



Good Friday

THE LITURGY OF GOOD FRIDAY
April 10, 2020

Words of Welcome

*While our buildings are closed, our hearts remain open.
We thank you for inviting us into your homes
and more importantly,
we thank you for inviting the Spirit of God
into your hearts, minds, and lives.*

*Because we have closed our physical church this service has been created
by worship leaders in their homes just as you are in your homes today.
In these days that we are in, we have adapted the Good Friday Liturgy
to help us contemplate the mighty acts by which our Lord has given us life everlasting.*

*As we begin our worship,
we invite you to remember those who typically sit beside you
and those who sit in front of and behind you
and those who come into your mind as you remember.*

*Remember also that as we worship we join with the whole communion of saints,
with those who have gone before us,
those present with us in gatherings around the world
and those saints yet to come.*

*Let us join with all the saints and the whole company of heaven
and worship our God, who makes all things new.*

As is customary on this day, the organ is not used at this service.

The Service begins on page 276 of The Book of Common Prayer.

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Sentences

Priest: Blessed be our God,

People: **For ever and ever. Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

Priest: Let us pray.

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold 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, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

Lector: A Reading from The Letter to the 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. 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. 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. 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. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22 (*sung by the Choir*)

Plainsong

- 1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
and are so far from my cry
and from the words of my distress?
- 2 O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer;
by night as well, but I find no rest.
- 3 Yet you are the Holy One,
enthroned upon the praises of Israel.
- 4 Our forefathers put their trust in you;
they trusted, and you delivered them.
- 5 They cried out to you and were delivered;
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.
- 6 But as for me, I am a worm and no man,
scorned by all and despised by the people.
- 7 All who see me laugh me to scorn;
they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,
- 8 “He trusted in the Lord; let him deliver him;
let him rescue him, if he delights in him.”
- 9 Yet you are he who took me out of the womb,
and kept me safe upon my mother’s breast.
- 10 I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born;
you were my God when I was still in my mother’s womb.
- 11 Be not far from me, for trouble is near,
and there is none to help.

12 Many young bulls encircle me;
strong bulls of Bashan surround me.

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

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

15 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.

16 Packs of dogs close me in,
and gangs of evildoers circle around me;
they pierce my hands and my feet;
I can count all my bones.

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

18 Be not far away, O Lord;
you are my strength; hasten to help me.

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

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

21 I will declare your Name to my brethren;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.

22 Praise the Lord, you that fear him;
stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;
all you of Jacob's line, give glory.

23 For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither does he hide his face from them;
but when they cry to him he hears them.

24 My praise is of him in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him:
"May your heart live for ever!"

26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

27 For kingship belongs to the Lord;
he rules over the nations.

28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

29 My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him;
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn
the saving deeds that he has done.

Stations of the Cross; Stories of Remembrance

The first Station: Jesus is condemned to death

Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, ‘which of the two do you want me to release for you?’ And they said, ‘Barabbas!’ Pilate said to them, ‘then what should I do with Jesus Who is called the Messiah?’ All of them said, ‘Let Him be crucified!’

Meditation

For most of his life, Li Wenliang was a successful but anonymous ophthalmologist, father and husband, based in the central Chinese city of Wuhan. But over the past two months, the 34-year-old had become a household name in China, known to hundreds of millions of people as the face and conscience of its spiraling coronavirus crisis. When he died, the news was met with an extraordinary nationwide outpouring of grief and anger on social media.

Li tried to warn fellow doctors in the early days of the outbreak, posting a message alerting them to a mystery new disease at his hospital in late December. Security forces came to his house four days after he sent that public health warning and accused him of “making false comments” and acting illegally to disturb social order. He signed a statement agreeing not to discuss the disease further. Yet within a week he would be infected himself.

