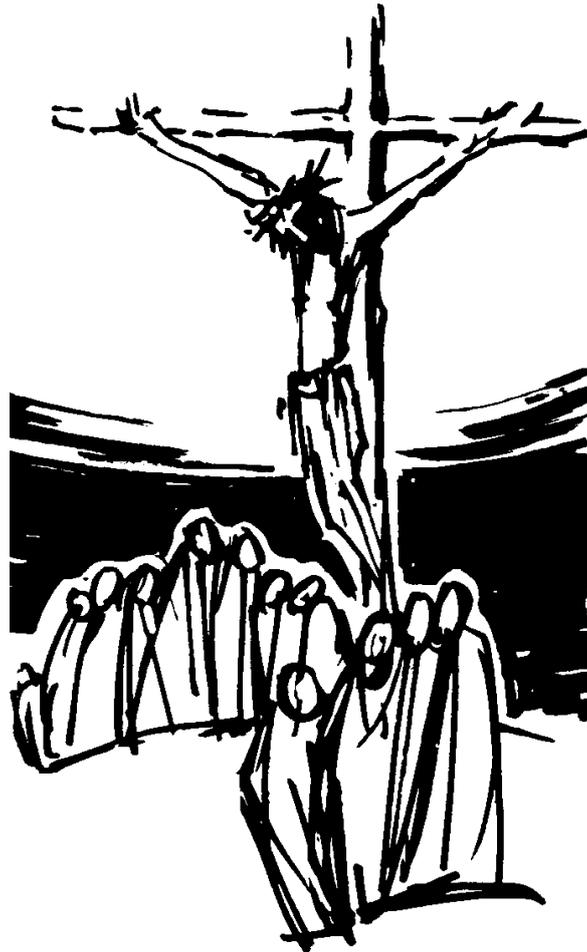


Sunday Prayer at Home

Good Friday Service



Presider: Opening Prayer

Remember your mercies, O Lord, and with your eternal protection sanctify your servants, for whom Christ your son, by the shedding of his blood, established the paschal mystery. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen

First reading:

Is 52:13 – 53:12

See, my servant will prosper, He shall be lifted up, exalted, rise to great heights. As the crowds were appalled on seeing him – so disfigured did he look That he seemed no longer human – So will the crowds be astonished at him, And kings stand speechless before him; For they shall see something never told and witness something never heard before: ‘who could believe what we have heard, And to whom has the power of the lord been revealed?’

Like a sapling he grew up in front of us, Like a root in arid ground. Without beauty, without majesty (we saw him), No looks to attract our eyes; A thing despised and rejected by men, A man of sorrows and familiar with suffering, A man to make people screen their faces; He was despised and we took no account of him. And yet ours were the sufferings he bore, Ours the sorrows he carried. But we, we thought of him as someone punished, Struck by god, and brought low. Yet he was pierced through for our faults, Crushed for our sins. On him lies a punishment that brings us peace, And through his wounds we are healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, each taking his own way, and the lord burdened him with the sins of all of us.

Harshly dealt with, he bore it humbly, He never opened his mouth, like a lamb that is led to the slaughter-house, like a sheep that is dumb before its shearers never opening its mouth.

By force and by law he was taken; would anyone plead his cause?

Yes, he was torn away from the land of the living; For our faults struck down in death.

They gave him a grave with the wicked, a tomb with the rich, though he had done no wrong

And there had been no perjury in his mouth. The lord has been pleased to crush him with suffering.

If he offers his life in atonement, He shall see his heirs, he shall have a long life and through him what the lord wishes will be done. His soul’s anguish over. He shall see the light and be content.

By his sufferings shall my servant justify many, Taking their faults on himself.

Hence i will grant whole hordes for his tribute, He shall divide the spoil with the mighty,

For surrendering himself to death and letting himself be taken for a sinner,

While he was bearing the faults of many and praying all the time for sinners. (*pause*)

The word of the lord

Responsorial psalm: *Father I put my life in your hands* (John Michael Talbot)

Second reading:

Heb 4: 14-16; 5: 7-9.

Since in Jesus, the Son of God, we have the supreme high priest who has gone through to the highest heaven, we must never let go of the faith that we have professed. For it is not as if we had a high priest who was incapable of feeling our weaknesses with us; but we have one who has been tempted in every way that we are, though he is without sin. Let us be confident, then, in approaching the throne of grace, that we shall have mercy from him and find grace when we are in need of help.

