

The Commemoration of Christ's Passion

This service is a continuation of the Maundy Thursday service, and it therefore begins in silence, as the evening before ended in silence.

Traditionally the church has been stripped bare, or has had all ornamentation veiled.

The service is normally without instrumental music. Everyone enters and leaves in silence.

The Ministry of the Word

Blessed be our God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Let us pray.

Silence

Holy and ever living God,
look graciously on this your family
for which our Saviour Jesus Christ
was willing to be betrayed,
and to suffer death upon the cross;

and grant us to grow
into the fullness of new life in Christ
who now is alive and glorified
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Reading Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Reading Psalm 22:1-18

Refrain (after every two verses):

**My God, my God, why have you
forsaken me?**

Hymn *Appropriately reflective hymn*

Reading Hebrews 10:16-25
 or Hebrews 4:14-16;5:7-9

Reading John 18:1-19:42

The congregation may be seated until the verse which mentions the arrival at Golgotha (John 19:17) at which time all stand.

A moment of silence is appropriately kept at Jesus' death (after John 19:30).

Hymn *Appropriately reflective hymn*

Sermon / Reflection

Meditation on the Cross of Jesus

If desired, a wooden cross may now be brought into the church and placed in the sight of the people.

There is a short time of silent reflection.

Hymn *Extolling the cross*

Solemn Intercession

Faithful and compassionate God,
your Spirit guides the Church and makes it holy;
hear the prayers we offer,
that in the particular ministry or service
to which you have called us,
we may serve you faithfully,
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Let us pray for all nations and peoples of the earth,
and for those in authority among them:
for the Prime Minister
and for the government of this country,
for those who serve on our local councils,
for all who serve the common good,
that by God's help they may seek justice and truth,
that all might live in peace and harmony.

Silence

Faithful and compassionate God,
kindle, we pray, in every heart
the true love of peace,
and guide with your wisdom those in authority,
that justice, peace, and freedom may increase,
until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Let us pray for all who suffer:
for the hungry and the homeless,
the deprived and the oppressed,
for the sick, the wounded, and the handicapped,
for those in loneliness and in fear,
for those in confusion, doubt, and despair,
for the sorrowful and bereaved,
for prisoners,
and all at the point of death,
that God's love will comfort and sustain them, and that we may be stirred up to minister to them.

Silence

Faithful and compassionate God,
the comfort of all who sorrow,
the strength of all who suffer,

hear the cry of all who call on you in any trouble,
grant them the joy
of receiving your help in their need,
and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them,
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Let us pray for all who do not believe the gospel of Christ:
for those who have never heard the message of salvation,
for those who have lost their faith,
for those who are indifferent to Christ,
for those who actively oppose Christ by word or deed,
and persecute Christ's disciples,
for those who in the name of Christ have persecuted others,
that God will open their hearts to the truth, and lead them to faith and obedience.

Silence

Faithful and compassionate God,
you create and love all the peoples of the earth;
may your good news be so lived and proclaimed,
that all are brought home to your presence,
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Let us commit ourselves to God,
and pray for the grace of a holy life,
that with all who have died in the peace of Christ,
and with those whose faith is known to God alone,
we may enter the fullness of life
in the joy of Christ's resurrection.

Silence

God, our refuge and strength,
accept the fervent prayers of your people,
and bring to fulfilment your plan for all creation,
through Jesus Christ your first born,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Hymn *Appropriately reflective hymn*

There is no blessing. Everyone departs in silence.