

Please keep silence in church before the Liturgy of the Day. The clergy and servers enter and prostrate in silence. The Opening Prayer begins immediately after which we sit for the Liturgy of the Word.

Opening Prayer

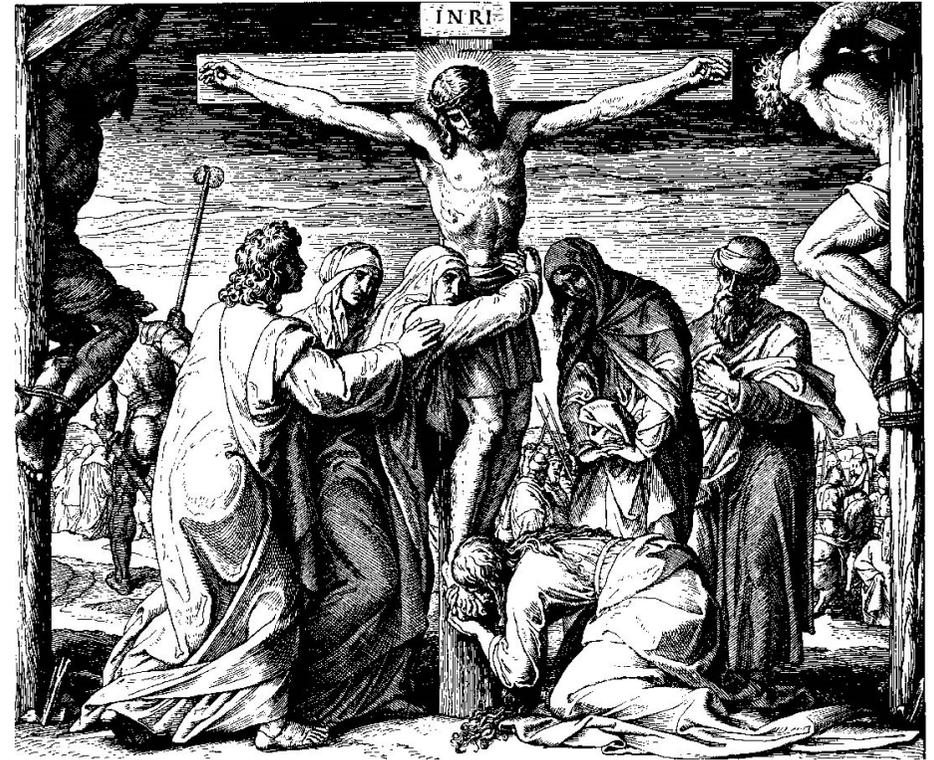
Almighty Father, look with mercy on this your family for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed and given up into the hands of sinners and to suffer death upon the cross; who is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

First Reading: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. Just as there were many who were astonished at him —so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals— so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate. Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account. Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the Lord shall prosper. Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Please remain seated for the hymn.

**O sacred head, sore wounded,
Defiled and put to scorn:
O kingly head, surrounded
With mocking crown of thorn;
What sorrow mars thy grandeur?
Can death thy bloom deflow'r?**



**With the sacred blood anointed
From the Lamb for sinners slain.**

**He endured the nails, the spitting,
Vinegar and spear and reed;
From that holy Body piercèd
Blood and water forth proceed:
Earth and stars and sky and ocean
By that flood from stain are freed.**

**To the Trinity be glory,
to the Father and the Son,
with the co-eternal Spirit,
ever Three and ever One,
one in love and one in splendour,
While unending ages run. Amen.**

The Blessed Sacrament is brought into church.

*Please stand. The priest invites us to receive Communion. During Communion the choir sings
Adoramus te by Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643).*

<i>Adoramus te, Christe, et benedicimus tibi, quia per sanctam crucem tuam redemisti mundum. Qui passus es pro nobis, Domine, Domine, miserere nobis.</i>	<i>We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee, who by Thy Holy Cross hast redeemed the world. Thou, who hast suffered death for us, O Lord, O Lord, have mercy on us.</i>
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Please stand.

After the blessing please leave church in silence. There is no Blessed Sacrament in church, it is traditional to genuflect to the Cross instead.