Hospitalized with fever and breathing problems, as he fought the illness, he also decided to fight the government, going public with details of how he had been silenced in the name of stability. Local authorities did eventually apologize to him, as public anger spread. But it came too late for those who have died, including Li himself. (Adapted from *The Guardian*, Feb. 6, 2020)

Let us pray.

Lord, You did know what to expect. For all the years of Your earthly life, on the long journey to Jerusalem, You saw ahead of You suffering and an ignominious death. And You could have escaped, calling on Your Father to save You, and God would have done so. How could You bear to accept such treatment at our human hands? Forgive us for every act of thoughtlessness, of cruelty, of spite, and help us to be more like You, full of faith and courage, whatever we have to face.

Lord, in Your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

The second Station: Jesus takes up His cross

So Pilate released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus, he handed Him over to be crucified.

Meditation

Jeff Yang experienced what he calls his own “breathing while Asian” moment last week while shopping at his local grocery store in Los Angeles. Even as the host of a podcast about being Asian in America, Yang says he was taken aback when a woman leaving the store noticed him — the only Asian in line — and started shouting profanities.

“She pulled down her mask, coughed theatrically in my direction, pulled up her mask, walked away, got into a car and drove away,” Yang recalls. “I was too shocked to do anything.” “It really was a bit of a gut punch,” Yang added.

For Jeni Erbes-Chan, an architect in New York, it was a trip on the subway on March 10, her last day in the office before the citywide stay-at-home order, that shook her.

“A man sort of lurched at me and shouted, ‘You people brought the virus. Go back to China.’ I was a little in shock,” Erbes-Chan said. “I just put my head down and tried not to make any eye contact after that.” .

..

“You just bury your head and you move forward because no matter how hard you work, how successful you are, what friends you make, you just don’t belong,” she said. “You will always be looked at as foreign.”

... “I worry that our concerns mostly are about the fear of the contagion of the disease and that we’re not adequately afraid of the spread of racism,” Manjusha Kulkarni [Executive Director of the Asian Pacific Planning and Policy Council] said. “Racism is a part of the fabric of American life.” (PBS *NewsHour*)

Let us pray.

Lord, we pray for our own community, for our friends and for the people we would meet each day, if not for our current isolation. Help us to be aware of their needs, their loneliness. their fear for the future, the isolation of those in nursing homes and other locked down care facilities, the hazards of the young and inexperienced, and give us generous hearts to care for them with sensitivity and understanding. Lord, help us to show others the compassion that You show us.

Lord, in Your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

The third Station: Jesus falls for the first time

He was despised and rejected by others; a Man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity, and as one from whom others hid their faces he was despised and we held him of no account.

Meditation

Laura and her husband, Randall, are both emergency room physicians; they’re also the parents of a baby boy, born in December. Laura was still on maternity leave when she attended a weekend medical conference. “When she got home, it all blew up,” says her mother, Cecilia: another doctor at the conference tested positive for the novel coronavirus.

Laura self-quarantined at home, and became an expert at Zoom; Cecilia, on spring break from her teaching job, came in to help with the baby. Laura’s test came back negative, but she was told to stay home for the whole two weeks. Randall’s parents, in a city several hours away, planned to come help, but when their other two sons came down with covid-19, they stayed to care for them. Cecilia went to Laura and Randall’s house every day; when Laura returned to work, Cecilia took the baby home to care for him. Cecilia described their situation: “We sweated the quarantine.”

When Laura returned to doing shifts at the hospital, Cecilia took the baby. They FaceTime twice a day; Laura, who is nursing, comes over to drop off milk. They take walks, but they keep their distance. Cecilia admits that it’s been difficult for her, juggling online teaching with baby care. “The hard part is the nighttime schedule: how do I get my work done and care for the baby. He’s used to being held, so it’s a little bit challenging.”

Monday was the first day she went anywhere other than for a walk in her neighborhood; she drove to school to pick up a file. The baby can go to day care now, so he’ll be going home. But the stress isn’t over: The peak in cases here has yet to come. (Interview with ‘Cecilia,’ April 8, 2020)

Let us pray.

