

GOOD FRIDAY
NIGHT LITURGY
OF THE DEPOSITION AND BURIAL
OF THE LORD



This Liturgy celebrates the journey of Christ into the realm of Death and Hades. The effect of his redemption works at both a conscious and unconscious level, affecting the whole cosmic order. The place of the Mother of God and of Jesus' friends and allies is also celebrated and reminds us of the importance of these 'lesser' figures of the Passion.

A large Crucifix stands on the altar. The church is in semi-darkness. A low table, representing the Tomb of Christ and surrounded by candles and flowers, stands in the centre of the church.

The Liturgy begins with Night Prayer

THE PREPARATION (*Please stand*)

Off: ✚ The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

All: **Amen.**

Off: Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen. Glory to you, O Christ, glory to you!**

A period of silence follows, for reflection on the past day after which we say:

Off: Most merciful God,

All: **we confess to you,**

**before the whole company of heaven and one another,
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed,
and in what we have failed to do.**

**Forgive us our sins, heal us by your Spirit
and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.**

Off: ✚ O God, make speed to save us.

All: **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

HYMN

1. Servant of God, remember
The stream thy soul bedewing,
The grace that came upon thee
Anointing and renewing.

2. When kindly slumber calls thee,
Upon thy bed reclining,
Trace thou the cross of Jesus,
Thy heart and forehead signing.

3. The cross dissolves the darkness,
And drives away temptation;
It calms the wavering spirit
By quiet consecration.

4. Begone, begone, the terrors
Of vague and formless dreaming;
Begone, thou fell deceiver,
With all thy boasted scheming.

5. Begone, thou crooked serpent,
Who, twisting and pursuing,
By fraud and lie preparent
The simple soul's undoing.

6. Tremble, for Christ is near us,
Depart, for here He dwelleth,
And this, the sign thou knowest,
Thy strong battalions quelleth.

7. Then while the weary body
Its rest in sleep is nearing,
The heart will muse in silence
On Christ and His appearing.

Off.2 Uplifted on the Cross, you have uplifted with yourself all the living: and then descending beneath the earth, raised those that lie buried there.

Off.1 **Willingly, O Saviour, you have gone down beneath the earth and have restored the dead to life, leading them back to the glory of the Father.**

Off.2 Your word is a lantern to my feet and a light to my path.
O let my soul live that I may praise you,
and let your judgements be my help!

All: O Word and God of all, in our hymns we praise you with the Father and your Holy Spirit, and we glorify your divine burial.

(A candle is extinguished)

CONCLUSION

Off.1 May he who, for us and for our salvation, endured in the flesh the dread Passion, the life-giving Cross + and the burial among the dead, Christ our true God, grant us his blessing now and forever and to the ages of ages.

All: Amen.

(All depart in silence)

Off.2: Noble Joseph, taking down your most pure body from the Tree, wrapped it in clean linen with sweet spices, and laid it in a new Tomb.

All: Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.

Off.3: When you, the Redeemer of all, were laid for the sake of all, in a new Tomb, hell was brought to scorn and, seeing you, drew back in fear. The bars were broken and Adam in thanksgiving sang:

All: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy name.

(A candle is extinguished)

Off.1: The Master of all is seen lying in death, and in a new tomb he is laid, who empties the tombs of the dead.

All: I will praise you with sincerity of heart, as I learn your righteous judgements.

Off.1 The flesh of God is hidden now beneath the earth, like a candle underneath the bushel, and it drives away the darkness in Hell.

All: I am but a stranger on earth; do not hide your commandments from me.

(A candle is extinguished)

Off.1 The whole creation was altered by your Passion: for all things suffered with you knowing, O Word, that you hold all things together in unity.

All: My soul pines away for sorrow, O raise me up according to your word.

Off.2 You have come down to earth, O Master, to save Adam: and not finding him there, you have sought him in hell. *(A candle is extinguished)*

All: Guide me in the path of your commandments for therein is my delight.

(A candle is extinguished)

THE WORD OF GOD (*Please sit*)

THE PSALMODY Psalm 139.1-18

- 1 O Lord, you have searched me out and known me;*
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 **You mark out my journeys and my resting place *
and are acquainted with all my ways.**
- 3 For there is not a word on my tongue,*
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
- 4 **You encompass me behind and before *
and lay your hand upon me.**
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, *
so high that I cannot attain it.
- 6 **Where can I go then from your spirit? *
Or where can I flee from your presence?**
- 7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; *
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
- 8 **If I take the wings of the morning *
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,**
- 9 Even there your hand shall lead me, *
your right hand hold me fast.
- 10 **If I say, Surely the darkness will cover me *
and the light around me turn to night,**
- 11 Even darkness is no darkness with you;
the night is as clear as the day; *
darkness and light to you are both alike.
- 12 **For you yourself created my inmost parts; *
you knit me together in my mother's womb.**

- 13 I thank you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; *
marvellous are your works, my soul knows well.
- 14 **My frame was not hidden from you, *
when I was made in secret
and woven in the depths of the earth.**
- 15 Your eyes beheld my form, as yet unfinished; *
already in your book were all my members written,
- 16 **As day by day they were fashioned *
when as yet there was none of them.**
- 17 How deep are your counsels to me, O God! *
How great is the sum of them!
- 18 **If I count them, they are more in number than the sand, *
and at the end, I am still in your presence.**

(The Gloria is not said)

A READING

The whole of creation was changed when it saw you, O Christ, hanging on the Cross. The sun was darkened and the foundations of the earth were shaken; all things suffered with the Creator of all. Of your own will you have endured this for our sakes: Glory to you, Lord, glory to you!

THE RESPONSE

Off: Save me, O God: for the waters are come up, even to my throat.

All: **They gave me poison for food:
and when I was thirsty they gave me vinegar to drink.**

COMMEMORATION OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Off 2: **✙** A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (19:31-42)
(A period of reflective silence follows, after which:)

Off 3: I entreat you, gracious Lord, with your divine light, shine upon the souls of those who, with love, seek you: may they know you, Word of God, as God in very truth, who recall them from the darkness of sin.

***Off 1:* Broken and distraught with grief, Joseph and Nicodemus took down the body of their Master from the Cross. The holy Virgin Mother wept as she took him upon her knees; her tears flowed down upon him and in grief she kissed him.**

Off 2: “My Son, my Lord and God, you were the only hope of your handmaid, my life and the light of my eyes; and now, alas, I have lost you, my sweet and most beloved child!”

Off 3: No one is able to see God, upon whom the ranks of angels dare not gaze; yet through you, the all-pure Virgin, the Word took flesh and showed himself to us.

***All:* With all the hosts of heaven we magnify him and we call you blessed.**

Off 2: “Now heal the wound of my soul, O my Child. Rise and still my pain and sorrow. For you have power, O Master, and can perform what you will.”

***Off 3:* “How have you not seen the depths of my tender love?” the Lord said to the Holy Virgin. “Because I wish to save my creature, I have accepted to die. But I shall rise again and as God shall magnify you in heaven and on earth.”**

Off 1: Going down to death, O Life immortal, you have slain hell with the dazzling light of your Divinity. And when you have raised up the dead from their dwelling place, all the powers of heaven cried aloud:

***All:* “Praise the Lord, all you peoples!”**

COMMEMORATION OF THE DESCENT FROM THE CROSS

(The Cross is taken from the altar and placed on the table. It is covered with a cloth and sprinkled with Holy Water. Please gather round. All unnecessary lights are put out)