During his life on earth, he offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey him through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey the source of eternal salvation

Gospel acclamation

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross.

Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Presider: The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Reader 1:

Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kedron valley. There was a garden there, and he went into it with his disciples. Judas the traitor knew the place well, since Jesus had often met his disciples there, and he brought the cohort to this place together with a detachment of guards sent by the chief priests and the pharisees, all with lanterns and torches and weapons. Knowing everything that was going to happen to him, Jesus then came forward and said. "who are you looking for?"

Jesus the Nazarene they said. "I am he" said Jesus. The cohort and its captain and the Jewish guards seized Jesus and bound him. They took him first to annas, because annas was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had suggested to the Jews, 'it is better for one man to die for the people'.

Simon peter, with another disciple, followed Jesus. A maid on duty at the door said to Peter, "aren't you another of that man's disciples?" He answered "I am not."

Now it was cold, and the servants and guards had lit a charcoal fire and were standing there warming themselves; so peter stood there too, warming himself with the others.

The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching: "I have spoken openly for all the world to hear; I have always taught in the synagogue and in the temple where all the Jews meet together: I have said nothing in secret. But why ask me? Ask my hearers what I taught: they know what I said." At these words, one of the guards standing by gave Jesus a slap in the face, saying, "is that the way to answer the high priest?" Jesus said: "if there is something wrong in what I said, point it out; but if there is no offence in it, why do you strike me?" Then annas sent him, still bound, to Caiaphas, the high priest.

As Simon peter stood there warming himself, someone said to him: "aren't you another of his disciples?" He denied it saying "i am not." One of the high priest's servants, a relation of the man whose ear peter had cut off, said, "didn't I see you in the garden with him?" Again peter denied it; and at once a cock crew.

The first strip of cloth is removed

Reader 2:

Pilate came outside to them and said, "what charge do you bring against this man?" They replied: "if he were not a criminal, we should not be handing him over to you." Pilate said: "take him yourselves, and try him by your own law."

So Pilate went back into the praetorium and called Jesus to him, and asked: "are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus answered: "do you ask this of your own accord, or have others spoken to you about me?" Pilate answered: "am I a Jew? It is your own people and the chief priests who have handed you over to me: what have you done?" Jesus answered: "mine is not a kingdom of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, my men would have fought to prevent me being surrendered to the Jews. But my kingdom is not of this kind." Pilate said: "so you are a king then?" Jesus answered: "it is you who say it. Yes, i am a king. I was born for this, i came into the world for this; to bear witness to the truth, and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice." Pilate said: "truth? What is that?"

And with that he went out again to the Jews and said: "I find no case against him. But according to a custom of yours I should release one prisoner at the Passover; would you like me, then, to release the king of the Jews?" At this they shouted: "not this man, but Barabbas." Barabbas was a brigand.

Pilate then had Jesus taken away and scourged; and after this, the soldiers twisted some thorns into a crown and put it on his head, and dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him and saying: "hail, king of the Jews!" And they slapped him in the face." "Pilate came outside again and said to them: "look, I am going to bring him out to you to let you see that i find no case." Jesus then came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said: "here is the man."

When they saw him the chief priests and the guards shouted: "crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate

said: "take him yourselves and crucify him: I can find no case against him." The Jews replied: "we have a law, and according to the law he ought to die, because he has claimed to be the son of god."

When Pilate heard them say this his fears increased. Re-entering the praetorium, he said to Jesus: "where do you come from?" But Jesus made no answer. Pilate then said to him: "are you refusing to speak to me? Surely you know I have power to release you and I have power to crucify you?"

Jesus replied: "you would have no power over me if it had not been given to you from above. For this reason, the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin."

From that moment Pilate was anxious to set him free, but the Jews shouted: "if you set him free you are no friend of Caesar's; anyone who makes himself king is defying Caesar."

Hearing these words, Pilate had Jesus brought out, and seated himself on the chair of judgement at a place called the pavement, in Hebrew Gabbatha. It was Passover preparation day, about the sixth hour. Pilate said to the Jews: "here is your king." They said: "take him away, take him away. Crucify him!" Pilate said: "do you want me to crucify your king?" The chief priests answered: "we have no king except Caesar."

