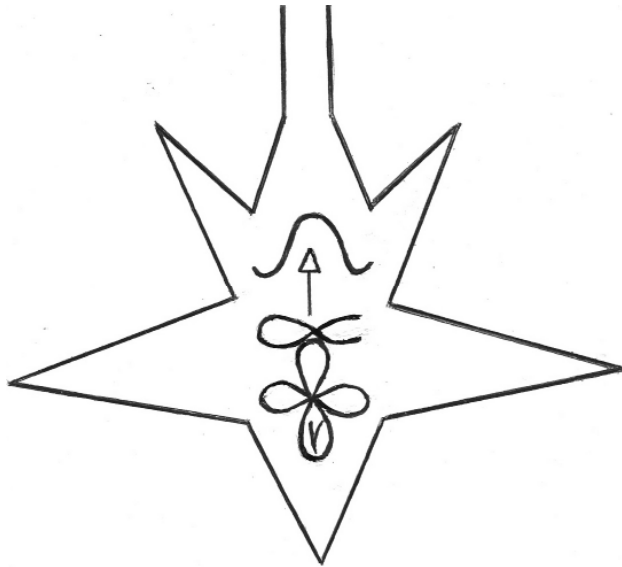


**GOOD FRIDAY
VENERATION OF THE CROSS
WITH
RESERVED SACRAMENT**

**THE AUSTRALIAN CHURCH
OF
ANTIOCH**



**A Member of the Federation of
Old Catholic and Orthodox
Independent Churches**

GOOD FRIDAY

The Altar is covered with a plain linen cloth and violet frontal, but otherwise is unadorned. The Altar Cross is veiled in violet gauze. No candles are lighted.

This service may only be taken by a member of the clergy of the level of Deacon or higher.

P. In the name of God The + Power, God The Love and God The Holy Wisdom. Amen.

P. Our help is in Your Name O Lord.

C. Who hath made heaven and earth.

P. At morn and even will we praise you.

C. For our hearts rest ever in your love.

CONFITEOR

All kneel and say:

O God Thou hast created life to be immortal and made it to be an image of thine own eternity, yet often we forget the glory of our heritage and wander from the path which leads to righteousness. But thou O God hast made us for thyself and our hearts are ever restless till they find their rest in thee. Look with the eyes of thy love upon our manifold imperfections and pardon all our shortcomings, that we may be filled with the brightness of the everlasting light and become the unspotted mirror of thy power and the image of thy goodness, through the Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE ABSOLUTION

God The Trinity of Power, Love and Wisdom, (+) Bless, (+) Preserve and (+) Sanctify you, and in loving kindness look down upon you and be gracious unto you, May God absolve (+) you from all your transgressions and grant you the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

If a Deacon is ministrant then the following will be said instead of the absolution:

Deacon: **May The Holy One bless us and (+) absolve us from all our misdeeds, and may Divine Peace rest upon us this day and evermore. Amen.**

THE CANTICLE

All.

- 1. Come let us give thanks unto Thee O God for giving us The Christed Saviour.**
- 2. Let us come forward with thanksgiving and show ourselves to you with our prayer O God**
- 3. This earth is yours for you made it, and we are your flock upon it.**
- 4. Glory be to you The Creator, The Holy Blessed Trinity throughout eternity. Amen.**

THE EPISTLE

The Epistle for Good Friday is from the words of Bishop Raymond.

Dearest Friends, I beg you as temporary tenants of this world, close down the urges for lustful desires and carnal thoughts that war with the soul. It is for these reasons that The Christed Lord shed his blood into the earth, that the pure energy within the blood of our Blessed Saviour might raise the whole of the Planet Earth's vibrations, and hereby assist humanity in its quest for attainment of higher levels of consciousness with The Holy One. Do not by your acts of negativity and nastiness try to impede the great gift of The Avatar, but try to enhance this gift of understanding, caring love and supreme sacrifice by offering it to all others as is offered to us. As we rise to this glorious ideal we will truly then be with the Lord in Paradise.

Here Endeth the Epistle.

SECOND CANTICLE

All.

1. With my voice shall I direct my prayer unto Thee Great God, and raise my eyes to your glory.
2. I marvel at your power and give due praise for your loving kindness to humanity.
3. I shall strive daily to reach your throne and will ask for your guidance in this.
4. Your patience is never ending O God, we shall strive to be worthy of it.

Glory be to you The Creator, The Holy Blessed Trinity throughout Eternity. Amen.

THE GOSPEL

The Gospel is from the writings of Bishop Leadbeater.

