

THE CROSS OF CHRIST

A DEVOTION FOR CONGREGATION AND CHOIR

† THE GATHERING

All stand

The ministers and choir enter in silence

A large, plain cross is carried in silence to a prominent central location

This is the wood of the cross,
on which hung the Saviour of the world.

All **Come, let us worship.**

CW Times and Seasons

On the cross, Jesus offered himself to the Father for the whole world.
At the foot of his cross, we join our prayers with his.

We glory in your cross, O Lord,
and praise and glorify your holy resurrection:

All **for by virtue of the cross,
joy has come to the whole world.**

God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,

All **that your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.**

We glory in your cross, O Lord,
and praise and glorify your holy resurrection:

All **for by virtue of the cross,
joy has come to the whole world.**

CW Daily Prayer

Almighty Father,
look with mercy on this your family
for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed
and given up into the hands of sinners
and to suffer death upon the cross;
who is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

CW

The Collect of Good Friday

O Saviour of the world,
who by your cross and precious blood have redeemed us,

All **save us and help us, we humbly pray.**

CW Times and Seasons

HYMN 1: THERE IS A GREEN HILL FAR AWAY

- 1 There is a green hill far away,
 without a city wall,
 where the dear Lord was crucified,
 who died to save us all.

- 2 We may not know, we cannot tell,
 what pains he had to bear,
 but we believe it was for us
 he hung and suffered there.

- 3 He died that we might be forgiven,
 he died to make us good,
 that we might go at last to heaven,
 saved by his precious blood.

- 4 There was no other good enough
 to pay the price of sin;
 he only could unlock the gate
 of heaven, and let us in.

- 5 O dearly, dearly has he loved,

and we must love him too,
and trust in his redeeming blood,
and try his works to do.

Cecil Frances Alexander (née Humphreys) (1818–1895)

¶ I – THE CROSS IS FORETOLD

Reading

Isaiah 53.3–8

After the reading

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

All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

CW Daily Prayer

Antem 1: set to music by F A G Ouseley (1825–1889)

Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by?
Behold and see if there be any sorrow like
unto my sorrow, which is done unto me,
wherewith the Lord hath afflicted me in
the day of his fierce anger.

Hymn 2: Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle

1 Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle,
Sing the last, the dread affray;
O'er the cross, the victor's trophy,
Sound the high triumphal lay,
How, the pains of death enduring,
Earth's Redeemer won the day.

- 2 When at length the appointed fullness
 Of the sacred time was come,
 He was sent, the world's Creator,
 From the Father's heavenly home,
 And was found in human fashion,
 Offspring of the virgin's womb.
- 3 Now the thirty years are ended
 Which on earth He willed to see,
 Willingly He meets His Passion,
 Born to set His people free;
 On the cross the Lamb is lifted,
 There the sacrifice to be.
- 4 There the nails and spear He suffers,
 Vinegar and gall and reed;
 From His sacred body piercèd
 Blood and water both proceed:
 Precious flood, which all creation
 From the stain of sin hath freed.

*Pange lingua gloriosi praelium certaminis
Venantius Honorius Clementianus Fortunatus (c.530–609)
translated by John M Neale (1818–1866) and others*

† II – JESUS IS BETRAYED

Reading: *Mark 14.32–50*

After the reading

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

Anthem 2: Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake by John Hilton (1560–1608)

Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake
lay not our sins to our charge;
but forgive that is past, and give us grace to amend our sinful lives; to
decline from sin, and incline to virtue; that we may walk in an upright
heart, before thee this day/night and evermore.

Hymn 3: Be thou my guardian and my guide

- 1 Be thou my guardian and my guide,
and hear me when I call;
let not my slippery footsteps slide,
and hold me lest I fall.
- 2 The world, the flesh, and Satan dwell
around the path I tread;
O save me from the snares of hell,
thou quickener of the dead.
- 3 And if I tempted am to sin,
and outward things are strong,
do thou, O Lord, keep watch within,
and save my soul from wrong.
- 4 Still let me ever watch and pray,
and feel that I am frail;
that if the tempter cross my way,
yet he may not prevail.

Isaac Willams (1802–1865)



III – JESUS IS TRIED BEFORE THE JEWISH HIGH PRIEST

Reading: *Matthew 26.57–68*

After the reading

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

Anthem 3: O Lord, who dares to smite by J S Bach (1685–1750)

O Lord, who dares to smite thee,
and falsely to indict thee,
deride and mock thee so?
Thou canst not need confession,
who knowest not transgression,
as we and all our children know.

