Christ Anglican Church, Melita

A Liturgy for Good Friday: The Way of the Cross

April 2nd, 2021

Parish Office

633 9th Street South (PO Box 15) Virden, MB R0M 2C0
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The Clergy of the Parish

VII Bishop of Brandon: The Right Reverend William G. Cliff
Rector: (The Reverend) Father Matt Koovisk
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Associate Priest: The Reverend Anna Sproule,
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The officiating ministers enter in silence this day.

Officiant: O Lord, open our lips,
People: **and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**
Officiant: O God, make speed to save us.
People: **O Lord, make haste to help us.**
Officiant: Christ our Lord became obedient unto death:
People: **O come, let us worship.**

The Good Friday Anthem

Officiant: Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow which was brought upon me, which the Lord inflicted on the day of his fierce anger.
People: **Holy God, holy and mighty,**
holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.
Officiant: O my people, O my Church, what have I done to you, or in what have I offended you? Testify against me. I led you forth from the land of Egypt, and delivered you by the waters of baptism, but you have prepared a cross for your Saviour.
People: **Holy God, holy and mighty,**
holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.
Officiant: I led you through the desert forty years, and fed you with manna. I brought you through tribulation and penitence, and gave you my body, the bread of heaven, but you prepared a cross for your Saviour.
People: **Holy God, holy and mighty,**
holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.
Officiant: What more could I have done for you that I have not done? I planted you, my chosen and fairest vineyard, I made you the branches of my vine; but when I was

thirsty, you gave me vinegar to drink, and pierced with a spear the side of your Saviour.

People: **Holy God, holy and mighty,**
holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.

Officiant: I went before you in a pillar of cloud, and you have led me to the judgement hall of Pilate. I scourged your enemies and brought you to a land of freedom, but you have scourged, mocked and beaten me. I gave you the water of salvation from the rock, but you have given me gall and left me to thirst.

People: **Holy God, holy and mighty,**
holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.

Officiant: I gave you a royal sceptre, and bestowed the keys of the kingdom, but you have given me a crown of thorns. I raised you on high with great power, but you have hanged me on the cross.

People: **Holy God, holy and mighty,**
holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.

Officiant: My peace I gave, which the world cannot give, and washed your feet as a sign of my love, but you draw the sword to strike in my name, and seek high places in my kingdom. I offered you my body and blood, but you scatter and deny and abandon me.

People: **Holy God, holy and mighty,**
holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.

Officiant: I sent the Spirit of truth to guide you, and you close your hearts to the Counsellor. I pray that all may be one in the Father and me, but you continue to quarrel and divide. I call you to go and bring forth fruit, but you cast lots for my clothing.

People: **Holy God, holy and mighty,**
holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.

Officiant: I came to you as the least of your brothers and sisters; I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.

People: **Holy God, holy and mighty,**
holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.

Officiant: Lord, have mercy upon us.

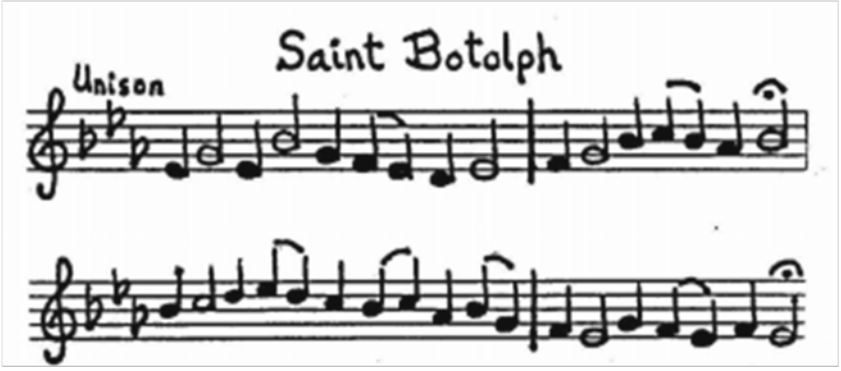
People: **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Officiant: Lord, have mercy upon us.

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as 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, forever and ever. Amen.**

Officiant: Guide us with your Holy Spirit, merciful God, as we follow the way of the cross taken by your Son out of love for humanity: may we who take part in this journey reap the benefits of his passion; who lives and reigns with you in the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Before the first station, this hymn is sung.
The subsequent verses are taken up after each of the Stations.



Jesu, the very thought of thee with sweetness fills my breast;
but sweeter far thy face to see, and in thy presence rest.