It is necessary to learn to control all our vehicles, the Astral, the Physical and the Mental; and the doing of that is very often tiresome and troublesome. Consequently it does amount to taking up a Cross, and not being ashamed to face it. It has to be done. If there is sorrow, trouble and pain, we have brought that upon ourselves by allowing the bad habits to grow in the past. We must face the suffering and live it down. That is a real Good Friday lesson --- that the Cross we take up in imitation of The Christ is the conquest of the lower nature. It is not a thing to do lightly and it is a serious undertaking. If we will not face it in this life, that only means the bad habits will grow stronger, and therefore we shall have more sorrow to conquer in some future life. Therefore it is only wisdom and common sense to take these matters in hand now. This is the perfect occasion for the Church to remind us of that. Let us find our weak points and conquer them. Then and only then shall we enter into the realization of the freedom from the habits that enslave us and climb to a higher life, just like a resurrection.

Here Endeth the Gospel.

THE CREED

All: We believe that God is love and power and truth and light, that perfect justice rules the world, that all of life shall one day reach this height however far they stray, we hold our origins from God, and unity of all, we know that we do serve God best when best we serve all living souls. So does great blessing rest on us, + and peace for evermore. Amen.

THE COLLECTS

P: The Collect for Good Friday:

O Holy Creator who does give your messenger the power over death, allow us to see the purpose and aim of this sacrifice, that we may fully understand the depth of your love for us, and so inspire within us the urge to follow your pathway to perfection through The Christ our Lord. Amen.

Be with us Lord God in all our doings, and further us with thy continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued and ended in thee, we may glorify Thy Holy name through our Christed Lord. Amen

O Lord our Heavenly Creator, Almighty and Everlasting God, who has safely brought us to the beginning of this day, defend us with thy mighty power, and grant that this day we may strive against all wrong and selfishness, to do always that which is righteous in thy sight, Through The Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Lord The Christ we thy faithful soldiers dedicate this new born day to thee, praying that it may shine in thy service as a pure pearl in the chaplet of our life, O Thou Font of love, to whom be praise and adoration for evermore. Amen.

Teach us O God to see thy life in all the peoples of thine earth and so guide the nations into the understanding of thy good will, that peace may reign upon earth, through The Christ our Lord. Amen.

If it be thy will O God, give protection and succour from the golden rays to thy little ones, our lesser brothers and sisters whom thou has seen fit to place in our care. Help those of us who have not yet realised the mighty wisdom in this direction, to join in this endeavour and cease all cruelty. Amen.

We ask for healing comfort to all who are in need or sickness (*especially for...*), and to all those who are about to come through the channel of birth and their mothers to be (*especially for...*), and for all the creatures of the earth living and the group souls of the departed ones (*especially for...*), for the guidance of all the people recently departed from this earth plane (*especially for...*), we trust your will O Christ be done. Amen.

The office hymn is said/sung, during which a Collection will be taken.

Now that the daylight fills the sky
We lift our hearts to thee on high,
That thou in all we do or say,
Wilt keep us free from harm today.

May we restrain our tongues from strife
And guard from angers din our life;
And guard with watchful care our eyes
From earth's absorbing vanities.

May this day dedicate to thee,
A day of joyous service be,
Forgetting self for love of man,
May we fulfil thy glorious plan.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God ye creatures here below,
Praise God from all ye heavenly host,
Praise God The Triune Holy Ghost.

The offerings are given to the Celebrant who says this prayer over them:

Almighty God we offer these gifts of thy people as a token of the giving of ourselves to thee (+) knowing as we give, we grow and bring forth a hundred fold. Amen.

P. Let us read together the words of the Egyptian Priest Knuub - Ra.

- 1.** The honest person shall be like the sun shining on a morning without cloud.
- 1.** Their purity shall shine clear as a raindrop on a new shoot of grass.
- 2.** Righteousness shall shine clear from within them.
- 3.** This light shall break forth as the dawn, for this light shall bring forth the Glory and reward of God.

All: Glory unto The Universal Holy Creator, for this God reigns even through ages of ages. Amen.

The Celebrant now brings the Cross forward to the front of the Altar, and as it is unveiled the people kneel. The Celebrant genuflects three times each time saying one of the versicles.

P. Holy art Thou O God.
C. Holy art Thou O God.

P. Holy art Thou O Mighty One.
C. Holy art Thou O Mighty One.

P. Holy art Thou O Immortal One, pour out thy love upon us,
C. Holy art Thou O Immortal One, pour out thy love upon us.

The following hymn is now said or sung:

**Take up thy Cross, the Saviour said,
If thou wouldst my disciple be,
Deny thyself, the world forsake
And humbly follow after me.**

**Take up thy Cross, let not its weight
Fill thy weak spirit with alarm
Your God shall bear thy spirit up
And brace thine heart and nerve thine arm.**

**Take up thy Cross, nor heed the shame,
Nor let thy foolish pride rebel,
Thy Lord for thee the Cross endured,
To save thy soul from death's dark spell.**

**Take up the Cross and follow Christ,
Nor think till death to lay it down,
For only they who bear the Cross
May hope to wear the glorious crown.**

**To Thee great Lord, The One in Three,
All praise for evermore ascend.
O grant us in our home to see
The heavenly life that knows no end.**

At the end of this hymn the Cross is moved back to its place and again veiled in violet gauze.