Lord, sometimes life just gets on top of us, too much stress, too many demands on our time, too many catastrophes which are not of our making and which touch us only indirectly, but which impinge on our consciousness all the same. Help us to be still and to know that You are God, and that if we can trust all things to You, You will not fail us, and all will be well in ways which are beyond our understanding.

Lord, in Your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

The fourth Station: Jesus meets his mother

In the Temple, Simeon blessed the Holy Family, and said to Jesus' mother, Mary: 'This Child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed—so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

Meditation

Every day, it seems, someone else's family member or a member of the community needs treatment, Dr. Will Freeman said. "We take care of all of our patients like they're our family, because they are our family," he said.

Which is one of the staff's greatest concerns: what they're bringing home. Clinical nurse educator Leslie Fisher sent her kids, ages 7 and 11, away to her parents' house and now FaceTimes her girls each night, which she said is incredibly difficult.

"My child asked me the other day why am I a nurse," she said. "And my answer was God called me to be one."

Laurie Webb, the hospital's cardiopulmonary director and a registered respiratory therapist, started sobbing when talking about her own 4-year-old and 9-month-old. She isn't able to send them away because of their ages. Her nightly routine involves stripping naked in front of her patio — "it's pretty humiliating" — putting her clothes in a bag, Lysol-ing her shoes and heading straight for the bathroom.

"I'm completely terrified of what I'm bringing to my children and husband, but I can't stay away from my family," she said through tears.

As of Tuesday, 16 of the hospital's more than 200 employees had tested positive for the coronavirus. (*Kaiser Health News* reporting on a rural Louisiana hospital)

Let us pray.

Lord, we pray for families, for those which are divided by war, by hunger, by religious division, by the breakdown of the love that once held them together, by the threat carried by this pandemic. We ask that you bless our own families, our parents and grandparents, our children and their children and all those whom we love; help us to support and care for one another as You support and care for us.

Lord, in Your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

The fifth Station: Simon helps Jesus to carry His cross

As they led Jesus away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.

Meditation

When the British government asked people to help the National Health Service during the coronavirus crisis, it called for a “volunteer army.” Within four days, 750,000 people had signed up — three times the original target and four times the size of the British armed forces.

Britain hasn’t seen such a surge in volunteers since World War II, when the country pulled together in a way still remembered with immense pride. Now — with more than 60,000 people here having tested positive for the coronavirus, and with the prime minister among those who have been hospitalized — organizers are figuring out how to deploy the army, while individuals and companies are engaged in informal volunteer activities throughout the British Isles.

Michael Hayes, 55, is a taxi driver who joined the volunteer army and is awaiting his first official assignment. In the meantime, he spends about five hours a day driving NHS staff home, at no cost, from Newham University Hospital in East London, where his three children were born.

“Some of them come out, they’ve had dreadful days, the worst . . . and they are walking out thinking, ‘I still got to get home,’ I’m sort of like a little ray of sunshine,” Hayes said. “They see me sitting there and I whiz them home.” (*The Washington Post*, April 8, 2020)

Let us pray.

Lord, we pray for the peacemakers, for men and women of all nations who are prepared to carry out Your work of compassion and reconciliation wherever they see the suffering of Your people. We pray for ourselves, that even if, like Simon, we are brought face to face with human need and do not want to be involved, we may remember that in serving others, we have the great privilege of serving You.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

The sixth Station: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

Jesus said, ‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.’

Meditation

A New York City landlord is giving his 200 tenants one less thing to worry about amid the coronavirus pandemic as he waived rent for the month of April.

“I want everybody to be healthy. That’s the whole thing,” Mario Salerno told NBC New York.

