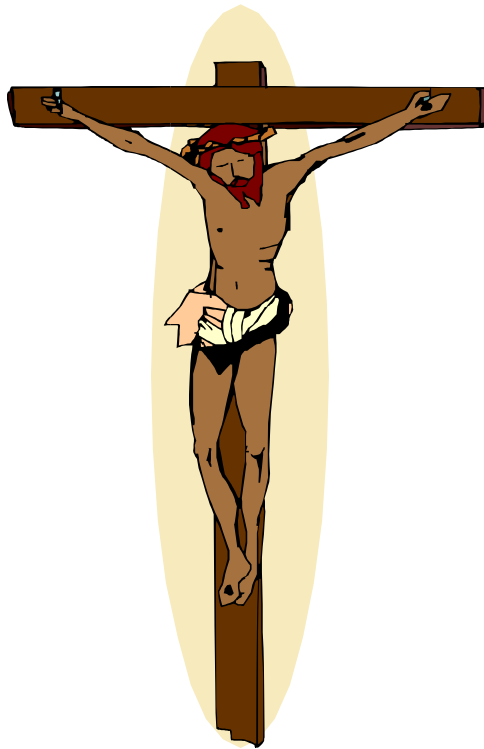


THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
VALLE CRUCIS, NORTH CAROLINA
The Episcopal Church in the Vale of the Cross Since 1842



THE SOLEMN LITURGY FOR GOOD FRIDAY
7:00 pm

WELCOME to the Church of the Holy Cross.

All those who seek a deeper knowledge and love of the Lord are welcomed to receive the bread and wine of Holy Eucharist. Children are most welcome at all services.

Concerning Good Friday

This most solemn of all days is marked by fasting, abstinence, and penance, leading us to focus on Jesus upon the cross. The bare, stark appearance of the church serves as a reminder of the solemnity and the sorrow of the day. The Lord of Life was rejected, mocked, scourged, and then put to death on the cross.

Faithful Christians are mindful of the part which our own sins played into this suffering and agony, as Christ took all sin upon himself, in obedience to his Father's will. By the cross we are redeemed, set free from bondage to sin and death. The cross is a sign of God's never-ending love for us. It is a sign of life in the midst of death.

This evening's service consists of three parts: lessons and prayers, including the retelling of the passion (according to St. John); the veneration of the cross, a devotion showing our love and thankfulness for the gift of life given us by Jesus' death; and the Holy Eucharist of the Pre-Sanctified from the Sacrament consecrated on Maundy Thursday.

Our liturgy is made all the more striking and humbling due to its frequent and extended pauses for silent reflection throughout the entirety of the service. This extended silence brings to mind the words of St. Paul who said,

“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.” (*Romans 8:26 NRSV*)

A Clarification on the Passion Story as told by St. John.

The Gospel accounts of Jesus' Passion and death, particularly St. John's account, have been misinterpreted and weaponized against the Jewish people throughout the centuries. Sadly, the sin of anti-Semitism continues in our own day. Great care must be taken to understand the Gospels in their proper context. Remember: Jesus himself, his disciples, and his friends were all Jewish. He was put to death at the hands of the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate. To claim otherwise is both unbiblical and harmful.

Please keep those realities in mind as we hear and participate in the telling of
The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Good Friday

(We gather in Silence)

After the choir has processed to their stalls, the Priests and assistants enter and go to the Altar, prostrate themselves before it, and pray in silence. A Priest then rises and says to the congregation,

Blessed (†) be our God.

People: For ever and ever. Amen.

Let us pray,

(All kneel as they are able)

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.

People: Amen.

The congregation is seated for the lessons from Scripture.

The Old Testament:

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.

Continued...

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.

A time for silent reflection follows the lesson.

The Psalm: Psalm 22 (*Prayed responsively as indicated in bold type.*)

- 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.

Continued...

- 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 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.

A time for silent reflection follows the Psalm

The New Testament:

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

A time for silent reflection follows the lesson

*The congregation **remains seated** for the proclamation of the Gospel.*

“The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.”

The congregation takes the role of the crowd. The congregation may be seated for the first part of the Passion.

At the verse which mentions the arrival at Golgotha (John 19:17) all stand.

The Homily:

The Rev. R. Allan McCaslin

A time for silent reflection follows the sermon.

Please *remain seated* for the following hymn:

Hymn of Reflection: #172

“Were You There?”

Were You There

The Solemn Collects:

All stand.

The Priest 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.

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 José, our Bishop, and all the people of this diocese

For all Christians in this community

For those about to be baptized

People: 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.

People: Amen.

Continued...

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

For Joseph Biden, 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

***People:* 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.

***People:* Amen.**

Let us pray for all who suffer and are afflicted in body or in mind:

For the hungry and the homeless, the unemployed and underemployed

For the destitute and the oppressed

For the sick, the wounded, and the crippled

For those in loneliness, fear, and anguish

For those who ache for the warmth of human touch

For those who face temptation, doubt, and despair

For the sorrowful and bereaved

For prisoners and captives, and those in mortal danger

***People:* 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, grace, 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.

