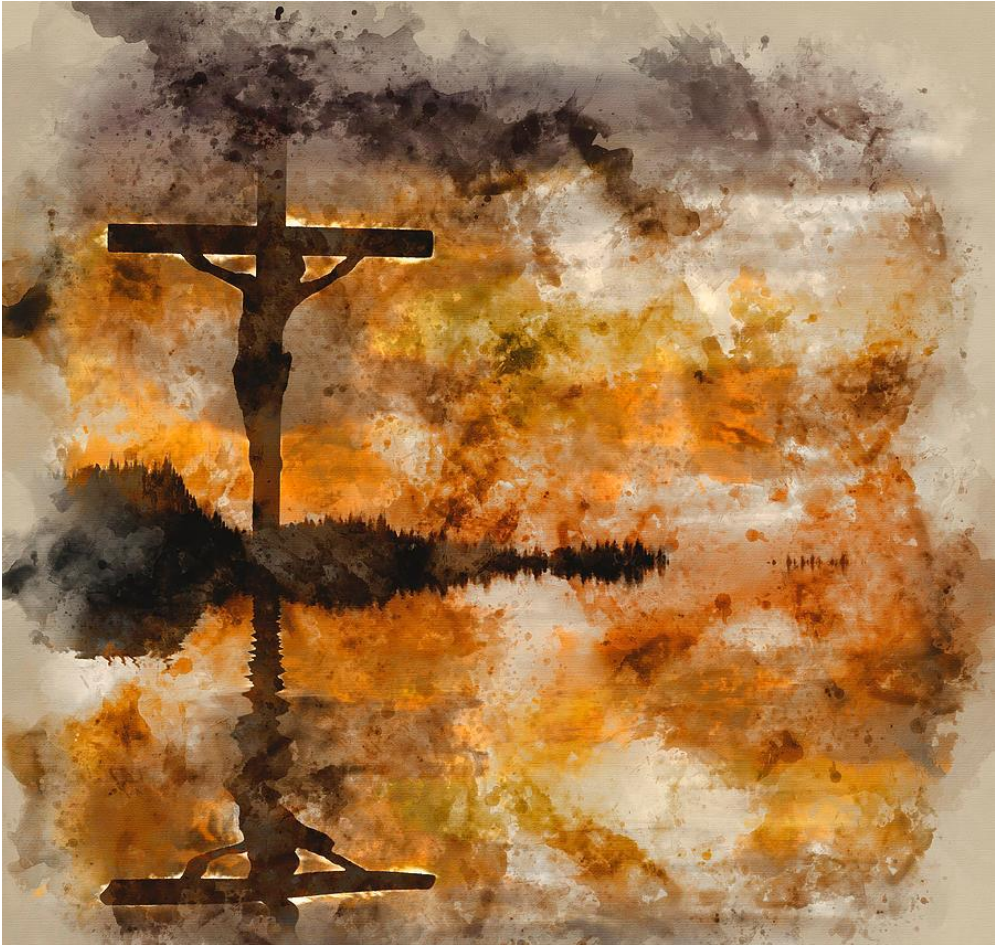


ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE EPISCOPAL CHURCH



SOLEMN GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY

MARCH 29, 2024

7:00 PM

Welcome GUESTS & VISITORS!

We are glad you are here. If you are new to St. Thomas, stop by the Welcome table in the lobby and identify yourself to our clergy and people so we may properly welcome you. You may also fill out an “I’m New” card located on the backs of the chairs in the church. If you need assistance with the order of service, feel free to ask the person next to you.

Auditory Assistance is available – ask an usher or a greeter to obtain a hearing device.

Dear Sisters, Brothers, and Siblings in the Lord:

I greet you in the name of our loving, liberating, and life-giving Savior, Jesus Christ. Last May, I had the privilege of meeting the Rev. Canon Faiz Basheer Jerjes and his colleague, Sinan Hanna, of St. George’s Anglican Episcopal Church in Baghdad—the only Anglican church in Iraq. After a moving conversation, Fr. Faiz asked one thing of our church: “Please don’t forget us.” I assured him that we would not forget— and I need your help to honor that pledge, not only to him, but to the whole Anglican Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East, which we have supported through the Good Friday Offering for over a century, through conflict, pandemic, and humanitarian disasters. The Episcopal Church will not forget them. We will not forget our siblings in Christ who cannot worship God freely. We will not forget those caught in the crossfire between warring factions in the land where our Lord walked. We will not forget that every human child of God—Palestinian, Israeli, Iraqi, Cypriot, Lebanese, everyone—deserves safety and security. As we mark our Lord’s passion and death on Good Friday, we remember those whom he loves facing injustice and oppression today, and remember the urgency of love—true, sacrificial love. On Good Friday, March 29, I invite you to remember the Anglican Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East through a gift to the Good Friday Offering. By supporting life-giving ministries in the province, including St. George’s, Baghdad; the eye clinic in Ras Morbat, Yemen; the Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza; and numerous other institutions identified by their dioceses, you are ensuring that our siblings in Christ are not forgotten. On the evening of Good Friday, we especially look forward to inviting the whole church to a concert of sacred music recorded at Christ and St. Luke’s Church, Norfolk, in the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia. You will find more details about this event, instructions on how to make a gift to the Good Friday Offering, and additional resources at iam.ec/goodfridayoffering.

