

CHURCH OF TE HEPARA PAI

Friday 03 April 2015

Te Paraire Pai / Good Friday
THE CRUCIFIXION



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SENTENCE OF THE DAY:

Christ became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and has given him the name that is above every name. (Phil. 2:8-9)

COLLECT OF THE DAY – *Let us pray:*

Lord Jesus Christ, crucified for us, we kneel at the foot of your cross to watch with you. Help us to see the cost of our forgiveness so that we may be made new through your love; for the glory of your holy name. **Amen.**



What is Good Friday?



Good Friday is observed on the Friday before Easter Sunday. On this day Christians remember the passion, or suffering, and death on the cross of the Lord, Jesus Christ.

Good Friday is a day of sorrow mingled with joy. It is a time to grieve over the sin of man and to meditate and rejoice upon God's love in giving his only Son to pay the penalty for our sin. Many Christians spend this day in fasting, prayer, repentance, and meditation on the pain and suffering of Christ on the cross. Christians observe this day with great humility and reverence.

The biblical account of Jesus' arrest, trial, death on the cross, or crucifixion, and his burial can be found in John 18:1 - 19:42, the gospel reading for today.


What are the Stations of the Cross?



We observe the **Stations of the Cross** during the season of Lent, on Good Friday. The goal in offering a traditional chapel devotion related to the Stations of the Cross is to help Christians make a personal, spiritual pilgrimage through prayer and meditation. During this time, Christians are asked to carefully consider the main scenes of Christ's sacrifice of himself on the cross at Calvary.

The following 14 scenes are included in the complete **Stations of the Cross** observance:

1. Jesus is condemned to death;
2. Jesus receives the cross;
3. Jesus falls the first time;
4. Jesus meets his mother;
5. Simon of Cyrene carries the cross;
6. Veronica wipes Jesus' face with her veil;
7. Jesus falls the second time;
8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem;
9. Jesus falls the third time;
10. Jesus is stripped of his garments;
11. Jesus is nailed to the cross;
12. Jesus dies on the cross;
13. Jesus' body is removed from the cross;
14. Jesus is laid in the tomb.



For a realistic picture of the pain and suffering Jesus experienced in the final hours of his life and during his execution, the film, "**The Passion of the Christ**" will be shown during the Good Friday service. The beatings, the blood and the hanging on the cross portrayed in the Mel Gibson film was still a softer version of the actual torture and suffering that Jesus endured on what is now known as **Good Friday**.

It is difficult to visualize Christ, the Son of God, the Lord and Saviour of the world, bleeding profusely and being made fun of by the crowd as he walked toward Calvary on Good Friday. It is even harder to think that Jesus allowed nails to be driven into his palms (or wrists) and on top of his feet. Such extreme pain is impossible to understand, but even that was easy compared to the pain Jesus suffered when God the Father separated from him, and all the sins of the world -- past, present and future -- became his. That includes every sin of all the murderers, adulterers, liars and false prophets. Jesus took on the sins of thieves, of molesters and schemers -- every sin of every man, woman and child in this world. That was a load no mortal man should have to carry.

The Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12

A reading from Isaiah chapter 52 beginning at verse 13.

The Suffering and Glory of the LORD's Servant

¹³ The LORD says, "My servant will act wisely and accomplish his task. He will be highly honoured. He will be greatly respected. ¹⁴ Many people were shocked when they saw him. He was so scarred that he did not look like a man at all. His body was so twisted that he did not look like a human being anymore. ¹⁵ But many nations will be surprised when they see what he has done. Kings will be so amazed that they will not be able to say anything. They will understand things they were never told about. They will know the meaning of things they never heard about."

¹ Who has believed what we've been saying? Who has seen the LORD's saving power?

² His servant grew up like a tender young plant. He grew like a root coming up out of dry ground. He didn't have any beauty or majesty that made us notice him. There wasn't anything special about the way he looked that drew us to him. ³ Men looked down on him. They didn't accept him. He knew all about sorrow and suffering. He was like someone people turn their faces away from. We looked down on him. We didn't have any respect for him.

