

A Commemoration of Christ's Passion (also called Good Friday prayers)

Words to be said are in this style: **All:** say these words.
Instructions are in italics.

This service may be taken by those in minor orders. This service is normally celebrated in the afternoon and is a continuation of the Maundy Thursday liturgy and hence begins in silence as the night before ended in silence. The altar is completely bare except covered by a clean white cloth and the black drapes applied yesterday. All hangings are removed.

*Liturgical colour: Red. The Eucharist is not celebrated.
The service has no instrumental music.*

*The ministers enter in silence. All kneel for silent prayer.
After a few minutes the leader invites everyone to stand.*

Leader: Blessed be our God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Holy and everliving 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.

All: Amen.

The Readings.

At the end of each reading all say: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

All: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Psalm 22:1-18

All: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

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

All: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

The Gospel

All stand for the Gospel

Leader: The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

The usual Gospel responses are not said.

John 18:1-19:42

Silence is kept.

A very short homily is given.

The Solemn Intercession

The biddings which follow may be adapted as appropriate. The people may be directed to stand or kneel. The biddings may be read by a deacon or other person appointed. The leader says the collects. After each time of silence there may be a versicle and response such as, God of love grant our prayer.

Leader: Let us pray for the one holy catholic and apostolic Church of Christ throughout the world:

for its unity in witness and service,
for all bishops and other ministers
and the people whom they serve,
for N our bishop, and all the people of this diocese,
for all Christians in this community,
for those about to be baptised (particularly...),
that God will confirm the Church in faith, increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.

All: God of love grant our prayer.

Silence is kept

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

All: God of love grant our prayer

Silence is kept

Leader: Let us pray for all nations and peoples of the earth,
and for those in authority among them:
for N the Prime Minister
and for the government of this country,
for N our mayor
and those who serve with him/her on the council,
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.

All: God of love grant our prayer.

Silence is kept

Leader: 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.

All: God of love grant our prayer

Silence is kept

Leader: 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.

All: God of love grant our prayer

Silence is kept

Leader: 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.

All: God of love grant our prayer

Silence is kept

Leader: 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.

All: God of love grant our prayer

Silence is kept

Leader: 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.

All: God of love grant our prayer

Silence is kept

Leader: 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.

All: God of love grant our prayer

Silence is kept

Leader: 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 Firstborn,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All: God of love grant our prayer

The Meditation on the Cross

A wooden cross is brought into the church and placed in the sight of the people. A drape of violet or red may be placed on its horizontal bar. The following is said:

All: Behold the cross, on which hung the Saviour of the world.
Behold the cross, on which hung the Saviour of the world.
Behold the cross, on which hung the Saviour of the world.

Leader: Come let us remember his passion..

The devotions

The leader speaks the words of Jesus:

Leader: My people, what wrong have I done to you?
How have I offended you? Answer me!
Through baptism, I led you from slavery to freedom,
but you lead your Saviour to the cross.

All: Holy God, holy and merciful,
holy and just, have mercy upon us.

Leader: I led you through the wilderness.
I fed you with the bread of life,
the manna from heaven,
but you lead your Saviour to the cross.

All: Holy God, holy and merciful,
holy and just, have mercy upon us.

Leader: I planted you as my fairest vineyard,
I grafted you into the one true vine,
I gave you the water of salvation,
but you give me gall and vinegar to drink,
and leave me thirsting upon a cross.

All: Holy God, holy and merciful,
holy and just, have mercy upon us.

Leader: I gave you a royal sceptre,
but you give me a crown of thorns.
I raised you up to newness of life,
but you raise me high upon a cross.

All: Holy God, holy and merciful,
holy and just, have mercy upon us.

Leader: What more could I have done for you?
I gave you my peace and my truth,
but you fight in my name,
and divide my Church.

All: Holy God, holy and merciful,
holy and just, have mercy upon us.

Leader: I come in your brother and sister,
hungry, yet you give me no food,
thirsty, yet you give me no drink,
a stranger, and you do not welcome me,
naked, and you do not clothe me,
sick and in prison, and you do not visit me.

All: Holy God, holy and merciful,
holy and just, have mercy upon us.

A hymn extolling the cross may be sung.

Lord's Prayer

All: Our Father...

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

All: God of our redemption,
abundantly bless your people
who have devoutly recalled the death of Christ;
grant us forgiveness, renew us, strengthen our faith,
and increase in us the fullness of life;
we ask this through Christ our Saviour.

All: Amen.

The service concludes here. No blessing or dismissal is added, the ministers and then the people depart in silence.

Please pray for the people who attended this service, your families, work and neighbourhood. Please also pray for the Old Catholic Apostolic Church.