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Holy Trinity Church

Albert Place, Stirling, FK8 2RG

Scottish Charity: SC016471

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Rector: The Revd Canon Christoph Wutscher · Tel: 01786 359821 · rector@holytrinitystirling.org

Friday 29th March 2024 — 2 p.m. Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
GOOD FRIDAY

Celebrant: The Rector
Readings: Christina Rodger
Sidespeople: David Brown & Rachel Campbell

We start the service in silence. The presiding priest prostrates on the floor as a sign of humility in the sight of Christ's passion as we keep a time of silent prayer. The service then continues with the collect.

THE COLLECT

Almighty God, look graciously, we pray, on 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, now and for ever. **Amen.**

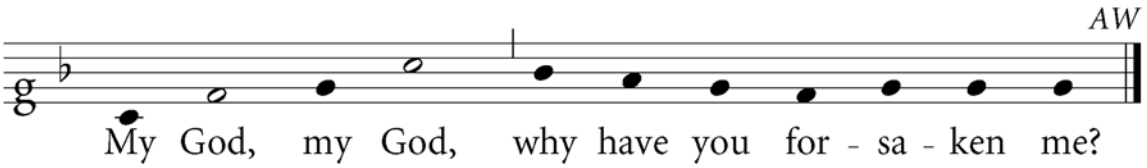
THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 52.13-53.12

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.

Psalm 22.1-20



My God, my God, why have you for'saken me?*
and are so far from my cry and from the words of my dis'tress?

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 ancestors put their ' trust in you;*
they trusted, and ' you delivered them.

They cried out to you and were de'livered;*
they trusted in you and were not put to ' shame.

But as for me, I am a worm and ' not 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 the Lord; let the Lord de'liver you;*
let God rescue you, if ' God delights in you.'

Yet you 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.

Many young bulls en'circle me;*
strong bulls of Ba'shan surround me.

They open wide their ' jaws at me,*
like a ravening and a roaring ' lion.

I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of ' joint;*
my heart within my ' breast is melting wax.

My mouth is dried out like a pot-sherd; my tongue sticks to the roof of my ' mouth;*
and you have laid me in the dust of the ' grave.

Packs of dogs close me in, and gangs of evildoers circle a'round me;*
they pierce my hands and my feet; I can count ' all my bones.

They stare and gloat ' over me;*
they divide my garments among them; they cast lots for my ' clothing.

Be not far away, O ' Lord;*
you are my strength; has'ten to help me.

Save me from the ' sword,*
my life from the power of the ' dog.

Save me from the lion's ' mouth,*
my wretched body from the ' horns of wild bulls.

Second Reading: Hebrews 4.14-16; 5.7-9

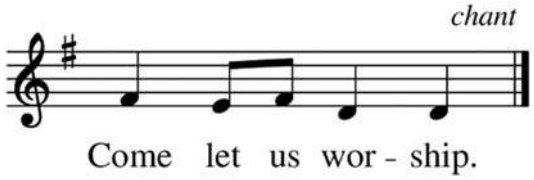
Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. [15] For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. [16] 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. [7] 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. [8] Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; [9] and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

The Passion Gospel: John 18.1 – end of 19 (*please remain seated*)

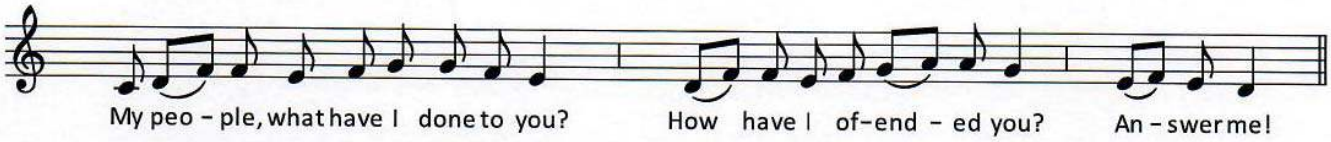
THE PROCLAMATION OF THE CROSS

Please stand as a simple wooden cross is brought in our midst for worship and meditation. Traditionally, the Reproaches are sung at this moment and solemn intercessions are offered as we assemble at the foot of the cross.

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

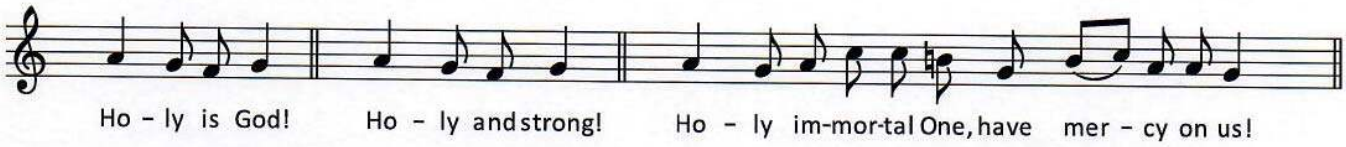
All:

The Reproaches

We reflect on the readings we have heard and meditate on presence of the cross in our midst as the Reproaches are sung. Please join in singing the antiphons:



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!



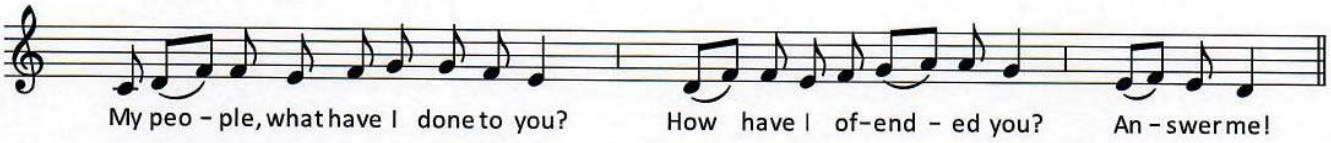
For forty years I led you safely through the desert, I fed you with manna from heaven, and brought you to a land of plenty, but you led your Saviour to the Cross.

