

## Good Friday (10<sup>th</sup> April)



### Opening Prayer:

Father, As we gather together today, we remember the supreme sacrifice of our beautiful King, the Lord Jesus Christ. Led like a lamb to the slaughter, clothed in humility and grace, he willingly offered himself to death so that we might live forever. We are truly thankful for the extent of his love, stretched out on a cruel wooden cross. We dwell on the pain he bore for us and are truly grateful for the forgiveness that he offers. As we worship and praise now, help us to live in the wonder of this goodness and marvel at his endless grace. Amen

### Mark 15 v1-5

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+15&version=GNT>

### Jesus before Pilate

**1** Early in the morning the chief priests met hurriedly with the elders, the teachers of the Law, and the whole Council, and made their plans. They put Jesus in chains, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. **2** Pilate questioned him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "So you say."**3** The chief priests were accusing Jesus of many things, **4** so Pilate questioned him again, "Aren't you going to answer? Listen to all their accusations!" **5** Again Jesus refused to say a word, and Pilate was amazed.

## Hymn: 207 My Song is Love Unknown

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bNN9DBobCdw>

### Mark 15 v6-15

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+15&version=GNT>

#### Jesus Is Sentenced to Death

**6** At every Passover Festival Pilate was in the habit of setting free any one prisoner the people asked for. **7** At that time a man named Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder in the riot. **8** When the crowd gathered and began to ask Pilate for the usual favor, **9** he asked them, "Do you want me to set free for you the king of the Jews?" **10** He knew very well that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him because they were jealous. **11** But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to ask, instead, that Pilate set Barabbas free for them. **12** Pilate spoke again to the crowd, "What, then, do you want me to do with the one you call the king of the Jews?" **13** They shouted back, "Crucify him!" **14** "But what crime has he committed?" Pilate asked. They shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!" **15** Pilate wanted to please the crowd, so he set Barabbas free for them. Then he had Jesus whipped and handed him over to be crucified.

#### Calvary Clover:

One of the plants associated with the Christian calendar is the yellow flower which is known as Calvary Clover. Traditionally sown on Good Friday, it produces a prickly seed pod which can have up to eleven seeds representing the eleven faithful disciples— but never twelve. When the seed pod is opened, it reveals a miniature crown of thorns and a scourge.

Calvary Clover grows in the Mediterranean countries and southern England. Each leaf has a blood-red mark, and legend tells us that it grew at the foot of the Cross and the leaves were spotted with the blood of Christ.

Since that day, it is said, the leaf has borne a red spot as a constant reminder to us of what happened on that first Good Friday.

### Mark 15 v16-20

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+15&version=GNT>

#### The Soldiers Make Fun of Jesus

**16** The soldiers took Jesus inside to the courtyard of the governor's palace and called together the rest of the company. **17** They put a purple robe on Jesus, made a crown out of thorny branches, and put it on his head. **18** Then they began to salute him: "Long live the King of the Jews!" **19** They beat him over the head with a stick, spat on him, fell on their knees, and bowed down to him. **20** When they had finished making fun of him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes back on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

### **Crown Imperials:**

I wonder if you have any Crown Imperials growing in your garden. They are a striking flower with large bell-shaped blooms growing on stems three feet tall. Unlike the majority of flowers, these blooms hang downwards.

The story goes that they were growing on Calvary on the day of the Crucifixion. As Christ hung on the Cross, he asked them to bow their heads in sympathy with him—but they refused.

Afterwards, when they realised what they had done, they hung their heads in shame, and their petals—which had previously been pale—turned red and purple with embarrassment. If you look carefully inside, you can see the tears they are said to have shed.

### **Hymn: 223 There is a Green Hill**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ogRvBVRvqvk>

### **Mark 15 v21-32**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+15&version=GNT>

### **Jesus Is Crucified**

**21** On the way they met a man named Simon, who was coming into the city from the country, and the soldiers forced him to carry Jesus' cross. (Simon was from Cyrene and was the father of Alexander and Rufus.) **22** They took Jesus to a place called Golgotha, which means "The Place of the Skull." **23** There they tried to give him wine mixed with a drug called myrrh, but Jesus would not drink it. **24** Then they crucified him and divided his clothes among themselves, throwing dice to see who would get which piece of clothing. **25** It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. **26** The notice of the accusation against him said: "The King of the Jews." **27** They also crucified two bandits with Jesus, one on his right and the other on his left. **28** [a] **29** People passing

by shook their heads and hurled insults at Jesus: "Aha! You were going to tear down the Temple and build it back up in three days! **30** Now come down from the cross and save yourself!" **31** In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the Law made fun of Jesus, saying to one another, "He saved others, but he cannot save himself! **32** Let us see the Messiah, the king of Israel, come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him!" And the two who were crucified with Jesus insulted him also.

### Hymn: 227 Were you there

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BLJ0IjLAmOA>

### Mark 15 v33-39

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+15&version=GNT>

## The Death of Jesus

**33** At noon the whole country was covered with darkness, which lasted for three hours. **34** At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud shout, "*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*" which means, "My God, my God, why did you abandon me?" **35** Some of the people there heard him and said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah!" **36** One of them ran up with a sponge, soaked it in cheap wine, and put it on the end of a stick. Then he held it up to Jesus' lips and said, "Wait! Let us see if Elijah is coming to bring him down from the cross!" **37** With a loud cry Jesus died. **38** The curtain hanging in the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. **39** The army officer who was standing there in front of the cross saw how Jesus had died.<sup>[b]</sup> "This man was really the Son of God!" he said.

### Hymn: 217 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9eCUqz\\_x5A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9eCUqz_x5A)

### Closing Prayer:

It is finished , Lord

Your voice is now silent, the voice brought healing and hope, called unlikely fishermen and a tax collector to follow you, challenged people to turn their lives in a new direction

Christ of the Cross, now you leave the work to us

It is finished Lord,

Your eyes are now closed, the eyes which saw the lostness of people, like sheep without a shepherd; and the possibilities within people to make your kingdom come alive.

Christ of the Cross, now you leave the work to us.

It is finished, Lord

Your ears are now deaf, the ears which listened joyfully to children, patiently to disciples who argued about who should have the best seats in your kingdom, lovingly to those who came to you at their wits end.

Christ of the Cross, now you leave the work to us

It is finished, Lord

Your hands are now still, the hands which cooled the fever, touched the leper, broke bread and shared it, and reaching out to the whole world, were nailed to the cross, the most accurate picture of God the world has ever seen.

Christ of the Cross, now you leave the work to us

As we enter the darkness of tonight and tomorrow, help us to wait trustingly, expectantly, ready to greet you, and be surprised by you, our risen Lord, on Easter morning.

Then in the power of your resurrection, send us on our way

To do the work you have left us. Amen