

ST ANDREW'S, MOSCOW

GOOD FRIDAY



18th April, 2025 – 7 p.m.

Good Friday, the Friday before Easter, is the day when Christians commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus and His death at Calvary. This Christian holiday is also known as Holy Friday, Great Friday, Great and Holy Friday, and Black Friday.

For Christians, Good Friday is an important day of the year because it celebrates what we believe to be the most momentous weekend in the history of the world. Ever since Jesus died and was raised, Christians have proclaimed the cross and resurrection of Jesus to be the decisive turning point for all creation. Paul considered it "of first importance" that Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and was raised to life on the third day, following what God had promised in the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:3).

"For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance; that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

On Good Friday, we remember the day Jesus willingly suffered and died by crucifixion as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins (1 John 1:10). Easter follows it, the glorious celebration of the day Jesus was raised from the dead, heralding His victory over sin and death and pointing ahead to a future resurrection for all who are united to Him by faith (Romans 6:5).

A time of silence and preparation

Instrumental music played by Yukta Rose.

OPENING SENTENCE – Rev. Arun John

God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ Died for us.
(Romans 5:8)

Christ humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death
on a cross.
(Philippians 2:8)

Jesus said, the son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life
a ransom for many.
(Mark 10: 45)

All stand and the president says the Collect

Eternal God,
in the cross of Jesus
we see the cost of our sin
and the depth of your love:
in humble hope and fear
may we place at his feet
all that we have and all that we are,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: ISAIAH 52.13–END OF 53: Giles Walker

- ¹³ See, my servant shall prosper;
he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high.
¹⁴ 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—
¹⁵ 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?

- ² 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.

³ 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.

⁴ Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases;
yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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.

⁷ 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.

⁸ 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.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ 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.

¹² 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

727 Issac Watts (1674-1748)

**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 mingling 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.**

INTRODUCTION – THE WORDS OF JESUS SPOKEN FROM THE CROSS

The words of Jesus spoken on the Cross are like fresh air that comes through God's window of grace and offer us a new life. These words can be the oxygen to those who have lost hope in this life and are struggling to live a life worth living. Today I would like to encourage us to listen, to grasp and to reflect on the words of Jesus spoken on the cross. But before we reflect on these life-giving words let us adore and make sense of our life in the light of the cross of Jesus.

PRAYER – Rev. Arun John

Eternal God, in the Cross of Jesus we see the cost of our sin and the depth of your love: In humble hope and fear, may we place at His feet, all that we have and all that we are; Through Jesus Christ our Lord: **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING: LUKE 23:32-43

**'Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing';
'Today you will be with me in Paradise' – Kamilla Murashova**

³² Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³ When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵ And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷ and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?' ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' ⁴² Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' ⁴³ He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

519 Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676) based on Salve Caput cruentatum trans. Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877)

**O sacred head, surrounded
by crown of piercing thorn!
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.
agony and dying!
love to sinners free!**

**Jesu, all grace 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.**

REFLECTION – Rev. Arun John

PRAYER: Mike Gibson

Father we thank you, that you call us to be your children and surround us with signs of your love.

All: Open our hearts to love and make us aware of the fullness of your peace

We thank you father, for placing confidence in us, for challenging us to freedom, for teaching us not to be afraid and forgiving us.

All: Enable us to forgive others and use us to build a community of love.

Father open our hearts to your spirit, dwelling within us, so we might listen to your call, so we might live a life of service and love, so we might help proclaim justice and freedom in our land.

All: Help us to accept more fully your word and grasp the mysterious depths of your love for the world.

SCRIPTURE READING - JOHN 19: 25-27; MATTHEW 27: 45-46

‘Woman, here is your son’;

‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’ – Ephraim Sserunkuma

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, ‘Woman, here is your son.’²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, ‘Here is your mother.’ And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

⁴⁵ From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ⁴⁶ And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'

PSALM 22.1-11: Lily Lukmanova

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.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

REFLECTION – Rev. Arun John

MEDITATION: Pat Davis Szymczak

O, wonderful saviour, we give you thanks that it is your desire not only to endue us with power so that we may show forth your glory to the world, but also to cherish us and tenderly to care for us.

All: We give thanks that we can trust you to provide us with a home and love, and we pray that your love may flow forth through us in

tenderness and concern to others who need a home, and love, and someone to cherish them.

We rejoice that your love encompasses even the little needs of our everyday lives. So, now O Lord, we turn from great things and we hold up before you whatever needs are in our lives and in the lives of our friends: need of shelter, of a home, of the money to keep or to maintain that home, of someone to love, of someone to understand.

All: We pray with faith that your love will never forget us, that your promises will be fulfilled, and that our every need will be met.

PRAYER – Liz Bearman

Let God speak to us in silence:

Prayer from St. Hilda Community

Jesus who was lost and found in the garden, never to be lost again, stand by us in the darkness of our crucifixions, as the women stood by you. Die and rise with us in the sufferings of the world. Be reborn with us, as love and hope and faith and endurance outlast cruelty and death. **Amen.**

God, lover of us all, most holy one, help us to respond to you, to create what you want for us here on earth. Give us today enough of our needs; forgive our weak and deliberate offences just as we must forgive others when they hurt us to resist evil and to do what is good; for we are yours, endowed with your power to make us whole. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING - JOHN 19: 28-30; LUKE 23: 46

'I am thirsty' - 'It is finished';

'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit' - Precious Ndowu

²⁸ After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfil the scripture), 'I am thirsty.' ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ When Jesus had received the wine, he said, 'It is finished.' Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

⁴⁶ Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.' Having said this, he breathed his last.