***People:* 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

***People:* 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.

***People:* Amen.**

Let us commit ourselves to 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.

***People:* Amen.**

Let us kneel in silent prayer.

Silence

Arise.

*The congregation is now **seated**.*

The Veneration of the Cross:

The veil covering the Altar Cross is now removed to reveal the wood of the cross. During the removal of the veils the following is proclaimed 3 times:

V. Behold the Wood of the Cross, whereon was hung the world's Salvation.

R. O Come, let us worship.

*Then all present **kneel** as they are able and sing,*

Hymn of Veneration: #158 "Ah, Holy Jesus"

Herzliebster Jesus

The Reproaches now follow. While kneeling is encouraged, you may be seated if you so need.

The Reproaches:

Based upon Micah 6:3-5

V. O my people, O my church,
what have I done to you, or in what have I offended you?
Answer 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 Savior.

**R. Holy God. Holy and Mighty.
Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us.**

V. 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 have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**R. Holy God. Holy and Mighty.
Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us.**

V. 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 Redeemer,
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**R. Holy God. Holy and Mighty.
Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us.**

V. I went before you in a pillar of cloud,
and you have led me to the judgment 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,
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

R. Answer me.

V. I gave you a royal scepter,
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 prepared a cross for your Savior.

R. Answer me.

V. 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,
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

R. Answer me.

V. I sent the Spirit of truth to guide you,
and you close your hearts to the Counselor.
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,
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

R. Answer me.

V. I grafted you into the tree of my chosen Israel,
and you turned on them with persecution and mass murder.
I made you joint heirs with them of my covenants,
but you made them scapegoats for your own guilt,
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

R. Answer me.

Continued...

V. 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,
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

R. Answer me.

V. O my people, O my church,
what have I done to you, or in what have I offended you?

R. Answer me.

A time for silent reflection follows.

V. God be merciful to us and bless us,

R. And show us the light of his countenance. (*Psalm 67*)

V. We venerate your Cross, O Lord: and praise and glorify your holy
Resurrection: for by virtue of the Cross joy has come into the whole world.

**R. Faithful Cross, above all other,
one and only noble Tree:
none in foliage, none in blossom,
none in fruit your peer may be.**

All are seated.

Choir Anthem:

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

Gregg Sewell

O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,
How scornfully surrounded, with thorns thine only crown.

O sacred head, what glory, what bliss till now was thine!
Yet, though despised, rejected, I joy to call thee mine.

What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend,
For this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?

O make me thine forever, and should I fainting be,
Lord let me never, never, outlive my love to thee!

*During the singing of the Anthem, the Reserved Sacrament is brought from Skiles' Altar
and placed upon the Sanctuary Altar.*

When the anthem concludes, all present kneel as they are able and pray the following:

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,

R. Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

V. Through the tree we were made slaves;
and through the holy cross we obtained our freedom.

**R. The fruit of the tree betrayed us.
The Son of God redeemed us.**

V. O Savior of the world, who by your cross and precious Blood has redeemed us:

R. Save us and help us, we humbly pray you, O Lord.

The Confession of Sin:

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name.
Amen.

The Absolution:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you: (†) pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

A time for silent reflection follows.

Continued...

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer:

Traditional Version

BCP 364

**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.**

Silence follows.

A Priest stands and holding forth the consecrated bread and wine proclaims,

Behold the Lamb of God;
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.

**People: Lord, I am not worthy that you should come under my roof;
But speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.**

The Holy Communion is now administered from the Reserved Sacrament.

On this occasion, Communicants form a single line to receive the bread from the Priest and then turn to either their left or right to receive the wine from a chalice bearer before returning to their seats.

Hymns during the Communion:

#498 "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

(sung as needed) **#479 "Glory Be to Jesus"**

A time for silent prayer and reflection is kept.

No blessing or dismissal is offered on this day.

When all have communed and the Altar is cleared once again, the Altar Ministers kneel in reverent silence. Then, all present kneel with them as they are able, and offer the following prayer before departing in silence.

Closing Prayer:

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;
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.

Please depart in silence.

We thank those who served this evening:

<i>Greeters:</i>	Jim & Darby Logan
<i>Ushers:</i>	Jim & Darby Logan
<i>Crucifer:</i>	John Goodrich
<i>Lector:</i>	Katerina Whitley
<i>Altar and Chalice Ministers:</i>	Rebecca Alford & Karla Prudhomme

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOOD FRIDAY OFFERINGS

*Please remember The Presiding Bishop's Good Friday Offering
In support of the Anglican Province of Jerusalem & The Middle East*

Please make your check payable to Holy Cross and note
"Good Friday Fund" in the memo line.

Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday Service Schedule:

Holy Saturday:

Morning Prayer: 9:30 am

Easter Sunday:

Bring a bell to ring in the news of our Salvation!

Festival Holy Eucharist Rite II with music: 8:30 am

Annual Easter Brunch at 9:45 am

Festival Holy Eucharist Rite II with music: 11:00 am

The Church of the Holy Cross

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