Salerno, 59, owns roughly 80 apartments across Williamsburg and Greenpoint, Brooklyn. He said after some of his tenants told him that they were worried about paying rent because they lost their jobs due to the pandemic, he decided to take action. On March 30, he posted a notice on the front doors of all of his buildings announcing, “Due to the recent pandemic of Coronavirus COVID-19 affecting all of us, please note I am waiving rent for the month for April.”

One of his tenants said she’s been out of work since she was ordered to shut down her hair salon. “He’s Superman. He’s a wonderful man,” Kaitlyn Guteski told NBC New York. “It’s a game-changer.”

Salerno said he knows he will take a big hit this month, but isn't worried. "For me, it was more important for people's health and worrying about who could put food on whose table," he told the outlet. "I say don't worry about paying me, worry about your neighbor and worry about your family." (NBC News)

Let us pray.

Lord, give us the gifts of love and mercy. We are so often bound up with our own needs, our own concerns. Help us to remember Your "new" commandment—to love one another as You loved us, and help us to draw courage, not only from Your example, but from all the acts of selfless love and mercy in response to the pandemic that has spread around the world.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

The seventh Station: Jesus falls for the second time

The psalmist cries: 'My heart is in anguish within me,
 the terrors of death have fallen upon me,
Fear and trembling come upon me,
 and horror overwhelms me.'

Meditation

As the novel coronavirus sweeps across the United States, it appears to be infecting and killing black Americans at a disproportionately high rate, according to a *Washington Post* analysis of early data from jurisdictions across the country.

The emerging stark racial disparity led the surgeon general Tuesday to acknowledge in personal terms the increased risk for African Americans amid growing demands that public-health officials release more data on the race of those who are sick, hospitalized and dying of a contagion that has killed more than 12,000 people in the United States.

A *Post* analysis of available data and census demographics shows that counties that are majority-black have three times the rate of infections and almost six times the rate of deaths as counties where white residents are in the majority. ...

African Americans' higher rates of diabetes, heart disease and lung disease are well-documented, and Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards noted that those health problems make people more vulnerable to the new respiratory disease. But there never has been a pandemic that brought the disparities so vividly into focus. ... (*The Washington Post*, April 7, 2020)

Let us pray.

Lord, there are times in our lives when we feel overwhelmed by pain and distress, when we cry with the psalmist that we would fly away and be at rest. Forgive us for the weakness of our faith; we forget that You have been in this place before us and that Your pain was born for our sake. Help us to trust in Your love and Your strength to uphold us.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble,
tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble,
tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to
tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble,
tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

The eighth Station: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

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.'

Meditation

My daddy passed away last night. We now join the worldwide family who are mourning grandfathers and grandmothers, mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers— kinfolk, friends, neighbors, colleagues, acquaintances and others. . . . My daddy was a humble man with a lyrical sound that captured the spirit of place—New Orleans, the Crescent City, The Big Easy, the Curve. He was a stone-cold believer without extravagant tastes.

I haven't cried because the pain is so deep....it doesn't even hurt. He was absolutely my man. He knew how much I loved him, and I knew he loved me (though he was not given to any type of demonstrative expression of it). As a boy, I followed him on so many underpopulated gigs in unglamorous places, and there, in the passing years, learned what it meant to believe in the substance of a fundamental idea whose only verification was your belief.

. . . . A most fair-minded, large-spirited, generous, philanthropic (with whatever he had), open-minded person is gone. Ironically, when we spoke just 5 or 6 days ago about this precarious moment in the world and the many warnings he received 'to be careful, because it wasn't his time to pass from COVID', he told me, "Man, I don't determine the time. A lot of people are losing loved ones. Yours will be no more painful or significant than anybody else's."

. . . . For me, there is no sorrow only joy. He went on down the Good Kings Highway as was his way, a jazz man, "with grace and gratitude." And I am grateful to have known him. (Wynton Marsalis)

Let us pray.

