross; Here we know that God loved the world so much that God gave his Son to this kind of suffering and this kind of death; That Jesus accepted this suffering and death out of love for us so that we may share his risen life; We acclaim Jesus as the Christ, fountain of our salvation and healing;

Lord have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

**Lord have mercy.**

Let us pray: For our local churches: For St. Paul's on the Green, and for Christ Church, Episcopal, Norwalk. For First Congregational on the Green. For all churches, temples, synagogues, and mosques in this city. For the Episcopal Church in Connecticut and for our bishops Ian and Laura. For the fruitfulness of all our ministries; for those communities who are oppressed and endangered by war, injustice and enmity; and for all places where the gospel is silenced; For those who are persecuted or oppressed for any reason;

Lord have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

**Lord have mercy.**

Let us pray: For ourselves; Whenever we are called to account for our faith; That we may understand and incorporate into our lives the way of the cross, allowing sin, suffering and death to be broken on the rock of love, and refusing to retaliate against evil with evil;

Lord have mercy.

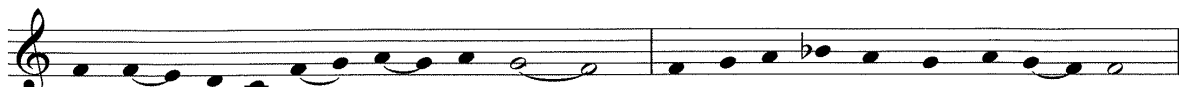
**Christ have mercy.**

**Lord have mercy.**

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by the one through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## The Procession of the Cross

*The People kneel as able. The Celebrant sings three times:*



Be- hold\_ the\_ wood of\_ the Cross\_ where on was hung the world's sal- va\_ tion.

*and each time the people respond:*



O come,\_ let us wor - ship.



*The People stand as able. The Celebrant and People say*

We glory in your cross, O Lord,  
**And praise and glorify your holy resurrection; for by virtue of your cross joy has come into the whole world.**

May God be merciful to us and bless us, show us the light of his countenance, and come to us.  
**Let your ways be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.  
**We glory in your cross, O Lord, and praise and glorify your holy resurrection; for by virtue of your cross joy has come into the whole world.**

*During the veneration, reflect on the cross and on this prayer (from Morning Prayer, BCP p. 101): "Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace..." Allow Christ to draw you more fully into that embrace of Love that reveals the source and end of all creation.*

## **The Veneration of the Cross** *anthem sung by the St. Paul's choir*

There in God's garden stands the Tree of Wisdom,  
whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nations:

Tree of all knowledge, Tree of all compassion,  
Tree of all beauty.

Its name is Jesus, name that says, "Our Savior!"  
There on its branches see the scars of suff'ring;  
see there the tendrils of our human selfhood  
feed on its lifeblood.

Thorns not its own are tangled in its foliage;  
our greed has starved it, our despite has choked it.  
Yet, look! It lives! Its grief has not destroyed it,  
nor fire consumed it.

See how its branches reach to us in welcome;  
hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye weary!  
Give me your sickness, give me all your sorrow,  
I will give blessing."

This is my ending, this my resurrection;  
into your hands, Lord, I commit my spirit.  
This have I searched for; now I can possess it.  
This ground is holy.

All heav'n is singing "Thanks to Christ whose passion  
offers in mercy, healing, strength, and pardon.  
Peoples and nations, take it, take it freely!"  
Amen! My Master!

words: Kiraly Imre von Pecselyi (1590-1641), trans. Erik Routley (1917-1982)  
music: K. Lee Scott (b. 1950)

*Following the veneration, the Celebrant brings the reserved sacrament to the altar.*

## **The Confession of Sin**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

## **The Absolution**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.  
**Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now 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 Communion *anthem sung by the cantors*

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss  
to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,  
to lay aside his crown for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,  
to God and to the Lamb I will sing.  
To God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM  
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,  
while millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.  
And when from death I'm free I'll sing and joyful be,  
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
and through eternity I'll sing on!

words: American folk hymn, ca. 1835  
music: *Wondrous Love*, from *The Southern Harmony*, 1835

## Concluding Prayer

*All kneel, as able, for silent prayer. Then the Celebrant prays*

Christ our victim, whose beauty was disfigured and whose body torn upon the cross; open wide your arms to embrace our tortured world, that we may not turn away our eyes, but abandon ourselves to your mercy, who is alive with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God in perfect community. **Amen.**

*The vested ministers depart in silence. All are welcome to remain for personal prayer, or to depart quietly.*

*This Holy Week we walk together in Jesus' way of love that leads through the cross and tomb to the joy of resurrection. Worship at St. Paul's at 7:30pm each evening online, culminating in a joyful Easter morning liturgy. Visit [stpaulsnorwalk.org/traveltogether](http://stpaulsnorwalk.org/traveltogether) for more information.*

Saturday, 7:30pm

Great Vigil of Easter

Easter Sunday, 11am

Festival Eucharist

## THE WORSHIP IS OVER. THE SERVICE BEGINS.

St. Paul's on the Green

The Rev. Daniel Simons, *Priest-in-charge*

60 East Avenue, Norwalk, Connecticut 06851

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