Holy Communion

Lord's Prayer

Post Communion Prayer

Prayer over the People

**O countenance whose splendour
The hosts of heav'n adore!**

**Thy beauty, long desirèd,
Hath vanished from our sight:
Thy pow'r is all expired,
And quenched the light of light.
Ah me! for whom thou diest,
Hide not so far thy grace:
Show me, O Love most highest,
The brightness of thy face.**

**In thy most bitter passion
My heart to share doth cry.
With thee for my salvation
Upon the cross to die.
Ah, keep my heart thus moved
To stand thy cross beneath,
To mourn thee, well-beloved,
Yet thank thee for thy death.**

**My days are few, O fail not,
With thine immortal pow'r,
To hold me that I quail not
In death's most fearful hour:
That I may fight befriended,
And see in my last strife
To me thine arms extended
Upon the cross of life.**

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:16-25

'This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds', he also adds, 'I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.' Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Please stand for the gradual hymn.

**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 Lord
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 ever such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown**

**His dying crimson like a robe,
Spreads o'er his body on the Tree;
Then am I dead to all the globe,
And all the globe is dead to me.**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine
That were an offering far too small
Love so amazing so divine
Demands my soul my life my all**

The Passion according to St John

The chant is set by Victoria (1548-1611).

Please be seated for the address by the Chaplain.

Homily

General Intercessions

Please stand for the ancient nine suffrages offered for God's church and world.

Veneration of the Cross

Please stand as the cross is brought in to church. As it moves into church the procession stops three times and the minister sings:

*Behold the wood of the cross.
O come let us worship.*

*All genuflect at each station in prayer. **This year—because of Covid-19 restrictions—there is no physical veneration of the Cross.** The Cross will be held aloft for all to Venerate from their places. During Veneration the choir sings the Improperia and Reproaches by Tomas Luis de Victoria (1548-1611).*

*O my people, what have I done to thee? Or wherein have I wearied thee? Answer me!
Because I brought thee out of the land of Egypt, Thou has prepared a cross for thy Saviour.*

Holy God, Holy and mighty, Holy and immortal, Have mercy upon us!

*Because I led thee through the desert forty years, and fed thee with manna,
and brought thee into a land exceeding good, thou hast prepared a cross for thy Saviour.*

Holy God, Holy and mighty, Holy and immortal, Have mercy upon us!

*What could I do more for thee that I have not done? I planted thee my choicest vine, and
thou hast become exceeding bitter unto me. For when I was thirsty thou gavest me vinegar to
drink mingled with gall and hast pierced with a spear the side of thy Saviour.*

Holy God, Holy and mighty, Holy and immortal, Have mercy upon us!

*We venerate thy Cross, O Lord, and praise and glorify thy holy Resurrection:
for by virtue of the Cross, joy has come to the whole world.*

*Faithful Cross! Above all other
One and only noble Tree!
None in foliage, none in blossom,
None in fruit thy peer may be;
Sweetest wood and sweetest iron!
Sweetest weight is hung on thee.*

Holy Communion

The Blessed Sacrament is brought into church.

**Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle,
sing the ending of the fray,
O'er the cross, the Victor's trophy,
sound the loud triumphant lay:
tell how Christ, the world's Redeemer,
as a Victim won the day.**

**God in pity saw man fallen,
shamed and sunk in misery,
when he fell on death by tasting
fruit of the forbidden tree:
then another tree was chosen
which the world from death should free.**

**Therefore when the appointed fullness
of the holy time was come,
he was sent who maketh all things
forth from God's eternal home:
thus he came to earth, incarnate,
offspring of a maiden's womb.**

**Thirty years among us dwelling,
now at length his hour fulfilled,
born for this, he meets his Passion,
for that this he freely willed,
on the cross the Lamb is lifted,
where his life-blood shall be spilled.**

**Bend thy boughs, O Tree of Glory,
Thy too rigid sinews bend;
For awhile the ancient rigour
That thy birth bestowed, suspend,
And the King of heavenly beauty
On thy bosom gently tend.**

**Thou alone was counted worthy
This world's Ransom to sustain,
That a shipwrecked race might ever
Thus a port of refuge gain,**