Lord, we pray for those who are bereaved, for children who have lost their parents and for parents whose children have died. Lord, there is grief that is unbearable, that we can hardly imagine unless we have felt it for ourselves, the times when comfort seems impossible and we cannot understand how we can go on living. Have mercy on all who suffer such anguish, and bring them the hope of Your salvation, for themselves and for those whom they have loved and lost.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

The ninth Station: Jesus falls for the third time

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.

Meditation

As of April 7, Johns Hopkins University reported a total of more than 1.4 million confirmed cases of Covid-19 around the world, with over 83,000 deaths that could be definitely attributed to the novel coronavirus. The United States led in the number of cases, in excess of 400,000, but due to a lack of testing, that number is almost certainly far too low. (*The Wall Street Journal*, April 8, 2020)

Let us pray.

Lord, there are times when faith is hard, when You seem very far away from us. Forgive us when the burden of our life drags us down, when we can hardly bring ourselves to look up and see Your merciful eyes looking down at us and Your hands reaching out to lift us towards You. Help us to remember that You, the One who was without sin, suffered for us, loving us to the end.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

The tenth Station: Jesus is stripped of His clothes

They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on His head.

Meditation

The night had been particularly tough. Patient after patient had to be intubated and put on a ventilator to breathe. At one point, three “codes” — emergency interventions when someone is on the brink of death — occurred at once.

Dr. Joshua Rosenberg, a critical care doctor, arrived the next morning at the Brooklyn Hospital Center. Within hours, he was racing down the stairwell from the main intensive care unit on the sixth floor to a temporary one on the third, where he passed one of his favorite medical students.

“Shouldn’t you be home?” he asked, registering surprise. Clinical rotations for students had been halted to avoid exposing them to the coronavirus. “My mom’s here,” the student replied.

Dr. Rosenberg, 45, let out an expletive and asked which bed she was in. “I’m rounding there now,” he said and made sure the student had his cellphone number. . . .

Nearly every person lying in a bed in the new intensive care unit, just as in the main one, was breathing with the help of a mechanical ventilator.

There were patients in their 80s and in their 30s. Patients whose asthma and diabetes helped explain their serious illness. And patients who seemed to have no risk factors at all. Patients from nursing homes. Patients who had no homes. Pregnant women, some of whom would not be conscious when their babies were delivered to increase their odds of surviving to raise their children. (*The NY Times*)

Let us pray.

Lord, we pray for prisoners of conscience and for all who suffer unjust imprisonment, for those who are persecuted because of their faith. Have mercy on them, most merciful Savior, and help them to know that You, who have suffered as they do, are always with them. We pray for all who are sick in body, mind or spirit, and for all those who care for them, especially those who are risking so much working in hospitals in this time of pandemic.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

The eleventh Station: Jesus is nailed to the cross

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.’

Meditation

On the afternoon of Feb. 19, Andrea Pontiggia was heading from Bergamo, Italy, to the biggest soccer match of his life—along with 40,000 of his closest friends. The novel coronavirus, which had barely registered in Italy by that point, was the furthest thing from their minds.

The whole city seemed to be on the road. In 48 years of rooting for Bergamo’s local professional soccer team, a modest outfit called Atalanta, neither Mr. Pontiggia nor his hometown had ever seen anything like it. Atalanta was somehow the Cinderella of European soccer, and now it had a date in the sport’s most prestigious tournament, the Champions League. The match had even been moved to Milan for the occasion. ...

“Everything was crowded. The roads, all the surroundings, the stadium,” said Mr. Pontiggia, 55... “It was practically a whole town moving to Milan. It was amazing, incredible.”

It was also a contagion disaster. Atalanta fans were walking into a petri dish. In a single mass gathering, they were about to prove how sporting events could end up at the center of a global pandemic. ...

...Over the next two weeks, grim news washed across the region daily. Italy’s soccer federation closed the stadiums and eventually suspended the season. By March 10, the whole country was on lockdown. And all the while, Bergamo’s body count kept rising. Hospitals were overwhelmed. The military drove away the dead by the truckload. ... (*The Wall Street Journal*, April 1)

Let us pray.

