

Via Crucis

Scripture and Prayers

The Gathering

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray thee to set thy Passion, Cross and death between thy judgement and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Vouchsafe to the living mercy and grace, to the dead pardon and rest, to thy holy Church peace and concord, and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; who with the Father and the Holy Ghost livest and reignest world without end. **Amen.**

1. The Agony in Gethsemane

³⁶Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.' ³⁷He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. ³⁸Then he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.' ³⁹And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.' ⁴⁰Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, 'So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? (Matthew 26: 36-40)

Prayer

Be thou ever blessed, O Lord Christ, for thy sovereign mercy; who, though assailed by loneliness, and a dread agony, didst choose to die for our redemption, and make both earth and heaven rejoice; and now reignest, the First and the Last and the Living One, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Musical reflection

2. The Kiss of Judas

⁴³Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. ⁴⁴Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, 'The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.' ⁴⁵So when he came, he went up to Jesus at once and said, 'Rabbi!' and kissed him. ⁴⁶Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. (Mark 14: 43-46)

Prayer

O Lamb of God, who with guileless lips didst gently touch those that were full of deceit: receive us thy weak and unfaithful friends with like forbearance, and by the very kiss of thy pardon convict us of our sin; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God, world without end. **Amen.**

Musical reflection

3. Art thou the Christ?

⁶⁶When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought Jesus to their council. ⁶⁷They said, 'If you are the Messiah, tell us.' He replied, 'If I tell you, you will not believe; ⁶⁸and if I question you, you will not answer. ⁶⁹But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.' (Luke 22: 66-69)

Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, who, bound and alone, didst proclaim the Messiah before the High Priest and elders of thy people: make plain, we beseech thee, the perpetual truth amid the transient show; and open our ears to hear, our eyes to perceive, and our lips to declare, that thou with the Father and the Holy Ghost art one only eternal and glorious God, world without end. **Amen.**

Musical reflection

4. The Denial

After a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, 'Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean.' ⁷¹But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, 'I do not know this man you are talking about.' ⁷²At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, 'Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.' And he broke down and wept. (Mark 14: 70-72)

Prayer O Lord Jesus Christ, look upon us with those eyes of thine wherewith thou didst look upon Peter in the hall, that with Peter we may repent and, by thy same love, be forgiven. O Lord Jesus Christ, turn thy face from our sins, but turn it not from us, for thine endless mercies' sake. **Amen.**

Musical reflection

5. Pilate washes his hands

²⁴So 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.' (Matthew 27: 24)

Prayer

Almighty God, the Judge of the whole earth: suffer us not to falter in courage nor to palter with justice after the manner of Pontius Pilate; who when he saw that a tumult was made, washed his hands of just dealing, and delivered the guiltless to death, even thine only Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; who now liveth and reigneth in the glory of the eternal Trinity, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Musical reflection

6. The Scourging

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ²And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. ³They kept coming up to him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' and striking him on the face. (John 19: 1-3)

Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, who wast bruised for our iniquities, yet in thy love and in thy pity didst redeem us: we beseech thee, restrain us from the sins that scourge thee again, and others and ourselves no less: by thy merciful power, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Musical reflection

7. Bearing the Cross

So the soldiers took Jesus; ¹⁷and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. (John 19: 17)

Prayer

O Lord, thou lover of men, who, lifting the Cross upon thy shoulder, barest in symbol and in truth all the sins of the world: strengthen us to heed not the tribulations which are but for a season, but to bear cheerfully thy yoke unto the glory which passes not away; where with the Father and the Holy Ghost thou livest and reignest, God, world without end. **Amen.**

Musical reflection

8. St Simon of Cyrene

²¹The soldiers compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. (Mark 15: 21)

Prayer

Grant, O Lord, that we on whose forehead hath been set the sign of the Cross, may be ready and resolute to bear the Cross itself, in company with Simon of Cyrene and all thy saints that have endured for thee and with thee; who now livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Musical reflection

9. Daughters of Jerusalem

²⁷A great number of the people followed Jesus, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. ²⁸But Jesus turned to them and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.' (Luke 23: 27-28)

Prayer

Vouchsafe, O Lord God, that, as we thy sons and daughters look upon the Saviour for our sakes ready to die, we may mourn not for him, whose pains were our glory, but for ourselves, whose shames are his wounds: and may repent unto thee, who with the same thy Son and the Holy Ghost art one God, holy and pitiful, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Musical reflection

10. The Nailing

²⁵It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified Jesus. ²⁶The inscription of the charge against him read, 'The King of the Jews.' ²⁷And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. (Mark 15: 25-27)

Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, who wast silent when men nailed thee to the Cross, and by pain didst triumph over pain: pour thy Spirit on thy servants who suffer, that in their quietness and courage thou mayest triumph again, and redeem every sorrow: who livest and reignest in the glory of the eternal Trinity, God, world without end. **Amen.**