This is my last Good Friday letter to you as your presiding bishop, and I want to both express my gratitude for your gifts in years past and encourage you to give again to support God’s beloved in this area of the world. This is what love asks of us. I remain,

+ Michael B. Curry

Presiding Bishop and Primate - The Episcopal Church

An alms basket is located in the back of the nave. You may also use the QR code on the right, or if writing a check, make it payable to St. Thomas and write “Good Friday Offering” on the memo line.



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Today our eyes are drawn to the cross of the crucifixion. Good Friday is the day of absence. Good Friday is the day on which the Holy Eucharist is not celebrated or is celebrated from reserved sacrament only. The nave and sanctuary are almost totally bare. The cross is draped in black and the ministers do not wear eucharistic vestments.

Silence is kept prior to the service.

Clergy will enter in silence, kneel, pray.

Service begins with the opening acclamation.

Opening Acclamation

The Celebrant may say Blessed be our God.

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

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.***

All sit.

Old Testament Reading: *Isaiah 52:13-53:12*

See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. 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—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? 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. 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. Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

The Psalm: *Psalm 22*

- 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.***

The Epistle: *Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9*

Since 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Jesus Remember Me

Taize/Jacques Berthier

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your King - dom.

The first system of the musical score is for piano. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your King - dom.

The second system of the musical score continues the piano accompaniment. It maintains the same key signature and time signature as the first system. The lyrics are repeated below the notes.

All sit.

The Passion Gospel of St. John

Celebrant The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Were You There

1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you
 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you
 *3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side? Were you
 4 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you

there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Oh! _____
 there when they nailed him to the tree? Oh! _____
 there when they pierced him in the side? Oh! _____
 there when they laid him in the tomb? Oh! _____

_____ Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble,
 _____ Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble,
 _____ Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble,
 _____ Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble,

trem-ble. Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 trem-ble. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 trem-ble. Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
 trem-ble. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

The Sermon

The Solemn Collects

All standing, the Deacon, or other person appointed, says to the people

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.

In the biddings which follow, the indented petitions may be adapted by addition or omission, as appropriate, at the discretion of the Celebrant. The people may be directed to stand or kneel.

The biddings may be read by a Deacon or other person appointed. The Celebrant says the Collects.

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 *N.*, our Bishop, and all the people of this diocese
For all Christians in this community
For those about to be baptized (particularly _____)

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 *N.*, 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 tranquility 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 tranquility 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 Anthems

Anthem 1

O Sacred Head, Sore Wounded

1 O sa - cred head, sore wound - ed, de - filed and put to scorn;
 2 Thy beau - ty, long - de - sir - ed, hath va - nished from our sight;
 3 In thy most bit - ter pas - sion my heart to share doth cry,
 *4 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,
 *5 My days are few, O fail not, with thine im - mor - tal power,

1 O king - ly head, sur - round - ed with mock - ing crown of thorn:
 2 thy power is all ex - pir - ed, and quenched the light of light.
 3 with thee for my sal - va - tion up - on the cross to die.
 4 for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pi - ty with - out end?
 5 to hold me that I quail not in death's most fear - ful hour;

1 what sor - row mars thy gran - deur? Can death thy bloom de - flower?
 2 Ah me! for whom thou di - est, hide not so far thy grace:
 3 Ah, keep my heart thus mov - ed to stand thy cross be - neath,
 4 Oh, make me thine for - ev - er! and should I faint - ing be,
 5 that I may fight be - friend - ed, and see in my last strife

1 O coun - te - nance whose splen - dor the hosts of heaven a - dore!
 2 show me, O Love most high - est, the bright - ness of thy face.
 3 to mourn thee, well - be - lov - ed, yet thank thee for thy death.
 4 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er, out - live my love for thee.
 5 to me thine arms ex - tend - ed up - on the cross of life.

The congregation reads the parts in italics.

We glory in your cross, O Lord,

and praise and glorify your holy resurrection; for by virtue of your cross joy has come to the whole world.

May God be merciful to us and bless us, show us the light of his countenance, and come to us.

Let your ways be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

We glory in your cross, O Lord, and praise and glorify your holy resurrection; for by virtue of your cross joy has come to the whole world.

Anthem 2

Pie Jesu

Andrew Lloyd Webber

Julianne Stapleton and Hope Dedrick, Duet

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

If we have died with him, we shall also live with him;
if we endure, we shall also reign with him.

***We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.***

Anthem 3

Thy Will Be Done
Chancel Choir

Craig Courtney

O Savior of the world, who by thy cross and precious blood hast redeemed us:
Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

Silence

The Lord's Prayer

***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.***

Concluding Prayer

Please exit in silence.

Thank you to those who assisted in the reading of the Passion Gospel,
and to the St. Thomas Praise Ensemble and Choirs.

EASTER SERVICES

Easter Vigil Holy Communion – March 30 – 5:30 pm

Easter Sunday Holy Communion – March 31

Sunrise Service – 6:30 am

Apostle's Garden (inside if inclement weather)

8:45am and 11:00am

*Nursery Care is available on Sunday from 8:15am – 12:15pm
for children ages 6 months through 4 years.*

Children's Chapel will also be available.

To request prayers, please fill out “Pray” card located on the backs of the chairs. We invite you to list your specific concerns and leave them in the Prayer Request box at the back of the church, place them in the offering plate, or bring them to the church office. Prayers of the People are written weekly. Normally they are offered for three weeks, but any request may be resubmitted as needed.

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