Lord, in a world, Your world, which is so full of violence and hatred, men and women so often think that they know exactly what they are doing: they are defeating an enemy, getting rid of a hated persecutor, wreaking vengeance on those who, in their turn, have brought suffering and death. But they do not know that they are crucifying You again and again; they do not even notice the wounds on Your hands and Your feet, the spear thrust in Your side. Gracious Lord, forgive us all for the sins we commit knowingly and for those which we do not even recognize as nails hammered into Your hands. Christ our Lord, forgive us.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

The twelfth Station: Jesus dies on the cross

Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, ‘Father, into Your hands I commend my spirit.’ Having said this, He breathed His last.

Meditation

The elderly patients seem to be the ones that just kind of die right away. The ones we’re seeing in the ICU who are just kind of lingering on the vents and not getting any better, or the ones who die after kind of a week or so, are the 50-to-60-year-old patients. They’re not that old. We’ve also seen some younger patients with comorbidities that have not done well. It’s horrible, they’re dying by themselves, we don’t have enough time to update the families as well as they deserve.

. . . . It’s important for the public to know that it’s not just old people who are suffering from this. It could be anybody, it could be any of us, any of our families, our parents, brothers, sisters. People sometimes get a sense of infallibility, but I think they need to realize how severe this is. We’re seeing such a high mortality rate in these younger patients. It’s not just a disease of the lungs; it’s a disease of the whole body. (*New York Magazine*, April 8, 2020)

Let us pray.

Lord, we pray for those who have died, that they may be held in Your loving hands for all eternity. We pray for all those who will die in the coming days, that they will know Your loving presence as they cross from life to death to life eternal with you. We pray for those who mourn, that You will be their strength and their comfort. We pray for ourselves, that You will be with us at the hour of our death.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

The thirteenth Station: Jesus is taken down from the cross

Joseph of Arimathea went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid.

Meditation

I’m already accustomed to living with a lockdown of sorts. First diagnosed with breast cancer in 2010, forced to use a wheelchair 20 months ago, and now dependent on round-the-clock caregivers since a nasty fall in February, it was my reality before it was imposed on most of the world.

Like most things about my situation, it means that I have less control. I have to trust that the aides who come and go in shifts are following the rules about social distancing and hand-washing. I had to ask the agency who sends them to make sure that they were wearing masks. Most of them, but not all, do now.

Should I contract covid-19, my odds aren't great; my immune system is seriously compromised. My odds of getting treatment, if hospitals are crowded, are even lower: not only do I have a pre-existing terminal medical condition, but I'm over 60. The folks in charge of triage seem unlikely to give me any sort of priority, and I can't blame them. But I don't want to be alone, and it seems to be an ugly way in which to die.

Still, I trust my caregivers to follow the rules. How much more should I trust God to see me through? There are saints on Earth and in heaven praying, helping, and watching out for me. I must have faith, and count on God's grace to see me through.

Let us pray.

Lord, at the end You were in the hands of Your friends, Joseph who cared for Your body and gave You his own tomb, and the women who stayed with You. Thank You for friendship, for the people who have stood by us, cared about us, been faithful to us through many years. Help us to be good friends to them and give us warm and generous hearts toward everyone we meet.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

The fourteenth Station: Jesus is laid in the tomb

The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how His body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments.

Meditation

They're everywhere. They howl, yelp and bleat at all hours, like mournful electric coyotes. They Doppler in and out of my perception, one after another after another. Their persistence has a cumulative effect: I feel their presence in my body as an ever-increasing tightness in my shoulders and neck. It is as though, around the clock, the city itself were wailing for its sick and dying.

