



‘Gathering Around The Cross’

The Liturgy of Good Friday

The Gathering

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

Jesus told his disciples, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.’ (Matthew 16.24,25)

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.

Jesus in agony in the Garden of Gethsemane

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading 1.

Reflection

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you entered the garden of fear

and faced the agony of your impending death:
be with those who share that agony and face death unwillingly
this day.

You shared our fear and knew the weakness of our humanity:
give strength and hope to the dispirited and despairing.
To you, Jesus, who sweated blood,
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now
and for ever.

All Amen.

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

Jesus betrayed by Judas and arrested

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading 2 Reflection

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you were betrayed by the kiss of a friend: be with
those who are betrayed and slandered and falsely accused. You
knew the experience of having your love thrown back in your
face for mere silver:

be with families which are torn apart by mistrust or temptation.
To you, Jesus, who offered your face to your betrayer,
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now
and for ever.

All Amen.

**All Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,**

have mercy upon us.

Jesus condemned by the Sanhedrin

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading 3

Reflection

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you were the victim of religious bigotry:
be with those who are persecuted by small-minded authority.
You faced the condemnation of fearful hearts:
deepen the understanding of those who shut themselves off from
the experience and wisdom of others.
To you, Jesus, unjustly judged victim,
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now
and for ever.

All Amen.

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

Peter denies Jesus

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading 4

Reflection

Prayer

Lord Jesus, as Peter betrayed you,
you experienced the double agony of love rejected and
friendship denied: be with those who know no friends and are
rejected by society.

You understood the fear within Peter:
help us to understand the anxieties of those who fear for their
future.

To you, Jesus, who gazed with sadness at your lost friend,
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now
and for ever.

All Amen.

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

Jesus judged by Pilate

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading 5

Reflection

A man without any guilt whatsoever stands before Pilate. Rights and the law give way to the decisions of a totalitarian power that seeks the consensus of the crowd. In an unjust world, the just can only be rejected and condemned. Hurray for murder, death to him who gives life.

Let Barabbas be freed, the criminal called "son of the Father," let him who has revealed the Father and is true Son of the Father be crucified. Other people, not Jesus, have done what is evil in the sight of God. But power fears for its own authority, it forsakes the authoritativeness that comes from doing what is right, and it abdicates. Pilate, the authority with the power of life and death. Pilate, who governed with an iron fist that obscure province of the Empire, dreaming of greater

power, abdicates, he hands over an innocent man, and in so doing hands over his own authority, to a raucous crowd.

The one who in silence had abandoned himself to the will of the Father is thus abandoned to the will of those who cry out loudest.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you were condemned to death for political expediency:

be with those who are imprisoned for the convenience of the

powerful. You were the victim of unbridled injustice:

change the minds and motivations of oppressors and exploiters to your way of peace.

To you, Jesus, innocent though condemned,

be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

All Amen.

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

Jesus scourged and crowned with thorns

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

All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading 6

Reflection

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you faced the torment of barbaric punishment and mocking tongue: be with those who cry out in physical agony and emotional distress.

You endured unbearable abuse:

be with those who face torture and mockery in our world today.

To you, Jesus, the King crowned with thorns,
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now
and for ever.

All Amen.

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

Jesus carries the cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading 7

Reflection

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you carried the cross through the rough streets of Jerusalem: be with those who are loaded with burdens beyond their strength.

You bore the weight of our sins when you carried the cross: help us to realize the extent and the cost of your love for us.

To you, Jesus, bearing a cross not your own,
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now
and for ever.

All Amen.

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

Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry the cross

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

All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading 8

Reflection

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you were worn down by fatigue:
be with those from whom life drains all energy.
You needed the help of a passing stranger:
give us the humility to receive aid from others.
To you, Jesus, weighed down with exhaustion and in need of
help, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever.

All Amen.

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

Jesus is crucified

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

All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading 9

Reflection

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you bled in pain as the nails were driven into your flesh: transform through the mystery of your love the pain of those who suffer. To you, Jesus, our crucified Lord, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

All Amen.

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

Jesus promises the kingdom to the penitent thief

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
All **because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Reading 10

Reflection
Prayer

Lord Jesus, even in your deepest agony you listened to the crucified thief: hear us as we unburden to you our deepest fears. You spoke words of love in your hour of death: help us to speak words of life to a dying world. To you, Jesus, who offer hope to the hopeless, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

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

Jesus on the cross; his mother and his friend

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
All **because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Reading 11

Reflection

Prayer

Lord Jesus, your mother and your dearest friend stayed with you to the bitter end, yet even while racked with pain you ministered to them:

be with all broken families today and care for those who long for companionship.

You cared for your loved ones even in your death-throes: give us a love for one another that is stronger even than the fear of death.

To you, Jesus, loving in the face of death, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

All Amen.

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

Jesus dies on the cross

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

All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading 12

Reflection

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you died on the cross and entered the bleakest of all circumstances:

give courage to those who die at the hands of others.

In death you entered into the darkest place of all:

illumine our darkness with your glorious presence.

To you, Jesus, your lifeless body hanging on the tree of shame,
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now
and for ever.

All Amen.

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

Jesus laid in the tomb

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

All: because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading 13

Reflection

Prayer

Lord Jesus, Lord of life, you became as nothing for us:
be with those who feel worthless and as nothing in the world's
eyes. You were laid in a cold, dark tomb and hidden from sight:
be with all who suffer and die in secret,
hidden from the eyes of the world.

To you, Jesus, your rigid body imprisoned in a tomb,
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now
and for ever.

All Amen.

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

Standing at the foot of the cross,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us,

All **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 Conclusion

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.

All Amen.

We depart in silence