So in the end Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

The second strip of cloth is removed

Reader 3:

They then took charge of Jesus, and carrying his own cross he went out of the city to the place of the skull, or, as it was called in Hebrew, Golgotha, where they crucified him with two others, one on either side with Jesus in the middle.

When the soldiers had finished crucifying Jesus they took his clothing and divided it into four shares, one for each soldier. His undergarment was seamless, woven in one piece from neck to hem; so they said to one another: "instead of tearing it, let's throw dice to decide who is to have it." In this way the words of scripture were fulfilled: they shared out my clothing among them. They cast lots for my clothes.

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleopas, and Mary of Magdala. Seeing his mother and the disciple he loved standing near her, Jesus said to his mother: "this is your son." Then to the disciple he said: "this is your mother." And from that moment the disciple made a place for her in his home.

the third strip of cloth is removed

After this, Jesus knew that everything had now been completed, and to fulfil the scripture perfectly he said: "I am thirsty." A jar full of vinegar stood there, so putting a sponge soaked in vinegar on a hyssop stick they held it up to his mouth. After Jesus had taken the vinegar he said: "it is accomplished," and bowing his head he gave up the spirit.

Fr Brendan

It was preparation day, and to prevent the bodies remaining on the cross during the sabbath - since that sabbath was a day of special solemnity - the Jews asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken away. Consequently, the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with him and then of the other. When they came to Jesus, they found that he was already dead, and so instead of breaking his legs one of the soldiers pierced his side with a lance; and immediately there came out blood and water.

This is the evidence of one who saw it - trustworthy evidence, and he knows he speaks the truth - and he gives it so that you may believe as well. Because all this happened to fulfil the words of scripture: not one bone of his will be broken, and again, in another place scripture says: they will look on the one whom they have pierced.

After this, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus - though a secret one because he was afraid of the Jews - asked Pilate to let him remove the body of Jesus. Pilate gave permission, so they came and took it away. Nicodemus came as well - the same one who had first come to Jesus

at night-time - and he brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, following the Jewish burial custom.

At the place where he had been crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been buried. Since it was the Jewish day of preparation and the tomb was near at hand, they laid Jesus there.

This is the gospel of the lord.

Homily:

Veneration



Prayers of Intercession

Presider: compassionate god, even in the midst of your son's suffering on the cross, he was able to respond to the needs of others, so we turn to you in prayer.

Commentator

we pray for those who feel abandoned in our society, refugees and those living on the fringes of our community. May we open our hearts to be more inclusive and accepting of difference. Lord hear us

we pray for those affected by the scourge of war. We pray especially for the harm done by racism and hate in our world. May we respond by being people of peace and builders of peace. Lord hear us

we pray for those who are affected by violence in our community. Help us to remember that change starts with ourselves and so strive to relate to others in positive ways. Lord hear us

we pray for all who suffer injustice. Help us, to be people of courage who stand up for others especially when we are tempted to remain as bystanders. Lord hear us

we pray for our church leaders that they will work to bring unity, healing and reconciliation to our world especially towards those who are victims. Lord hear us

we pray for ourselves. May we continue to remain compassionate towards the needs of others even when we are struggling with our own worries. Lord hear us

Parish Prayer

God, Creator and Life-giver we thank you for the gift of one another in our Parish of St Paul Apostle. Bless us and our families with the power of your Spirit. Inspired and motivated by St Paul's courage and commitment to the person of Christ, may we continue to be open to change and challenge! Make us passionate and courageous in our mission of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ

Presider: Loving God, you hear our heartfelt prayers. Be with us as we journey through the cross to the resurrection. We ask this through Christ our lord. Amen

Anima Christi Prayer (Spiritual Communion)

Soul of Christ, sanctify me; Body of Christ, save me;
Blood of Christ, inebriate me;
Water from the side of Christ, wash me;
Passion of Christ, strengthen me;
O good Jesus hear me; Within your wounds hide me;
From all harm protect me;
At the hour of my death, call me;
And close to you bid me; So that with your saints,
I may praise you forever and ever. Amen

Presider: Final prayer

Let us pray.
Almighty ever-living God,
You have restored us to life
By the blessed death and resurrection of Christ, your son
Preserve in us the work of your mercy,
So that by sharing in this mystery,
We may live our lives unceasingly devoted to you.
We ask this through Christ our lord.
Amen.

St Paul Apostle Catholic Community
Endeavour Hills VIC
Biblical translation: NRSV