Before the virus, there had been so much stimulus that many of us had learned to filter it out of our awareness — subway buskers' pleas; sudden eruptions of earth-rumbling subwoofers at red lights — in order to preserve the emotional energy required to move through our days. But now in the absence of other sounds like heavy traffic, construction and the springtime shrieks of children on playgrounds, the sirens are all there is to hear. And of course, we cannot turn a deaf ear to what we know their escalating numbers signify.

As I have been learning to live with the changing sounds of New York City, I've been thinking of the work of the experimental American composer Pauline Oliveros, who dedicated her long career to exploring "the difference between hearing and listening." As she put it in a *TED Talk* in 2015, the year before she died, "To hear is the physical means that enables perception. To listen is to give attention to what is perceived both acoustically and psychologically." . . .

I have heard the sounds of my city, incessantly, for the seven years that I've lived here, but the pandemic has demanded that I listen to them. To hear an ambulance siren is to faintly register the interruption of a high, whining pitch; to listen to an ambulance siren is to picture the face and the body and the family of the person it is carrying to a hospital, likely another neighbor suffering from Covid-19. (*The NY Times*)

Let us pray.

It is finished. And we know there is no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female, friend or foe, for all of us are one in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy.

Amen.

Anthem

Thomas Tallis (c. 1505–1585)

Salvator mundi, salva nos, qui per crucem et sanguinem redemisti nos: auxiliare nobis, te deprecamur, Deus noster.	<i>O Savior of the world, save us; for you have redeemed us through the cross and your blood: help us, we beseech you, our Lord.</i>
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– Antiphon at Matins, Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross

The Solemn Collects

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Priest: Dear People of God: Our heavenly Father sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved; that all who believe in him might be delivered from the power of sin and death, and become heirs with him of everlasting life.

We pray, therefore, for people everywhere according to their needs.

Let us pray for the holy Catholic 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 Wayne, our Bishop, Deon, our Bishop-elect, and all the people of this diocese

For all Christians in this community

For those about to be baptized,

That God will confirm his Church in faith, increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.

Silence

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

Let us pray for all nations and peoples of the earth, and for those in authority among them;

For the President of the United States

For the Congress and the Supreme Court

For the Members and Representatives of the United Nations

For all who serve the common good,

That by God's help they may seek justice and truth, and live in peace and concord.

Silence

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 dominion may increase, until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for all who suffer and are afflicted in body or in mind;
For the hungry and the homeless, the destitute and the oppressed
For the sick, the wounded, and the crippled
For those in loneliness, fear, and anguish
For those who face temptation, doubt, and despair
For the sorrowful and bereaved
For prisoners and captives, and those in mortal danger,

That God in his mercy will comfort and relieve them, and grant them the knowledge of his love, and stir up in us the will and patience to minister to their needs.

Silence

Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: Let the cry of those in misery and need come to you, that they may find your mercy present with them in all their afflictions; and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them for the sake of him who suffered for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for all who have not received the Gospel of Christ;
For those who have never heard the word of salvation
For those who have lost their faith
For those hardened by sin or indifference
For the contemptuous and the scornful
For those who are enemies of the cross of Christ and persecutors of his 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

Merciful God, creator of all the peoples of the earth and lover of souls: Have compassion on all who do not know you as you are revealed in your Son Jesus Christ; let your Gospel be preached with grace and power to those who have not heard it; turn the hearts of those who resist it; and bring home to your fold those who have gone astray; that there may be one flock under one shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us commit ourselves to our God, and pray for the grace of a holy life, that, with all who have departed this world and have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to God alone, we may be accounted worthy to enter into the fullness of the joy of our Lord, and receive the crown of life in the day of resurrection.

Silence

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquillity the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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,
 and the power, and the glory,
 for ever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn 166: "Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle"

Pange Lingua

Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle;
of the mighty conflict sing;
tell the triumph of the victim,
to his cross thy tribute bring.
Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer
from that cross now reigns as King.