Hymn 4: My God, I love thee

- 1 My God, I love thee, not because
I hope for heaven thereby,
nor yet because who love thee not
are lost eternally.
- 2 Thou O my Jesus, thou didst me
upon the Cross embrace;
for me didst bear the nails and spear,
and manifold disgrace,
- 3 And griefs and torments numberless,
and sweat of agony;
yea, death itself—and all for me
who was thine enemy.
- 4 Then why, O blessèd Jesu Christ,
should I not love thee well?
Not for the sake of winning heaven,
nor of escaping hell;
- 5 Not from the hope of gaining aught,
not seeking a reward;
but as thyself hast lovèd me,
O ever-loving Lord.
- 6 So would I love thee, dearest Lord,
and in thy praise will sing;
solely because thou art my God,
and my most loving King.

No me mueve, mi Dios, para querieste O Deus, ego amo te
Anonymous Latin, Anonymous Spanish,
Francis Xavier (formerly attributed) (1506–1552)
Edward Caswall (1814–1878)

¶ IV – JESUS IS TRIED BEFORE PILATE

Reading: *Matthew 27.11–31*

After the reading

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

Anthem 4: Ah, holy Jesu by Johann Crüger (1598–1662)

- 1 Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended,
That man to judge thee hath in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,
O most afflicted.
- 2 Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee:
I crucified thee.
- 3 Lo, the good Shepherd for the sheep is offered;
The slave hath sinnèd, and the Son hath suffered;
For man's atonement, while he nothing heedeth,
God intercedeth.

Quid commisti, dulcissime puer, ut sic judicareris
Anselm of Canterbury (1033–1109)

Hymn 5: My song is love unknown

- 1 My song is love unknown,
my Saviour's love to me,
love to the loveless shown,
that they might lovely be.
O who am I, that for my sake
my Lord should take
frail flesh, and die?
- 2 He came from his blest throne,
salvation to bestow;
but men made strange, and none
the longed-for Christ would know.
But O, my Friend,
my Friend indeed,
who at my need
his life did spend.
- 3 Sometimes they strew his way,
and his sweet praises sing;
resounding all the day
hosannas to their King.
Then 'Crucify!'
is all their breath,
and for his death
they thirst and cry.
- 4 They rise, and needs will have
my dear Lord made away;
a murderer they save,
the Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful he
to suffering goes,
that he his foes
from thence might free.

5 Here might I stay and sing:
 no story so divine;
 never was love, dear King,
 never was grief like thine!
 This is my Friend,
 in whose sweet praise
 I all my days
 could gladly spend.

Samuel Crossman (1624–1684)

¶ **V – JESUS IS CRUCIFIED**

Reading: *Matthew 27.33–44*

After the reading

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

Anthem 5: Jesu, word of God incarnate by W A Mozart (1756–1791)

Jesu, word of God incarnate,
of the Virgin Mary born;
on the cross thy sacred body,
for us men with nails was torn.
Cleanse us by the blood and water
streaming from thy pierced side.
Feed us with thy body broken,
now and in death's agony.

Hymn 6: O sacred head

- 1 O sacred head, sore wounded,
defiled and put to scorn;
O kingly head, surrounded
with mocking crown of thorn:
What sorrow mars thy grandeur?
Can death thy bloom deflower?
O countenance whose splendour
the hosts of heaven adore!
- 2 I pray thee, Jesus, own me,
me, Shepherd good, for thine;
who to thy fold hast won me,
and fed with truth divine.
Me guilty, me refuse not,
incline thy face to me,
this comfort that I lose not,
on earth to comfort thee.

O Haupt voll Blut und Wunden Paulus Gerhardt (1607–1676)

attributed after Arnuf von Loewen (1200–1250)

translated Robert Seymour Bridges (1844–1930)

¶ VI – JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

Reading: *Mark 15.33–39*

After the reading

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

Anthem 6: O Saviour of the world by John Goss (1800–1880)

O Saviour of the world, who by thy cross
and precious blood has redeemed us,
save us, and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord. Amen

Hymn 7: O dearest Lord

- 1 O dearest Lord, thy sacred head
with thorns was pierced for me;
o pour thy blessing on my head,
that I may think for thee.
- 2 O dearest Lord, thy sacred hands
with nails were pierced for me;
o shed thy blessing on my hands,
that they may work for thee.
- 3 O dearest Lord, thy sacred feet
with nails were pierced for me;
o pour thy blessing on my feet,
that they may follow thee.
- 4 O dearest Lord, thy sacred heart
with spear was pierced for me;
o pour thy spirit in my heart,
that I may live for thee.