⁴ He suffered the things we should have suffered. He took on himself the pain that should have been ours. But we thought God was punishing him. We thought God was wounding him and making him suffer. ⁵ But the servant was pierced because we had sinned. He was crushed because we had done what was evil. He was punished to make us whole again. His wounds have healed us. ⁶ All of us are like sheep. We have wandered away from God. All of us have turned to our own way. And the LORD has placed on his servant the sins of all of us.

⁷ He was beaten down and made to suffer. But he didn't open his mouth. He was led away like a sheep to be killed. Lambs are silent while their wool is being cut off. In the same way, he didn't open his mouth. ⁸ He was arrested and sentenced to death. Then he was taken away. He was cut off from this life. He was punished for the sins of my people. Who among those who were living at that time could have understood those things? ⁹ He was given a grave with those who were evil. But his body was buried in the tomb of a rich man. He was killed even though he hadn't harmed anyone. And he had never lied to anyone. ¹⁰ The LORD says, "It was my plan to crush him and cause him to suffer. I made his life a guilt offering to pay for sin. But he will see all of his children after him. In fact, he will continue to live. My plan will be brought about through him. ¹¹ After he suffers, he will see the light that leads to life. And he will be satisfied. My godly servant will make many people godly because of what he will accomplish. He will be punished for their sins. ¹² So I will give him a place of honour among those who are great. He will be rewarded just like others who win the battle. That is because he was willing to give his life as a sacrifice. He was counted among those who had committed crimes. He took the sins of many people on himself. And he gave his life for those who had done what is wrong."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. Thanks be to God.



The Epistle Reading: Hebrews 10:16-25

A reading from Hebrews chapter 10 beginning at verse 16.

¹⁶ "This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts. I will write my laws on their minds." (Jeremiah 31:33) ¹⁷ Then he adds, "I will not remember their sins anymore. I will not remember the evil things they have done." (Jeremiah 31:34)

¹⁸ Where those have been forgiven, there is no longer any offering for sin.

A Warning to Remain Faithful

¹⁹ Brothers and sisters, we are not afraid to enter the Most Holy Room. We enter boldly because of the blood of Jesus. ²⁰ His way is new because he lives. It has been opened for us through the curtain. I'm talking about his body.

²¹ We also have a great priest over the house of God. ²² So let us come near to God with an honest and true heart. Let us come near with a faith that is sure and strong. Our hearts have been sprinkled. Our minds have been cleansed from a sense of guilt. Our bodies have been washed with pure water.

²³ Let us hold firmly to the hope we claim to have. The One who promised is faithful.

²⁴ Let us consider how we can stir up one another to love. Let us help one another to do good works. ²⁵ Let us not give up meeting together. Some are in the habit of doing this. Instead, let us cheer each other up with words of hope. Let us do it all the more as you see the day coming when Christ will return.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. Thanks be to God.





READER 1: _____

The Holy Gospel according to John chapter 18 beginning at verse 1.

Jesus Is Arrested

¹ When Jesus had finished praying, he left with his disciples. They crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a grove of olive trees. Jesus and his disciples went into it.

² Judas knew the place. He was going to hand Jesus over to his enemies. Jesus had often met in that place with his disciples. ³ So Judas came to the grove. He was guiding a group of soldiers and some officials. The chief priests and the Pharisees had sent them. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.

⁴ Jesus knew everything that was going to happen to him. So he went out and asked them, “Who is it that you want?”

⁵ “Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied.

“I am he,” Jesus said.

Judas, who was going to hand Jesus over, was standing there with them. ⁶ When Jesus said, “I am he,” they moved back. Then they fell to the ground.

⁷ He asked them again, “Who is it that you want?”

They said, “Jesus of Nazareth.”

⁸ “I told you I am he,” Jesus answered. “If you are looking for me, then let these men go.” ⁹ This happened so that the words Jesus had spoken would come true.

He had said, “I have not lost anyone God has given me.” (John 6:39)

¹⁰ Simon Peter had a sword and pulled it out. He struck the high priest’s servant and cut off his right ear. The servant’s name was Malchus.

¹¹ Jesus commanded Peter, “Put your sword away! Shouldn’t I drink the cup of suffering the Father has given me?”

READER 2: _____

Jesus Is Taken to Annas

¹² Then the group of soldiers, their leader and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They tied him up ¹³ and brought him first to Annas. He was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest at that time. ¹⁴ Caiaphas had advised the Jews that it would be good if one man died for the people.



