



Welcome to St Alban's Church

Good Friday reflective service

THE COLLECT (the special prayer of the day)

Eternal God,
in the cross of Jesus
we see the cost of our sin
and the depth of your love:
in humble hope and fear
may we place at his feet
all that we have and all that we are,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD Hebrews 10.16-25

'This is the covenant that I will make with them
after those days, says the Lord:
I will put my laws in their hearts,
and I will write them on their minds',

¹⁷ he also adds,

'I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.'

¹⁸ Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

¹⁹ Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

After the reading: This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN *Isaac Watts (1674-1748)*

**1 When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of Glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ my God:
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.**

**3 See from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down:
did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an offering far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all!**

THE PASSION READING
John 18.1-end of 19

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

*At the end...*This is the Passion of the Lord. *(No response is made)*

Silence is kept.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray to the Father, who loved the world so much
that he sent his only Son to give us life.

Simon from Cyrene was forced to carry the cross for your Son.
Give us grace to lift heavy loads from those we meet
and to stand with those condemned to die.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Your Son watched the soldiers gamble to share his clothes.
Transform the hearts of those who make a profit from their victims,
and those whose hearts are hardened by their work.
Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

The thief, who was crucified with Jesus,
was promised a place in your kingdom.
Give pardon and hope, healing and peace
to all who look death in the face.
Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

From the cross Jesus entrusted Mary his mother
and John his disciple to each other's care.
Help us also to care for one another
and fill our homes with the spirit of your love.
Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

In Mary and John your Son created a new family at the cross.
Fill our relationships,
and those of new families today,
with mutual care and responsibility,
and give us a secure hope for the future.
Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

The centurion was astonished to see your glory in the crucified Messiah.
Open the eyes of those who do not know you
to see in your Son the meaning of life and death.
Lord, hear us.

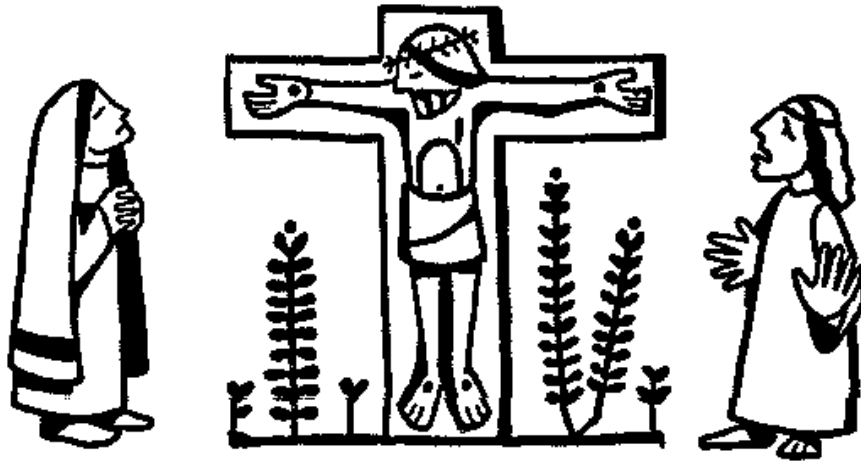
Lord, graciously hear us.

Joseph of Arimathea came to take your Son's body away.
Give hope and faith to the dying and bereaved,
and gentleness to those who minister to them.
Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Simon and Joseph, Mary and John became part of your Church in Jerusalem.
Bring into your Church today a varied company of people,
to walk with Christ in the way of his passion
and to find their salvation in the victory of his cross.
Lord of the Church,

**hear our prayer, and make us one in heart and mind
to serve you in Christ our Lord. Amen.**



THE VENERATION OF THE CROSS

After the prayers the Cross is brought in for a time of reflection and veneration

The cross of Christ:

The cross on which the Saviour of the world was hung.

HYMN *Thomas Aquinas tr. J.M. Neale, E. Caswall and others*

**1. Of the glorious Body telling,
O my tongue, its mysteries sing,
and the Blood, all price excelling,
which the world's eternal King,
in a noble womb once dwelling
shed for the world's ransoming.**

**2 Given for us, for us descending,
of a Virgin to proceed,
man with man in converse blending,
scattered he the Gospel seed,
till his sojourn drew to ending,
which he closed in wondrous deed.**

**3 At the last great Supper lying
circled by his brethren's band,
meekly with the law complying,
first he finished its command
then, immortal Food supplying,
gave himself with his own hand.**

**4 Word made Flesh, by word he maketh
very bread his Flesh to be;
man in wine Christ's Blood partaketh:
and if senses fail to see,
faith alone the true heart waketh
to behold the mystery.**

**5 Therefore we, before him bending,
this great Sacrament revere;
types and shadows have their ending,
for the newer rite is here;
faith, our outward sense befriending,
makes the inward vision clear.**

**6 Glory let us give, and blessing
to the Father and the Son;
honour, might and praise addressing,
while eternal ages run;
ever too his love confessing,
who, from both, with both is one.**

Then the priest says:

Standing at the foot of the cross,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name;
Your kingdom come, your will be done;
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen**

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.