Hymn - 190 Viva, viva Gesù 18th Century trans. Edward Caswall (1814-1878)

**Glory be to Jesus
who, in bitter pains,
poured for me the lifeblood
from his sacred veins.**

**Grace and life eternal
in that blood I find:
blest be his compassion,
infinitely kind.**

**Blest, through endless ages,
be the precious stream
which, from endless torment,
did the world redeem.**

**There the fainting spirit
drinks of life her fill;
there, as in a fountain,
laves herself at will.**

**Abel's blood for vengeance
pleaded to the skies,
but the blood of Jesus
for our pardon cries.**

**Oft as it is sprinkled
on our guilty hearts
Satan in confusion
terror-struck departs.**

**Oft as earth exulting
wafts its praise on high
angel hosts rejoicing,
make their glad reply.**

**Lift, then, all your voices,
swell the mighty flood;
louder still and louder,
praise the precious blood.**

REFLECTION – Rev. Arun John

MEDITATION (from John van Bemmelen) – Sara Harris

“It is finished”, Jesus had said a short time earlier on the cross. Now he lays dead in Marys arms. This emotional tableau was the model immortalised in John’s Gospel and then in marble, by Michelangelo’s Pieta. Jesus’ life was over. Through three decades He was the model of God for many of His contemporaries, and then, over the centuries since then, for endless millions. “He who sees me, sees the Father,” Jesus had said. As the model of human life, Jesus would touch us all and leave His blessed influence on the world for ever.

Our imbedded desire to be useful does not leave us in our older years. Indeed, as time grows rapidly shorter, we keenly want to be helpful. But in our hearts of hearts, we also want to assure ourselves that our lives from the beginning have been useful and worthwhile, that we have influenced others for good, that the world is a better place for the love we that we have, to some degree at least, been a model of human living. As we age, how important it is to realise THAT WHEN IT IS TIME TO SAY, “It is finished,” we can look back on life as a whole and quietly nod approval.

All: Lord Jesus, may the final thirst of our departing hours become thirst for you and lead directly to your throne. May our awareness both of death and life, both of pain and joy, both of darkness and light, be merged mysteriously into the channel of your redeeming love: Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION – Nicolette Kirk

Let us pray to the Father, who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son to give us life.

Simon from Cyrene was forced to carry the cross for your Son.

Give us grace to lift heavy loads from those we meet

and to stand with those condemned to die. Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Your Son watched the soldiers gamble to share his clothes.

Transform the hearts of those who make a profit from their victims, and those whose hearts are hardened by their work. Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

The thief, who was crucified with Jesus,
was promised a place in your kingdom.
Give pardon and hope, healing and peace
to all who look death in the face. Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

From the cross Jesus entrusted Mary his mother
and John his disciple to each other's care.
Help us also to care for one another
and fill our homes with the spirit of your love. Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

In Mary and John your Son created a new family at the cross.
Fill our relationships, and those of new families today,
with mutual care and responsibility,
and give us a secure hope for the future. Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

The centurion was astonished to see your glory in the
crucified Messiah.
Open the eyes of those who do not know you
to see in your Son the meaning of life and death. Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Joseph of Arimathea came to take your Son's body away.
Give hope and faith to the dying and bereaved,
and gentleness to those who minister to them. Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Simon and Joseph, Mary and John
became part of your Church in Jerusalem.
Bring into your Church today a varied company of people,
to walk with Christ in the way of his passion
and to find their salvation in the victory of his cross.

Lord of the Church,
**hear our prayer, and make us one in heart and mind
to serve you in Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE TAKING DOWN OF THE CROSS.

We gather round the cross.

Those who wish to venerate the corpus are invited to do so.

Those who wish are invited to take a candle, light it and place it on the cross.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Standing at the foot of the cross, as our Saviour taught us, so we 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.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Closing hymn: 642 Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895) alt.

There is a green hill far away,

outside a city wall,

where the dear Lord was crucified

who died to save us all.

We may not know, we cannot tell

what pains he had to bear,

but we believe it was for us

he hung and suffered there.

He died that we might be forgiv'n,

he died to make us good;

that we might go at last to heav'n,

saved by his precious blood.

There was no other good enough

to pay the price of sin;

he only could unlock the gate

of heav'n, and let us in.

O, dearly, dearly has he loved,

and we must love him too,

and trust in his redeeming blood,

and try his works to do.

CLOSING PRAYER – Rev. Arun John

Prayer of St Ephraim: “I shall give you glory”.

In response to each line say: "I shall give you glory"

Glory to you for your love

Glory to you for your mercy

Glory to you for your patience

Glory to you for forgiving us all our sins

Glory to you for coming to save our souls

Glory to you for your incarnation in the virgin's womb

Glory to you for receiving the cut of the lash

Glory to you for accepting mockery

Glory to you for your crucifixion

Glory to you for your burial

Glory to you for your resurrection

Glory to you that you were preached to men and women

Glory to you in whom they believed

Glory to you that were taken up into heaven

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,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

May the life-giving cross be the source of all our joy and peace. **Amen**

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.