

OPENING SENTENCES

Come, behold the man of suffering.

We have come.

Come, look at his appearance.

We have come.

Come, gather around the cross to see him.

We have come.

Come, weep as the curtain falls over the light of the world.

We have come. We see. We behold. We weep.

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

INTRODUCTORY WORDS AND PRAYER

On this holy day, let us return in heart and mind to the Garden of Gethsemane, the courts of Herod and Pilate and the hill called Golgotha. As the events of the passion of Christ are recalled, let us take our place in this story as onlookers, as accusers, as soldiers, as mourners and above all, as sinners in need of a Saviour. But first, let us pray that God may give us hearing ears, understanding minds, and believing hearts:

Almighty God, it was because of our sin and for our salvation that your Son suffered death on the cross. As we gather in worship today, help us see and know anew the depth of his sacrifice, the extent of his love, and the power of his grace. Grant that as we walk with him on the way of the cross, and there behold his broken body, we may receive through Christ our peace, our pardon and our eternal deliverance.

Amen.

THERE IS A GREEN HILL FAR AWAY

**There is a green hill far away, outside a city wall,
where the dear Lord was crucified, who died to save us all.**

**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.**

**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.**

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

**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 Humphreys Alexander, William Horsley
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BIBLE READING

READING ONE: John 18:1-12 Jesus arrested in a garden

When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it. Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. So Judas came to the garden, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons. Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?" "Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "I am he," Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them, "Who is it you want?" "Jesus of Nazareth," they said. Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go." This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: "I have not lost one of those you gave me." Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?" Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him

WHEN OUR LIFE BEGAN AGAIN (v 1&2)

**When His time was over, The palms lay where they fell.
As they ate together, He told His friends farewell.
Jesus, though You cried out for some other end,
Love could only choose a cross When our life began again.**

**Secretly they planned it, with money changing hands;
In the quiet garden a kiss betrayed their man,
Priests and elders tried Him, soldiers crowned Him King,
We were in the crowd that day When our life began again.**

Robin Mann

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READING TWO: John 18:15-26 Peter denies Jesus

Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard, but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the servant girl on duty there and brought Peter in. "You aren't one of this man's disciples too, are you?" she asked Peter. He replied, "I am not." It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. Peter also was standing with them, warming himself. Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. "I have spoken openly to the world," Jesus replied. "I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said." When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby slapped him in the face. "Is this the way you answer the high priest?" he demanded. "If I said something wrong," Jesus replied, "testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?" Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. Meanwhile, Simon Peter was still standing there warming himself. So they asked him, "You aren't one of his disciples too, are you?" He denied it, saying, "I am not." One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, "Didn't I see you with him in the garden?"

YOU ARE THE PRISONER (v 1-2)

**You are the prisoner shackled and bound;
soldiers mistreat you, you make no sound;
they lead you captive for all to see;
you are the prisoner, and I am free.**

**You are abandoned, left all alone;
your friends are faithless, hearts made of stone.
Blood from your crown seeps down on your face;
you are abandoned, I am embraced.**

Robin Mann

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READING THREE: John 18:28-40 Jesus before Pilate and the release of Barabbas

Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they did not enter the palace, because they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate came out to them and asked, "What charges are you bringing against this man?" "If he were not a criminal," they replied, "we would not have handed him over to you." Pilate said, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." "But we have no right to execute anyone," they objected. This took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die. Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?" "Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?" Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place." "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." "What is truth?" retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him. But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release 'the king of the Jews'?" They shouted back, "No, not him! Give us Barabbas!" Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising.

YOU ARE THE PRISONER (v 3-5)

**You are condemned to carry a cross;
'Guilty' the verdict, this is the cost:
thirty-nine lashes, hung among thief;
you are condemned, and I am reprieved.**

**You are brought down and you are despised,
humiliated, dehumanised;
cruel is your suffering, bitter your cup;
you are brought down, and I am raised up.**

**Let me look closely into your pain,
learn of your suffering, know all your shame;
let me attend to all or your wounds -
Jesus, you'll never suffer alone.**

Robin Mann

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READING FOUR: John 19:1-17 Jesus sentenced to be crucified

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe and went up to him again and again, saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!" And they slapped him in the face. Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him." When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!" But Pilate answered, "You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him." The Jewish leaders insisted, "We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God." When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, and he went back inside the palace. "Where do you come from?" he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. "Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?" Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, "If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar." When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge's seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon. "Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews. But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!" "Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked. "We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered. Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha).

O DEAREST JESUS (v 1-3)

**O dearest Jesus, with body broken,
God's final sentence, God's last word, is spoken.
We see, with eyes that know about your crying,
your crucifying.**

**Why did they mock you? Why did people jeer you?
Aren't you the king? The whole world should have cheered you.
Ah, but our hearts are cold, and we are blinded,
so evil-minded.**

**We made your crown with thorns from deep inside us,
hammered your hands with nails no-one supplied us.
We need no help to stage a crucifixion -
it's our affliction.**

Robin Mann

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READING FIVE: John 19:18-27 The crucifixion of Jesus

There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle. Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: Jesus of nazareth, the king of the jews. Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.” Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.” When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. “Let’s not tear it,” they said to one another. “Let’s decide by lot who will get it.” This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said, “They divided my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.” So this is what the soldiers did. Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, “Woman, here is your son,” and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

WHEN OUR LIFE BEGAN AGAIN (v 3-4)

**Women wept to see Him; He said: 'Don't weep for me'.
Many laughed and mocked Him: 'Forgive them, they don't see'.
Jesus, please forgive me, You know what I am;
I was one who nailed Your hands
When our life began again.**

**There was one who asked you: 'Remember me this day'.
Jesus, when I'm dying, remember me that way.
When my life is over, be with me, my Friend,
Like the thief upon the cross,
When our life began again.**

Robin Mann

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READING SIX: John 19:28-37 The death of Jesus

Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced."

HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE

**How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure,
that He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss, the Father turns His face away,
as wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.**

**Behold the man upon the cross, my sin upon His shoulders;
ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.**

**It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished;
His dying death has brought me life - I know that it is finished.**

**I will not boast in anything, no gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom;
but I will boast in Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer,
but this I know with all my heart, His wounds have paid my ransom.**

Stuart Townend

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MESSAGE

At this point you may wish to watch the Sermon.

For Church YouTube Channel ([click here](#))

For LCA Worship Resources ([click here](#))

CONFESSION OF SINS

*Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins,
and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.*

**Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor helpless sinner, confess to You all my sins,
and repent of all the evil I have done. I have deeply displeased You and deserve Your
punishment in time and in eternity. But I am sorry for my sins, and I ask You, for the
sake of the holy innocent sufferings and death of Your dear Son Jesus Christ, to be
gracious and merciful to me. Amen.**

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given His only Son to
die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He
has given the right to become children of God, and has given them His Holy Spirit.
Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all. Amen.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

Father in heaven, your Son was brutalised by the soldiers of Herod and Pilate. Give peace, comfort, strength and hope to all who are victims of violence and war, and lead those who sin against them towards true repentance. Lord, hear us: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

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.**

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

BLESSING

By his stripes we are healed.

By his wounds, we are made whole.

*May the love of God the Father, the sacrifice of Christ the Son and the presence of the Holy Spirit fill you with comfort, peace and hope. **Amen.***

READING SEVEN: John 19:38-42 The burial of Jesus

Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds.[a] Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

HYMNS & SONGS

First reading: Isaiah 52 :13 - 53:12

LHS

48 Lamb of God most holy
55 O dearest Jesus
57 A Lamb goes uncomplaining forth
58 O world, see thy Life languish
60 Christ, the life of all the living
66 Go, my soul, to Calvary

AT

22 He was wounded
261 The Servant King

TIS

208 Jesus has come, and brings joy as our
Saviour
249 No weight of gold or silver

70 Stricken, smitten and afflicted
73 Go to dark Gethsemane
81 O perfect life of love!
84 There is a green hill far away
156 Jesus our Saviour, of true joy the
giver

347 O dearest Jesus

337 O dearest Jesus
338 See, world, your life suspended
350 There is a green hill far away

Second reading (a): Hebrews 10:16-25

LHS

65 Lord Jesus, we give thanks to Thee
67 And can it be that I should gain
173 Before the throne of God above

AT

217 Shine, Jesus, shine

TIS

209 And can it be that I should gain
219 Jesus comes with all his grace
464 Seek, O seek the Lord

282 Draw nigh, and take the body of the
Lord
325 Approach, my soul, the mercy seat
859 Seek, O seek the Lord

345 Nothing but the blood

498 Draw near and take the body of our
Lord
542 Far beyond our mind's grasp
675 Lord, the light of your love

Second reading (b): Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

LHS

73 Go to dark Gethsemane
81 O perfect life of love

AT

171 Dying, you destroyed our death

173 Before the throne of God above

185 Jesus, Son of God and man

TIS

205 Join all the glorious names
206 With joy we meditate the grace
235 A man there lived in Galilee

374 Entered the holy place above
377 Where high the heavenly temple
stands

Gospel: John 18:1 - 19:42

LHS

49 Alone Thou goest forth, O Lord
50 Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle
51 Let Thy blood in mercy poured
52 O sacred head, now wounded
53 Jesus, refuge of the weary
54 When I survey the wondrous cross
55 O dearest Jesus, what law hast Thou
broken
58 O world, see thy Life languish
59 Jesus, I will ponder now
60 Christ, the life of all the living
62 My song is love unknown
63 O darkest woe!
65 Lord Jesus, we give thanks to Thee
66 Go, my soul, to Calvary
69 Glory be to Jesus

AT

125 Man more than man *Praise*
139 Christ humbled himself
143 Jesus dying on the cross
245 You are the prisoner

TIS

141 Praise to the Holiest in the height
331 Sing, my tongue *Praise*
332 The royal banners forward go
334 At the cross her vigil keeping
335 To Christ the Prince of peace
337 O dearest Jesus
338 See, world, your life suspended
339 O sacred head
340 Before the cock crew
341 My song is love unknown
342 When I survey the wondrous cross

70 Stricken, smitten and afflicted
71 Come to Calvary's holy mountain
73 Go to dark Gethsemane
75 We sing the praise of Him who died
78 Jesus, who for my transgression
79 Lord Jesus, when we stand afar
80 Praise to the Holiest in the height
81 O perfect life of love!*

82 Jesus, in Thy dying woes
84 There is a green hill far away
85 According to Thy gracious word
620 O dearest Lord, Thy sacred head
752 A purple robe, a crown of thorns
754 Jesus dying on the cross
758 The royal banners forward go

335 You rode into Jerusalem
338 In a dusty old place
347 O dearest Jesus
387 Jesus, remember me

343 Nature with open volume stands
344 Glory be to Jesus
345 Were you there?
347 We sing the praise
350 There is a green hill
352 O dearest Lord, thy sacred head
354 O Jesus crucified
355 Man more than man
502 Soul of my Saviour, sanctify my breast
515 According to thy gracious word