

The Parish Church of St Brelade with St Aubin on the Hill



Good Friday—Hour before the Cross

The service begins with a period of silence.

THE COLLECT:

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 wicked men and to suffer death upon the cross; who is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING:

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

At the end the reader will say

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE NEW TESTAMENT READING:

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

At the end the reader will say

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn:

**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?**

**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.**

**Sometimes they strew his way, and his strong praises sing,
resounding all the day hosannas to their King.**

**Then "Crucify!" is all their breath,
and for his death they thirst and cry.**

Why, what hath my Lord done?

What makes this rage and spite?

He made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight.

**Sweet injuries! Yet they at these
themselves displease, and 'gainst him rise.**

**They rise, and needs will have my dear Lord made away;
a murderer they save, the Prince of Life they slay.**

**Yet steadfast he to suffering goes,
that he his foes from thence might free.**

**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.**

Please remain standing for THE GOSPEL Matthew 27:11-66

11 Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus said, 'You say so.'¹² But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer.¹³ Then Pilate said to him, 'Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?'¹⁴ But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

15 Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted.¹⁶ At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas.¹⁷ So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?'¹⁸ For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over.¹⁹ While he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him, 'Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.'²⁰ Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed.²¹ The governor again said to them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' And they said, 'Barabbas.'²² Pilate said to them, 'Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?' All of them said, 'Let him be crucified!'²³ Then he asked, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Let him be crucified!'

24 So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, 'I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.'²⁵ Then the people as a whole answered, 'His blood be on us and on our children!'²⁶ So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him.²⁸ They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him,²⁹ and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!'³⁰ They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head.³¹ After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

32 As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross.³³ And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a skull),³⁴ they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.³⁵ And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots;³⁶ then they sat down there and kept watch over him.³⁷ Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.'

38 Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left.³⁹ Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads⁴⁰ and saying, 'You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.'⁴¹ In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,⁴² 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him.'⁴³ He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, "I am God's Son."⁴⁴ The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

45 From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.⁴⁶ And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'⁴⁷ When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'This man is calling for Elijah.'⁴⁸ At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink.⁴⁹ But the others said, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.'⁵⁰ Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.⁵¹ At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split.⁵² The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised.⁵³ After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many.⁵⁴ Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

55 Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. ⁵⁶Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

57 When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. ⁵⁹So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth ⁶⁰and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. ⁶¹Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

62 The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate ⁶³and said, 'Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, "After three days I will rise again." ⁶⁴Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, "He has been raised from the dead", and the last deception would be worse than the first.' ⁶⁵Pilate said to them, 'You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.' ⁶⁶So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.



**I give you love, and how do you repay?
When you were slaves, I strove to set you free;
I led you out from under Pharaoh's yoke,
but you led out your Christ on Calvary.**

***My people, tell me, what is my offence?
What have I done to harm you? Answer me!***

**For forty year I was your constant guide,
I fed you with my manna from on high.
I led you out to live in hope and peace,
But you led out my only Son to die.**

**With cloud and fire, I marked the desert way.
I heard your cries of rage and calmed your fear.
I opened up the sea and led you through,
But you have opened Christ with nail and spear.**

**When in distress you cried to me for food,
I sent you quails in answer to your call,
And saving water from the desert rock,
But to my Son, you offered bitter gall.**

**I gave you joy when you were in despair.
With songs of hope, I set your hearts on fire;
Crowned you with grace, the people of my choice,
But you have crowned my Christ with thorny briar.**

**When you were weak, exploited and oppressed,
I heard your cry and listened to your plea.
I raised you up to honour and renown,
But you have raised me on a shameful tree.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE CROSS
please sit or kneel for the Litany of Penitence

Response: (X3)

**Holy God, holy and strong,
Holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

Father, hear our prayer and forgive us. Unstop our ears that we may receive the gospel of the cross. Lighten our eyes that we may see your glory in the face of your Son. Penetrate our minds that your truth may make us whole. Flood our hearts with your love that we may love one another for Christ's sake. Father, forgive us. Amen

**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.**

**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.**

**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?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.**





PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

The response is:

Lord hear us. Lord graciously hear us.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

**How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He would 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 a 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 breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished**

**I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no powr, 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**

THE MINISTRY OF THE SACRAMENT

Let us pray for the coming of the kingdom in the words our Saviour taught us.

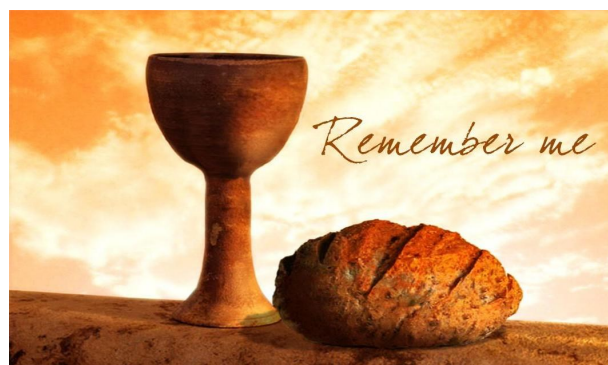
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**



Before the distribution we all say:

Most merciful Lord, your love compels us to come in. Our hands were unclean, our hearts were unprepared; we were not fit even to eat the crumbs from under your table. But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation, and share your bread with sinners. So cleanse and feed us with the precious body and blood of your Son, that he may live in us and we in him; and that we, with the whole company of Christ, may sit and eat in your kingdom. Amen.

Those who wish to, may now receive communion.



Hymn

I cannot tell how he whom angels worship
should stoop to love the peoples of the earth,
or why as shepherd he should seek the wanderer
with his mysterious promise of new birth.

But this I know, that he was born of Mary,
when Bethlehem's manger was his only home,
and that he lived at Nazareth and laboured,
and so the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is come.

I cannot tell how silently he suffered,
as with his peace he graced this place of tears,
or how his heart upon the cross was broken,
the crown of pain to three and thirty years.
But this I know, he heals the broken-hearted,
and stays our sin, and calms our lurking fear,
and lifts the burden from the heavy laden,
for yet the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is here.

I cannot tell how he will win the nations,
how he will claim his earthly heritage,
how satisfy the needs and aspirations
of east and west, of sinner and of sage.
But this I know, all flesh shall see his glory,
and he shall reap the harvest he has sown,
and some glad day his sun shall shine in splendour
when he the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is known.

I cannot tell how all the lands shall worship,
when, at his bidding, every storm is stilled,
or who can say how great the jubilation
when every heart with perfect love is filled.
But this I know, the skies will thrill with rapture,
and myriad, myriad human voices sing,
and earth to heaven, and heaven to earth, will answer:
'At last the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is King!'

FINAL PRAYER:

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved humanity: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross, we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ our lord. **Amen**

The ministers and people depart in silence.