The First Station - Jesus is Condemned to Death

Officiant: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
People: **for by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Scripture Reading

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests, with the elders and scribes, and the whole council, held a consultation; and they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him to Pilate. And they all condemned him and said, 'He deserves to die.' When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called the pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha. Then he handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.

Responsory

Officiant: Who will rise up with me against the wicked?
People: **Or who will take my part against the evil doers?**
Officiant: They gather them together against
the soul of the righteous,
People: **and condemn the innocent blood.**
Officiant: But the Lord is my refuge,

People: **and my God is the strength of my confidence.**

Prayer

Officiant: O Lord God, whose blessèd Son, our Saviour, gave himself to his persecutors and did not hide his face from shame; grant us grace to walk the road that lay ahead, in full assurance of the glory that shall be revealed; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Officiant: O Saviour of the world, who by your Cross and precious blood have redeemed us;

People: **Save us, and help us, we humbly ask you, O Lord.**

No voice can sing, no heart can frame, nor can the memory find,
a sweeter sound than thy blest name, O Saviour of mankind!

The Second Station - Jesus Receives His Cross

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

People: **for by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Scripture Reading

Then Pilate handed Jesus over to the Jews to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.

Responsory

Officiant: He was despised and rejected: a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

People: **We hid our faces, we despised,**
and esteemed him not.

Officiant: Surely he bore our griefs, and carried our sorrows;
People: **Yet we did regard him as stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.**
Officiant: But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities.
People: **Upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.**

Prayer

Officiant: Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, mercifully grant that we, walking the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Officiant: O Saviour of the world, who by your Cross and precious blood have redeemed us;
People: **Save us, and help us, we humbly ask you, O Lord.**

O hope of every contrite heart, O joy of all the meek
To those who fall, how kind thou art! How good to those who seek!

The Third Station - The Cross is Laid Upon Simon of Cyrene

Officiant: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
People: **for by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Scripture Reading

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (*which*

means the place of a skull). *And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it.*

Responsory

Officiant: The Lord ordered a good man's going,
People: **and made his way acceptable to himself.**
Officiant: Though he fall he shall not be cast away;
People: **for God upholds him with His hand.**
Officiant: The law of his God is in his heart,
People: **and his goings shall not slide.**

Prayer

Officiant: Remind us, O Lord, that as we received the sign of the cross in our own baptism, we may take up our own crosses and follow You, in company with Simon of Cyrene and all the saints who carried their own crosses before us. All this we ask through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Officiant: O Saviour of the world, who by your Cross and precious blood have redeemed us;
People: **Save us, and help us, we humbly ask you, O Lord.**

But what to those who find? Ah! this nor tongue nor pen can show; the love of Jesus! what it is, none but his loved ones know.

The Fourth Station - Jesus Speaks to the Women of Jerusalem

Officiant: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
People: **for by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Scripture Reading

A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, "Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed." Then they will begin to say to the mountains, "Fall on us"; and to the hills, "Cover us." For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?'

Responsory

Officiant: You fed them with the bread of tears:
People: **and gave them tears to drink.**
Officiant: You have put us in conflict with our neighbours:
People: **and our enemies laugh at us.**
Officiant: Turn us to you again, O God:
People: **show us your light, and we shall be whole.**

Prayer

Officiant: As we look upon the Saviour, who for our sake gave up his life so that we may be whole, we may not mourn for him, but for ourselves, whose wounds he took as his own: we pray that we may look upon him and repent our sins, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Officiant: O Saviour of the world, who by your Cross and precious blood have redeemed us;
People: **Save us, and help us, we humbly ask of you, O Lord.**

Jesu, our only joy be thou, as thou our prize wilt be;
Jesu, be thou our glory now, and through eternity.

The Fifth Station - Jesus is Stripped of his Garments

Officiant: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
People: **for by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Scripture Reading

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, 'Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.' This was to fulfil what the scripture says, 'They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.' And that is what the soldiers did.

Responsory

Officiant: They pierced my hands and my feet;
I can see all my bones;
People: **they stand and stare at me.**
Officiant: They divide my garments among them,
People: **and cast lots for my clothing.**
Officiant: But be not far from me, O God;
People: **for You are my help, make haste to help me!**

Prayer

Officiant: O Lord and Saviour, stripped naked upon the Cross, yet robed eternally in holiness and light: take from us the rags of our sin and clothe us with the mantle of righteousness, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Officiant: O Saviour of the world, who by your Cross and precious blood have redeemed us;
People: **Save us, and help us, we humbly ask you, O Lord.**

O Jesu, King most wonderful, thou Conqueror renowned, thou sweetness most ineffable, in whom all joys are found!