Holy is God! Holy and strong! Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us.

What more could I have done for you? I planted you as my fairest vine, but you yielded only bitterness: When I was thirsty you gave me vinegar to drink, and you pierced your Saviour with a lance.

Holy is God! Holy and strong! Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us.

For your sake I scourged your captors and their first-born sons, but you brought your scourges down on 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…

I led you on your way in a pillar of cloud, but you led me to Pilate's court. My people…

I bore you up with manna in the desert, but you struck me down and scoured me. My people…

I gave you saving water from the rock, but you gave me gall and vinegar to drink. My people…

For I struck down the kings of Canaan, but you struck me with a reed. My people…

I gave you a royal sceptre, but you gave me a crown of thorns. My people…

I raised you to the height of majesty, but you have raised me high on a cross. My people…

THE PRAYERS

Please sit or kneel as we make our prayer at the foot of the cross, adapted from one of the most ancient litanies of the church.

I

Let us pray for the Holy Church of God (that our God and Lord will preserve it in peace throughout the whole world; and that we, leading a quiet and peaceable life, may glorify the Creator of heaven and earth).

A period of silent prayer

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Almighty and everlasting God,
in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations:
preserve the works of your mercy,
that your Church throughout the world may persevere,
with steadfast faith, in the confession of your Name;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

II

Let us pray for all bishops, priests and deacons, and especially *N.* our Bishop (that God would clothe them with wisdom, and fill them with the Holy Spirit). Let us pray also for this congregation (that God would make us a royal priesthood, a holy nation, to the glory of Christ Jesus).

A period of silent prayer

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified:
receive our supplications and prayers for all members of your holy Church;
that in their vocation and ministry
they may truly and devoutly serve you
to the glory of your name;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

III

Let us pray for the rulers of the nations (especially for *Charles our King*, the Government and Parliament of the United Kingdom, the Government and Parliament of Scotland, and all who serve the common good: that by God's help they may seek justice and truth, and we may live in peace and concord).

A period of silent prayer

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace,
and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth;
that in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward
till the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

IV

Let us pray for those preparing to be baptised (that our Lord and God may give them illumination and understanding, opening their hearts, strengthening their faith, and granting them the waters of rebirth, so they may be one with Christ Jesus our Lord).

A period of silent prayer

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

Almighty and everlasting God,
you make your Church ever fruitful with new offspring:
increase the faith and understanding of those to be baptised;
that as they are buried with Christ by baptism into death,
so in Christ they may be raised to newness of life;
through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

V

Let us pray for those in tribulation and special need (for those weighed down with sickness or any trouble; for those who are in prison and captivity for the name of the Lord: that God would deliver them from every illness and disease, open the prisons, loose their chains, and restore them sound into the holy Church).

A period of silent prayer

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

Almighty and ever-living God,
the comfort of the sorrowful,
the strength of those who suffer:
hear the prayers of your children who cry out in any tribulation;
that all may rejoice,
having known your merciful love in their time of need;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

VI

Let us pray for those who do not acknowledge the Lord our God (that, following what is right, in sincerity of heart, they may find the way to God's own self).

A period of silent prayer

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

Almighty and everlasting God,
you have made us for yourself
and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you:
have mercy on all who live in doubt and unbelief,
that they may know you, the one Creator God;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

VII

Let us pray for God's ancient people, the Jews, who were the first to hear the word of the Lord our God (that together we may advance in the love of God's name and in faithfulness to God's covenant).

A period of silent prayer

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

Almighty and ever-living God,
who bestowed your promises on Abraham and Sarah and their descendants:
bless the children of your covenant, both Christian and Jew;
take from us all blindness and bitterness of heart,
and hasten the coming of your kingdom,
when Israel shall be saved, the Gentiles gathered in,
and we shall dwell together in mutual love and peace
under the one God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

VIII

Let us pray for all our brothers and sisters who believe in Christ (that our Lord and God may be pleased to regard not our sins, but the faith of the Church, and would grant peace and unity to all Christian people).

A period of silent prayer

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

Almighty and everlasting God,
you gather the scattered,
and unite those you have brought together;
look kindly on all who follow Jesus Christ, your Son;
that we, who are consecrated by one baptism into his life, death, and resurrection,
may be joined together in the fullness of faith,
and united in the fellowship of love;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

IX

Let us pray to Almighty God, the creator of heaven and earth, for the whole of creation, through Jesus Christ, in whom all things were made, and through whom all things were reconciled to the Father, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his Cross.

A period of silent prayer

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

Eternal God of unchanging power and light:
look with mercy on your whole creation;
and bring to completion your saving work,
so that the whole world may see the fallen lifted up, the old made new,
and all things brought to perfection by him through whom all things were made,
our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

After praying the intercessions, we join in saying the Lord's Prayer:

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.
Do not bring us to the time of trial
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

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?

His dying crimson, like a robe,
spreads o'er His body on the tree;
then I am 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.

Isaac Watts

THE GOSPEL OF THE BURIAL

John 19.38-42

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. [39] Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. [40] They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. [41] 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. [42] And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

The service ends in silence. You may want to stay in church for a time of silent reflection.

THE REMAINING SERVICES OF HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Holy Saturday

9 p.m. **Easter Vigil**

We start with the Easter fire & Blessing of the Paschal Candle as we hear the story of salvation and journey from darkness to light. With the renewal of Baptismal Vows & the first Eucharist of Easter.

Easter Day

8.30 a.m. **Holy Communion**

10.30 a.m. **Sung Eucharist**