Henry Ernest Hardy (Father Andrew) (1869–1946)

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Remain standing

Let us pray

Silence is kept.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,
who at this evening hour lay in the tomb
and so hallowed the grave
to be a bed of hope for all who put their trust in you:
give us such sorrow for our sins,
which were the cause of your passion,
that when our bodies lie in the dust,
our souls may live with you for ever.
All Amen.

CW Daily Prayer

Sit

¶ **VII – CHRIST TRIUMPHANT**

Reading: *Philippians 2.5–11*

After the reading

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

Hymn 8: Praise to the holiest in the height

- 1 Praise to the Holiest in the height,
 and in the depth be praise:
 in all his words most wonderful,
 most sure in all his ways.

- 2 O loving wisdom of our God!
 when all was sin and shame,
 a second Adam to the fight
 and to the rescue came.

- 3 O wisest love! that flesh and blood,
which did in Adam fail,
should strive afresh against the foe,
should strive and should prevail;
- 4 And that a higher gift than grace
should flesh and blood refine,
God's presence and his very self,
and essence all-divine.
- 5 O generous love! that he, who smote
in Man for man the foe,
the double agony in Man
for man should undergo;
- 6 And in the garden secretly,
and on the Cross on high,
should teach his brethren, and inspire
to suffer and to die.
- 7 Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise:
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.

John Henry Newman (1801–1890)



THE CONCLUSION

Remain standing

O Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of the living God,
set your passion, cross and death
between your judgement and our souls,
now and in the hour of our death.
Grant mercy and grace to the living,
rest to the departed,
to your Church peace and concord
and to us sinners forgiveness,
and everlasting life and glory;
for, with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
you are alive and reign,
God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

CW Times and Seasons

May the Father,
who so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
bring you by faith to his eternal life.

All Amen.

May Christ,
who accepted the cup of sacrifice
in obedience to the Father's will,
keep you steadfast as you walk with him the way of his cross.

All Amen.

May the Spirit,
who strengthens us to suffer with Christ
that we may share his glory,
set your minds on life and peace.

All Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

CW Times and Seasons

Hymn 9: When I survey the wondrous cross

- 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 cross of Christ my God;
 the very 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?

- [Unison]
- 5 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.

Isaac Watts (1674–1748)

Remain standing

The ministers and choir leave in silence

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ALTERNATIVE READINGS

First Reading: John 3.13–17

Second Reading: John 18.15–27

Third Reading: John 18.28–38a

Fourth Reading: John 18.38b–19.16a

Fifth Reading: John 19.16b–27

Sixth Reading: John 19.28–30

Seventh Reading: John 12.20–32

ALTERNATIVE HYMNS

Hymns 2a: See, Christ was wounded for our sake

- 1 See, Christ was wounded for our sake,
 And bruised and beaten for our sin,
 So by his sufferings we are healed,
 For God has laid our guilt on him.

- 2 Look on his face, come close to him-
 See, you will find no beauty there:
 Despised, rejected, who can tell
 The grief and sorrow he must bear?

- 3 Like sheep that stray we leave God's path,
 To choose our own and not his will;
 Like sheep to slaughter he has gone
 Obedient to his Father's will.

- 4 Cast out to die by those he loved,
 Reviled by those he died to save,
 See how sin's pride has sought his death,
 See how sin's hate has made his grave.

- 5 For on his shoulders God has laid
 The weight of sin that we should bear;
 So by his passion we have peace,
 Through his obedience and his prayer.

Brian Foley (1919–2000)

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Hymn 3a: O God, be gracious to me in your love

- 1 O God, be gracious to me in your love,
and in your mercy pardon my misdeeds;
wash me from guilt and cleanse me from my sin,
for well I know the evil I have done.

- 2 Against you, Lord, you only have I sinned,
and what to you is hateful have I done;
I own your righteousness in charging me,
I know you to be just should you condemn.

- 3 Take hyssop, sprinkle me and make me clean,
wash me and make me whiter than the snow;
fill me with gladness and rejoicing, Lord,
and let my broken frame know joy once more.

- 4 Turn now your face, Lord God, from my misdeeds,
and blot out all the sins that sully me;
create a clean and contrite heart in me,
renew my soul in faithfulness and love.

- 5 Drive me not from your presence, gracious Lord,
nor keep your Holy Spirit far from me;
restore my soul with your salvation's joy,
and with a willing spirit strengthen me.