Musical reflection

11. Seven Words

- (i) "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34)
- (ii) "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (Luke 23:43)
- (iii) "Woman, here is your son . . . Here is your mother." (John 19:26–27)
- (iv) "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34)
- (v) "I am thirsty." (John 19:28)
- (vi) "It is finished." (John 19:30)
- (vii) "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." (Luke 23:46)

Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, who from out thy silence upon the Cross didst bequeath to thy Church Seven Words: grant that we may ponder them as the inexhaustible Gospel of thy love and of the world's redemption; and learn likewise both by speech and silence to glorify our Father in heaven; who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Musical reflection

12. The Darkness

⁴⁵From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ⁴⁶And 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?' (Matthew 27: 45-46)

Prayer Grant, O Lord God, that while the darkness cometh up over the whole land to cover the dying Saviour, thy dear Son, we may behold the marvellous light that shineth from his Cross, and be led by it to the kingdom, where with thee and the Holy Ghost he liveth and reigneth, God, world without end. **Amen.**

Musical reflection

13. The Death of the Lord Jesus

⁴⁶Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.' Having said this, he breathed his last. ⁴⁷When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, 'Certainly this man was innocent.' (Luke 23: 46-47)

Prayer

Blessed be thy Name, O Jesu, Son of the most high God; blessed be the sorrow thou sufferedst when thy holy hands and feet were nailed to the tree; and blessed thy love when, the fulness of pain accomplished, thou didst give thy soul into the hands of the Father; so by thy Cross and precious Blood redeeming all the world, all longing souls departed and the numberless unborn; who now livest and reignest in the glory of the eternal Trinity, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Musical reflection

14. The Burial

⁵⁷When 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. (Matthew 27: 57-59)

Prayer

Gather us, O Father of mercy, round the body of thy dear Son, slain and still; that by such proof and power of love we may be drawn into one living body of faith and praise, close to each other, close to him; who now livest and reignest with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Musical reflection

The Conclusion

Prayer

Bury our sins, O blessed Saviour, in thy grave; and make us to rise up in the life of grace, and abide and advance in it, until we come to the city of light and joy; where with the Father and the Holy Spirit thou livest and reignest, God, world without end. **Amen.**

Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom in the words our Saviour his followers:

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.

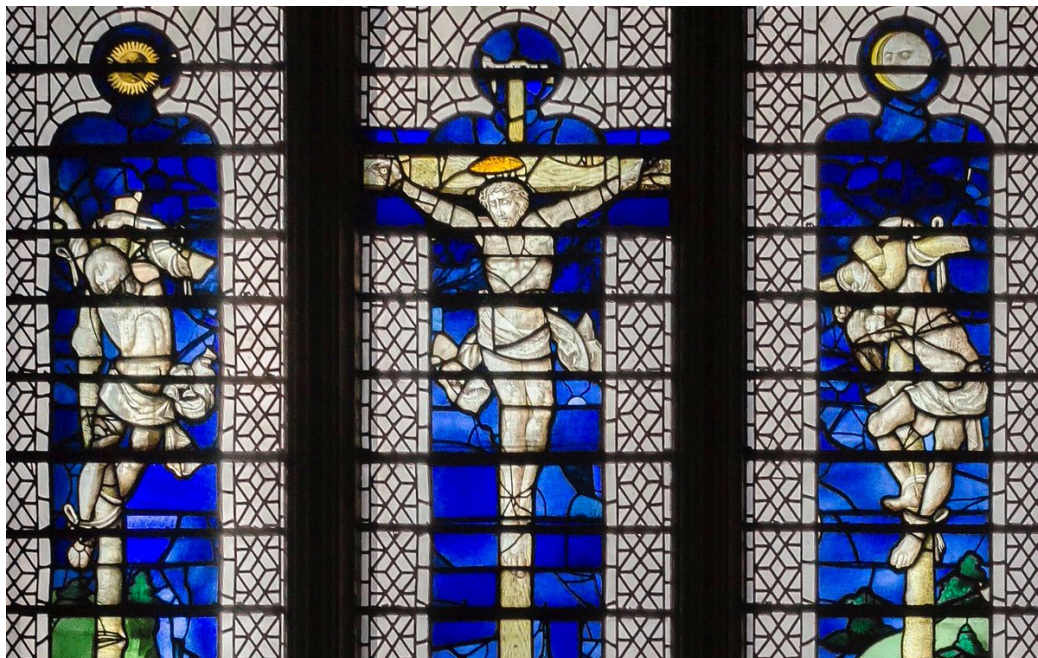
**And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Prayer

Almighty everlasting God, who hast reared from earth unto heaven a mighty Tree, standing for ever, whereon before the face of men hangeth a Man, stretched and nailed, rejected, dying and alone: O thou that art true and shewest only truth, grant us to fear not to suffer with him, die with him and be buried with him, that we may also be made alive with him and glorified together in the heavenly places; where now he reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

15 The Crown

Musical reflection



Scripture readings from New Revised Standard Version

Prayers by Eric Milner-White