READER 3: _____

Peter Says He Is Not Jesus' Disciple

¹⁵ Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. The high priest knew the other disciple. So that disciple went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard.

¹⁶ But Peter had to wait outside by the door.

The other disciple came back. He was the one the high priest knew. He spoke to the woman who was on duty there. Then he brought Peter in.

¹⁷ The woman at the door spoke to Peter. "You are not one of Jesus' disciples, are you?" she asked him.

"I am not," he replied.

¹⁸ It was cold. The servants and officials stood around a fire. They had made it to keep warm. Peter was also standing with them. He was warming himself.

READER 4: _____

The High Priest Questions Jesus

¹⁹ Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus. He asked him about his disciples and his teaching.

²⁰ "I have spoken openly to the world," Jesus replied. "I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I didn't say anything in secret. ²¹ Why question me? Ask the people who heard me. They certainly know what I said."

²² When Jesus said that, one of the officials nearby hit him in the face. "Is this any way to answer the high priest?" he asked.

²³ "Have I said something wrong?" Jesus replied. "If I have, give witness to it. But if I spoke the truth, why did you hit me?"

²⁴ While Jesus was still tied up, Annas sent him to Caiaphas, the high priest.

READER 5: _____

Peter Again Says He Is Not Jesus' Disciple

²⁵ Simon Peter stood there. He was warming himself. Then someone asked him, "You aren't one of Jesus' disciples, are you?"

He said, "I am not."

²⁶ One of the high priest's servants was a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off. He said to Peter, "Didn't I see you with Jesus in the olive grove?"

²⁷ Again Peter said no.

At that very moment a rooster began to crow.

Jesus Is Brought to Pilate

²⁸ Then the Jews led Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning. The Jews did not want to be made “unclean.” They wanted to be able to eat the Passover meal. So they did not enter the palace.

²⁹ Pilate came out to them. He asked, “What charges are you bringing against this man?”

³⁰ “He has committed crimes,” they replied. “If he hadn’t, we would not have handed him over to you.”

³¹ Pilate said, “Take him yourselves. Judge him by your own law.”

“But we don’t have the right to put anyone to death,” the Jews complained.

³² This happened so that the words Jesus had spoken about how he was going to die would come true.

³³ Then Pilate went back inside the palace. He ordered Jesus to be brought to him. Pilate asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

³⁴ “Is that your own idea?” Jesus asked. “Or did others talk to you about me?”

³⁵ “Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “It was your people and your chief priests who handed you over to me. What have you done?”

³⁶ Jesus said, “My kingdom is not part of this world. If it were, those who serve me would fight. They would try to keep the Jews from arresting me. My kingdom is from another place.”

³⁷ “So you are a king, then!” said Pilate.

Jesus answered, “You are right to say I am a king. In fact, that’s the reason I was born. I came into the world to give witness to the truth. Everyone who is on the side of truth listens to me.”

³⁸ “What is truth?” Pilate asked.

Then Pilate went out again to the Jews. He said, “I find no basis for any charge against him. ³⁹ But it is your practice for me to set one prisoner free for you at Passover time. Do you want me to set ‘the king of the Jews’ free?”

⁴⁰ They shouted back, “No! Not him! Give us Barabbas!” Barabbas had taken part in an armed struggle against the country’s rulers.



READER 7: _____

Jesus Is Sentenced to Be Crucified

¹ Then Pilate took Jesus and had him whipped. ² The soldiers twisted thorns together to make a crown. They put it on Jesus' head. Then they put a purple robe on him. ³ They went up to him again and again. They kept saying, "We honour you, king of the Jews!" And they hit him in the face.

⁴ Once more Pilate came out. He said to the Jews, "Look, I am bringing Jesus out to you. I want to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him."

⁵ Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Then Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!"

⁶ As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

But Pilate answered, "You take him and crucify him. I myself find no basis for a charge against him."

⁷ The Jews replied, "We have a law. That law says he must die. He claimed to be the Son of God."

⁸ When Pilate heard that, he was even more afraid. ⁹ He went back inside the palace. "Where do you come from?" he asked Jesus.

But Jesus did not answer him.

¹⁰ "Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you understand? I have the power to set you free or to nail you to a cross."

¹¹ Jesus answered, "You were given power from heaven. If you weren't, you would have no power over me. So the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin."