Faithful cross! above all other,
one and only noble tree!
None in foliage, none in blossom,
none in fruit thy peer may be:
sweetest wood and sweetest iron!
sweetest weight is hung on thee.

Thirty years among us dwelling,
his appointed time fulfilled,
born for this, he meets his passion,
this the Savior freely willed:
on the cross the Lamb is lifted,
where his precious blood is spilled.

Bend thy boughs, O tree of glory!
Thy relaxing sinews bend;
for awhile the ancient rigor
that thy birth bestowed, suspend;
and the King of heavenly beauty
gently on thine arms extend.

He endures the nails, the spitting,
vinegar, and spear, and reed;
from that holy body broken
blood and water forth proceed:
earth, and stars, and sky, and ocean,
by that flood from stain are freed.

Praise and honor to the Father,
praise and honor to the Son,
praise and honor to the Spirit,
ever Three and ever One:
one in might and one in glory
while eternal ages run.

The Concluding Prayer

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

The “Stations of the Cross: Stories of Remembrance” in this service was adapted from “Stations of the Cross: a liturgy of remembrance” created by Joan van Emden. Mrs. van Emden created the original service in 2013 to commemorate the outbreak of World War I. In the original, the meditations were taken from books written by her son, military historian Richard van Emden. Mrs. van Emden served as a licensed lay preacher at Christ Church in Reading, England. She died earlier this year. St. Peter’s adapted her service with the permission of the Diocese of Oxford, of which Christ Church is a part. We give thanks for being able to create from her original work, and for the truth and beauty of her vision.

Adapted from *Stations of the Cross: A Liturgy of Remembrance*; copyright by Joan van Emden and Richard van Emden 2013; <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Stations-of-Remembrance.pdf>. Used with the permission of the Church of England, Diocese of Oxford, UK

TODAY

12:00 Noon WAITING AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS – A meditation on Jesus’ last seven words will be available on our website and Facebook page, Noon until 3:00 p.m.

4:30 p.m. CHILDREN’S SERVICE – Join Ann Babington via Zoom for a Children’s Service of Stations of the Cross.

TOMORROW

8:00 A.M. MORNING PRAYER – Join Fr. Joseph and a special guest via Zoom at 8:00 on Holy Saturday morning for Morning Prayer. Check in *News from the Rock* to find the link for joining on Zoom. A recording of the worship service will go up on the St. Peter’s Youtube page later that day if you are unable to join us.

EASTER SUNDAY

8:00 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICE – The Easter Sunday worship service will be available on our website, Facebook page, and Youtube page beginning at 8:00 a.m.

9:30 a.m. CHILDREN’S CHAPEL – Please note that the time for Children’s Chapel is moved for Easter Sunday to 9:30. Check in *News from the Rock* to find the link and instructions for joining us via Zoom. We can’t wait to see you!

9:45 a.m. COFFEE WITH THE RECTOR – Join Rob for a quick Zoom chat at 9:45 a.m. to exchange Easter greetings. Please check *News from the Rock* for updates for the Zoom access information. The chat will conclude promptly at 10:00 in order to allow everyone to gather for a Diocesan worship service at 10:00, which may be viewed live from the Diocesan Facebook page.

EASTER OFFERING – St. Peter’s Church is supporting the efforts of five local nonprofits working to meet immediate needs of the most vulnerable in our community: Trinity Church (Central West End) food pantry, St. Louis Area Food Bank, Urban League Food and Toiletries Distribution, Great Circle, and Gateway Resilience Fund. Each will receive a \$4,000 check from the outreach budget, but our hope is to double the amount St. Peter’s gives to these frontline efforts identified by our Outreach Committee. You are invited to increase our gift to local COVID-19 relief efforts by your generous support of our Easter offering. Just visit www.stpetersepiscopal.org/give to join in the effort. THANK YOU! To make an offering for St. Peter’s Church, visit stpetersepiscopal.org/give. Your gifts are always appreciated.