The sermon follows here.

After the sermon (if any) the Celebrant will light the candles in the proper order.

2 5 4 † 3 6 1

The Celebrant now processes down the aisle away from the Altar as the following hymn is said or preferably sung:

**From the throne of bliss supernal,
From the holy land of light,
Pilgrim sons of God eternal
Move descending into night
Round them close the shades nocturnal
Earth mists dim their failing sight.**

**Forth the long procession wending,
Into toils and cares and woes,
Still descending, still descending,
Onward, outward, downward goes,
Hath the weary way no ending,
Must their quest in darkness close.**

**Hearts are wounded, hearts are breaking,
Death is reigning far and wide,
Yet their visions, straining, aching,
Hath no gleam of dawn decried.
Now his great oblation making.
God in man is crucified.**

On reaching the end of the aisle the Celebrant turns round and says:

The Christed Lord said --- God created humanity to be immortal, and made it to be an image of divine eternity. They that overcometh the lower self shall inherit all things and I shall light their path to God, and they shall be my children. I am the living bread which came down from heaven, if any one eats of this bread they shall live forever.

The Celebrant bears the ciborium containing the host to the sanctuary while the next verses of the hymn are finished:

**Hark the voice of exultation,
Hark, a promise clear and sure.
Comes the end of tribulation,
Unto them that still endure;
After anguish, jubilation,
Dawn immortal, calm and pure.**

**Youthful dreamers, sages hoary,
Haste to catch its earliest ray;
Shines aloft his face whose glory
Speeds that sunrise in its way,
Christ The Lord in ancient story,
Christ the same, alive today.**

**As the pilgrim host returning
Presses up the heavenly height,
See him stand, a beacon burning
Through the yielding gloom of night,
And with longing, and with yearning,
Win them homeward into light.**

The people are now seated.

A corporal is placed on the Altar and the Ciborium is placed upon it. The Celebrant, washing his/her fingers in silence, extracts a large previously consecrated host from the Ciborium, lays it on the corporal and says:

Almighty God, we offer and present unto thee ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a Holy and continual sacrifice unto thee. May our strength be spent in thy service, and our love poured forth upon thy people, thou who livest for ever and ever. Amen.

All kneel and sing or say:

Creator who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come thy will be done in 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.

P. Here do we give unto thee O God most high praise and heartfelt thanks for the wonderful grace and virtue declared in Mary our heavenly guardian, and in all thy glorious saints from the beginning of the world, who have been choice vessels of Thy grace and a shining light unto many generations, and we join with them in worship before thy great white throne, whence flows all love and light and blessing through all the worlds which thou hast made. *---the Celebrant elevates the host for the adoration of the people---* O Eternal God who in the wonderful sacrament of the Altar hast left us a living memorial of thine eternal sacrifice, grant us we beseech thee, so to receive the sacred mystery of The Body and Blood of Thy Christed Avatar, that we may ever perceive within ourselves the power of thine indwelling life and thus, by the glad pouring out of our lives in sacrifice, may know ourselves to be one with Thee and all that lives, O Triune God who lives and reigns throughout all ages of ages. Amen.

The Celebrant receives communion in the usual manner, and then blesses the people with a particle saying:

(+) Ye that desire to partake of The Love of God, draw nigh and receive this most Holy Sacrament.

Or

The Body and Blood of our Christed Lord is not a prize for being good --- it is strength, comfort and food for life's journey. No one on the face of this earth has the right to refuse it to those with the proper intent. If it is your desire, come forth **(+)** and receive this gift from our Holy Lord.

As the Celebrant administers the communion, the sacrament is used to bless each person in the form of a cross, then given with these words:

(+) The Power of God within this Host keep you until life eternal.

The communion ended the Celebrant says:

Under the veil of earthly things now have we communion with our Christed Avatar; soon with open face shall we behold this vision, and become in harmony and rejoice. Thus shall all true disciples be brought with exceeding joy within the aura and glory of The Trinity.

All: Amen. Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

Celebrant:

We who have been refreshed with thy heavenly gifts do pray thee O God, that thy grace may be so grafted inwardly in our hearts, that it may continually be made manifest in our lives through The Christ our Lord. Amen.

Cel. To the discarnate ones who have assisted and enriched this service with their presence we offer our blessings **(+)** and our thanks. Amen.

Cel. May God be with you.

C. And also with You.

Cel. It is finished.

C. Thanks be to thee O God.

BENEDICTION

If the Benediction is said by other than a Priest it will be said as a prayer substituting us for you, and our for your.

Cel: The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of The Christed Lord, and the blessing from God Almighty, of (+) Power, (+) Love and Holy (+) Wisdom be within you and remain with you always. Amen.

The candles are extinguished in the following order and the Celebrant leaves the sanctuary carrying the ciborium.

1 4 5 † 6 3 2