¹² From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free. But the Jews kept shouting, "If you let this man go, you are not Caesar's friend! Anyone who claims to be a king is against Caesar!"

¹³ When Pilate heard that, he brought Jesus out. Pilate sat down on the judge's seat. It was at a place called The Stone Walkway. In the Aramaic language it was called Gabbatha. ¹⁴ It was about noon on Preparation Day in Passover Week.

"Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews.

¹⁵ But they shouted, "Kill him! Kill him! Crucify him!"

"Should I crucify your king?" Pilate asked.

"We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered.

¹⁶ Finally, Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be nailed to a cross.



READER 8: _____

Jesus Is Nailed to a Cross

So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. ¹⁷ He had to carry his own cross. He went out to a place called The Skull. In the Aramaic language it was called Golgotha.

¹⁸ There they nailed Jesus to the cross. Two other men were crucified with him.

One was on each side of him. Jesus was in the middle.

¹⁹ Pilate had a notice prepared. It was fastened to the cross. It read, JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. ²⁰ Many of the Jews read the sign. The place where Jesus was crucified was near the city. The sign was written in the Aramaic, Latin and Greek languages.

²¹ The chief priests of the Jews argued with Pilate. They said, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews.' Write that this man claimed to be king of the Jews."

²² Pilate answered, "I have written what I have written."

²³ When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes. They divided them into four parts. Each soldier got one part. Jesus' long, inner robe was left. It did not have any seams. It was made out of one piece of cloth from top to bottom.

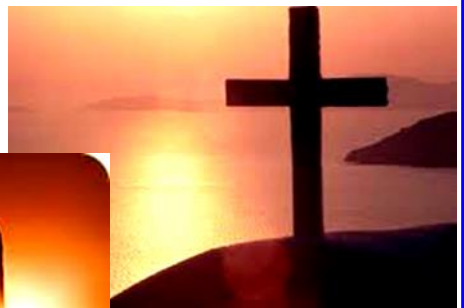
²⁴ "Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's cast lots to see who will get it."

This happened so that Scripture would come true. It says, "They divided up my clothes among them. They cast lots for what I was wearing." (Psalm 22:18)

So that is what the soldiers did.

²⁵ Jesus' mother stood near his cross. So did his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

²⁶ Jesus saw his mother there. He also saw the disciple he loved standing nearby. Jesus said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son." ²⁷ He said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, the disciple took her into his home.



READER 9: _____

Jesus Dies

²⁸ Later Jesus said, "I am thirsty." He knew that everything was now finished. He knew that what Scripture said must come true. ²⁹ A jar of wine vinegar was there. So they soaked a sponge in it. They put the sponge on a stem of the hyssop plant. Then they lifted it up to Jesus' lips.

³⁰ After Jesus drank he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and died.

³¹ It was Preparation Day. The next day would be a special Sabbath. The Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath. So they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. ³² The soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus. Then they broke the legs of the other man.

³³ But when they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead. So they did not break his legs. ³⁴ Instead, one of the soldiers stuck his spear into Jesus' side. Right away, blood and water flowed out. ³⁵ The man who saw it has given witness. And his witness is true. He knows that he tells the truth. He gives witness so that you also can believe.

³⁶ These things happened in order that Scripture would come true. It says, "Not one of his bones will be broken." (Exodus 12:46; Numbers 9:12; Psalm 34:20)

³⁷ Scripture also says, "They will look to the one they have pierced." (Zechariah 12:10)



Jesus Is Buried

³⁸ Later Joseph asked Pilate for Jesus' body. Joseph was from the town of Arimathea. He was a follower of Jesus. But he followed Jesus secretly because he was afraid of the Jews. After Pilate gave him permission, Joseph came and took the body away.

³⁹ Nicodemus went with Joseph. He was the man who had earlier visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought some mixed spices, about 75 pounds. ⁴⁰ The two men took Jesus' body. They wrapped it in strips of linen cloth, along with the spices. That was the way the Jews buried people's bodies.

⁴¹ At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden. A new tomb was there. No one had ever been put in it before. ⁴² That day was the Jewish Preparation Day, and the tomb was nearby. So they placed Jesus there.

This is the Gospel of Christ. Praise to Christ, the Word.