The Sixth Station - Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

Officiant: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
People: **for by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Scripture Reading

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. Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing. 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!' The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'

Responsory

Officiant: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
People: **and are so far from me,**
and from the words of my complaint?
Officiant: All who see me laugh at me,
People: **they shake their heads at me, saying:**
Officiant: He trusted in the Lord, that he would deliver him;
People: **let him deliver him, if he will have him.**

Officiant: Do not go far from me, for trouble is hard at hand,
People: **and there is no one to help me.**

Prayer

Officiant: Lord Jesus Christ, who stretched out his arms of love on the cross that all who follow him should have eternal life: send forth your Holy Spirit so that we, reaching forth our own hands in love, may bring those who do not know you into your love, for the honour and glory of your Name. **Amen.**

Officiant: O Saviour of the world, who by your Cross and precious blood have redeemed us;
People: **Save us, and help us, we humbly ask you, O Lord.**

When once thou visitest the heart, then truth begins to shine; then earthly vanities depart; then kindles love divine.

The Seventh Station - Jesus dies on the cross

Officiant: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
People: **for by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Scripture Reading

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.' Having said this, he breathed his last.

(*Silence*)

Responsory

Officiant: Consider and hear me, O Lord my God;
People: **Lighten my eyes, that I sleep not in death;**
Officiant: So that my enemies cannot say, "I have prevailed."
People: **For if I am cast down,**
they that trouble me will rejoice at it.
Officiant: But my trust is in your mercy,
People: **And my heart is joyful in your salvation.**

Prayer

Officiant: O God, who gave your only Son, Jesus Christ to die on the Cross for the redemption of the world's sin, and by his glorious resurrection has brought us from the power of our enemy; grant us so to die daily to sin that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Officiant: O Saviour of the world, who by your Cross and precious blood have redeemed us;
People: **Save us, and help us, we humbly ask you, O Lord.**

O Jesu! Light of all below! Thou Fount of living fire,
surpassing all the joys we know, and all we can desire.

The Eighth Station - Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross

Officiant: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
People: **for by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Scripture Reading

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for

the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away.

Responsory

Officiant: He was cut off, out of the land of the living;
People: **for the transgressions of my people he was stricken.**
Officiant: He made his grave with the wicked:
People: **because he was sinless.**
Officiant: Therefore, I will praise him forever and ever;
People: **because he has poured out his soul unto death.**

Prayer

Officiant: O Lord Jesus Christ, whose death took away the sting of death; give to your servants so to follow in faith where you have led the way, that at the end, we may rest in peace, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Officiant: O Saviour of the world, who by your Cross and precious blood have redeemed us;
People: **Save us, and help us, we humbly ask you, O Lord.**

Jesu, may all confess thy Name, Thy wondrous love adore,
and seeking thee, their hearts inflame to seek thee more and more.

The Ninth Station - Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

Officiant: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
People: **for by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Scripture Reading

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. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Responsory

Officiant: I have put God always before me;
People: **for God is always with me, with God I shall not fail.**
Officiant: Therefore my heart is glad;
People: **my flesh also shall rest in hope.**
Officiant: For why? You will not leave my soul.
People: **neither will you have your Holy One see decline.**

Prayer

Officiant: O God, whose blessèd Son was laid in a tomb in a garden, and rested on the Sabbath day: Grant that we who have been buried with him in the waters of baptism, may find our perfect rest in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns forever and ever. **Amen.**

Officiant: O Saviour of the world, who by your Cross and precious blood have redeemed us;
People: **Save us, and help us, we humbly ask you, O Lord.**

Thee, Jesu, may our voices bless, Thee may we love alone,
and ever in our lives express the image of thine own.

Closing Prayers

Officiant: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,

All: **we pray you to place your passion, cross, and death between your judgement and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living, pardon and rest to the dead, to your holy Church peace and concord, and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

Officiant: Send down your abundant blessing, Lord, upon your people who have devoutly recalled the death of your Son in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection. Grant them pardon; bring them comfort. May their faith grow stronger and their eternal salvation be assured. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

You are invited to remain in the bare church for a period of time to reflect on the lessons of this sacred day.

Yes, we will leave the bare church and the cross behind, but unlike the disciples after the Crucifixion, we do so this day with peace and confidence, knowing that the story isn't over.

We depart in silence this day. Please keep conversation to a minimum, and if you must speak, do so outside the church. Thank you.

Please do join us Sunday at 10:30 am as we celebrate the Resurrection.

Service Participants

Officiant:	The Rev'd Fr. Matt Koovisk
Lay Reader & Organist:	Pat Rutherford