Psalm 51.1–12

Ian Robertson Pitt-Watson (1923–1995)

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Hymn 4a: A time to watch, a time to pray

- 1 A time to watch, a time to pray,
 A day of wonders is today:
 The saddest, yet the gladdest too,
 That ever man or angel knew:

- 2 The saddest-for our Saviour bore
 His death, that man might die no more:
 The agony, the scourge, the fear,
 The crown of thorns, the cross, the spear;

- 3 And yet the gladdest-for today
 Our load of sin was borne away:
 And hopes of joy that never dies
 Hang on our Saviour's sacrifice.

- 4 O Saviour, blessèd be Thy name!
 Thine is the glory, our the shame;
 By all the pain Thy love endured
 Let all our many sins be cured.

John M Neale (1818–1866)

Hymn 5a: We sing the praise of him who died

- 1 We sing the praise of him who died,
of him who died upon the cross;
the sinner's hope though all deride,
for this we count the world but loss.

- 2 Inscribed upon the cross we see
in shining letters, 'God is love;'
he bears our sins upon the tree;
he brings us mercy from above.

- 3 The Cross! it takes our guilt away:
it holds the fainting spirit up;
it cheers with hope the gloomy day,
and sweetens every bitter cup.

- 4 It makes the coward spirit brave,
and nerves the feeble arm for fight;
it takes all terror from the grave,
and gilds the bed of death with light:

- 5 The balm of life, the cure of woe,
the measure and the pledge of love,
the sinner's refuge here below,
the angels' theme in heaven above.

Thomas Kelly (1769–1855)

Hymn 6a: A purple robe, a crown of thorn

- 1 A purple robe, a crown of thorn,
a reed in his right hand;
before the soldiers' spite and scorn
I see my Saviour stand.
- 2 He bears between the Roman guard
the weight of all our woe;
a stumbling figure bowed and scarred
I see my Saviour go.
- 3 Fast to the cross's spreading span,
high in the sunlit air,
all the unnumbered sins of man
I see my Saviour bear.
- 4 He hangs, by whom the world was made,
beneath the darkened sky;
the everlasting ransom paid,
I see my Saviour die.
- 5 He shares on high his Father's throne,
who once in mercy came;
for all his love to sinners shown
I sing my Saviour's Name.

Timothy-Dudley Smith (b. 1926)

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Hymn 7a: Oh, to see the dawn

- 1 Oh, to see the dawn of the darkest day;
Christ on the road to Calvary;
tried by sinful men, torn and beaten then,
nailed to a cross of wood.
*This the pow'r of the cross;
Christ became sin for us;
took the blame, bore the wrath.
We stand forgiven at the cross.*
- 2 Oh, to see the pain written on your face,
bearing the awesome weight of sin;
ev'ry bitter thought, ev'ry evil deed,
crowning your blood-stained brow.
Chorus
- 3 Now the daylight flees, now the ground
beneath quakes as its maker bows his head,
curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life;
'Finished!' the vict'ry cry.
Chorus
- 4 Oh, to see my name written in the wounds,
for through your suff'ring I am free;
death is crushed to death, life is mine to live;
won through your selfless love.
*This the pow'r of the cross;
Son of God, slain for us;
what a love! What a cost!
We stand forgiven at the cross.*

Keith Getty (born 1974) and Stuart Townend (born 1963)

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Hymn 8a: Unless a grain a wheat

*Unless a grain of wheat shall fall upon the ground and die
it remains a single grain, with no life.*

- 1 If we have died with him, then we shall live with him;
 if we hold firm we shall reign with him.
- 2 If anyone serves me, then they must follow me;
 wherever I am my servants will be.
- 3 Make your home in me as I make mine in you;
 those who remain in me bear much fruit.
- 4 If you remain in me and my word lives in you;
 then you will be my disciples.
- 5 Those who love me are loved by my Father;
 we shall be with them and dwell in them.
- 6 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you;
 peace which the world cannot give is my gift.

*Unless a grain of wheat shall fall upon the ground and die
it remains a single grain, with no life.*

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ALTERNATIVE ANTHEM SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions are taken from the RSCM publications '*Season by Season*
– *Music for Times & Seasons*'.

I–The Cross is foretold: 6. O for a closer walk with God

II–Jesus is betrayed: 10. Glory be to Jesus

III–Jesus is tried before the Jewish High Priest: 9. As royal
banners are unfurled

IV–Jesus is tried before Pilate: 13. When you prayed beneath
the trees

V–Jesus is crucified: 11. Praise the Lord, who carries our
burden

VI–Jesus dies on the cross: 23. Jesus lifted high on Calvary