

Good Friday

We enter in silence

Hymn – Nearer, my God, to thee

Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee;
E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me,
Still all my song shall be nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee.

Though like the wanderer, the sun gone down,
Darkness be over me, my rest a stone,
Yet in my dreams I'd be, nearer God to thee
Nearer, my God, to thee, Nearer to thee.

1. Jesus is condemned

Mark 15:1-5, 11-15

English

Early the next morning the chief priests, the nation's leaders, and the teachers of the Law of Moses met together with the whole Jewish council. They tied up Jesus and led him off to Pilate.

² He asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

"Those are your words," Jesus answered.

³ The chief priests brought many charges against Jesus. ⁴ Then Pilate questioned him again, "Don't you have anything to say? Don't you hear what crimes they say you have done?" ⁵ But Jesus did not answer, and Pilate was amazed. ¹¹ But the chief priests told the crowd to ask Pilate to free Barabbas.

¹² Then Pilate asked the crowd, "What do you want me to do with this man you say is the king of the Jews?"

¹³ They yelled, "Nail him to a cross!"

¹⁴ Pilate asked, "But what crime has he done?"

"Nail him to a cross!" they yelled even louder.

¹⁵ Pilate wanted to please the crowd. So he set Barabbas free. Then he ordered his soldiers to beat Jesus with a whip and nail him to a cross.

We pray for those on trial and for those appointed to judge them...

[We hold broken hearts as we pray in silence]

God in your mercy

HEAR OUR PRAYER

2. Jesus takes up his cross

Mark 15:16-20

Mandarin

¹⁶ The soldiers led Jesus inside the courtyard of the fortress and called together the rest of the troops. ¹⁷ They put a purple robe on him, and on his head they placed a crown that they had made out of thorn branches. ¹⁸ They made fun of Jesus and shouted, "Hey, you king of the Jews!" ¹⁹ Then they beat him on the head with a stick. They spit on him and knelt down and pretended to worship him.

²⁰ When the soldiers had finished making fun of Jesus, they took off the purple robe. They put his own clothes back on him and led him off to be nailed to a cross.

We pray for those appointed to keep order and those tempted to abuse their power...

[We hold broken hearts as we pray in silence]

God in your mercy

HEAR OUR PRAYER

Song: Every single stone (Mark 14:66-72)

Words and Music: Leigh Newton © 2021 <https://youtu.be/lojmoatQowQ>

1. Every single stone's a broken stone.
Each sunset peak and gravel road,
Each jewelled ring and silver lode,
Every single rock is etched in grey.
2. Peter's in the courtyard by the fire.
His light, his hope now stands condemned.
He can't admit he's more than friend.
Peter's in the courtyard by the fire.

Chorus:

But Jesus knew before the dawn, before the cock would crow,
Peter would deny the Son of God.

And while the ancient city lay in sleep, the pieces kept on moving.

3. Peter shakes his head when he's accused.
They see right through his frantic lies –
The sweating palms, the lowered eyes.
Peter shakes his head when he's accused.

4. Peter's in the courtyard with the hounds.
Like circling dogs, they curse and scowl,
With scent of blood, they snap and howl.
Peter's in the courtyard with the hounds.

Chorus

5. Peter says he doesn't know the man.
In frenzied voice he swears his oaths,
In fear for life, he rips his clothes.
Peter says he doesn't know the man.
6. Every one of us has feet of clay.
We swear our case, we can't conceal
We're just like him – we squirm and squeal.
Every one of us has feet of clay.

Chorus

7. Broken is enough for you and me.
For Jesus heals each broken soul;
Forgives us all and makes us whole.
Broken is enough for you and me.

3. Jesus falls

Isaiah 53:1

English

Has anyone believed us or seen the mighty power of the Lord in action?

We pray for those who are tired and in pain...

God in your mercy

HEAR OUR PRAYER

4. Jesus meets his mother

Luke 2:22, 25, 34-35

Cantonese

²² The Son of Man will die in the way that has been decided for him, but it will be terrible for the one who betrays him!"

²⁵ So Jesus told them: Foreign kings order their people around, and powerful rulers call themselves everyone's friends.

³⁴ Jesus replied, "Peter, I tell you that before a rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will say three times that you don't know me."

³⁵ Jesus asked his disciples, “When I sent you out without a moneybag or a traveling bag or sandals, did you need anything?”
“No!” they answered.

We pray for parents whose children are in pain or in trouble...

God in your mercy **HEAR OUR PRAYER**

Hymn – When I survey the wondrous cross (verses 1-2)

- 1 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.
- 2 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 through his
blood.

5. Simon helps Jesus carry the cross Mark 15:21 English

²¹ Simon from Cyrene happened to be coming in from a farm, and they forced him to carry Jesus' cross. Simon was the father of Alexander and Rufus.

We pray for a willingness to serve you, whether we know you well or only a little...

God in your mercy **HEAR OUR PRAYER**

6. Veronica wipes Jesus' face Matthew 25:35-36, 40 Mandarin

³⁵ When I was hungry, you gave me something to eat, and when I was thirsty, you gave me something to drink. When I was a stranger, you welcomed me, ³⁶ and when I was naked, you gave me clothes to wear. When I was sick, you took care of me, and when I was in jail, you visited me.”

⁴⁰ The king will answer, “Whenever you did it for any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did it for me.”

We pray for those who wipe away our tears and for those we comfort...

Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem Luke 23:27-28

²⁷ A large crowd was following Jesus, and in the crowd a lot of women

were crying and weeping for him. ²⁸ Jesus turned to the women and said: Women of Jerusalem, don't cry for me! Cry for yourselves and for your children.

We pray for people who live in danger. We pray for peacemakers.

God in your mercy

HEAR OUR PRAYER

Hymn – When I survey the wondrous cross (verses 3-4)

- 3 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?
- 4 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.

7. Jesus falls again and again

Isaiah 53:4-7

English

He suffered and endured great pain for us,
but we thought his suffering was punishment from God.

⁵ He was wounded and crushed because of our sins;
by taking our punishment, he made us completely well.

⁶ All of us were like sheep that had wandered off.

We had each gone our own way, but the Lord gave him the punishment we deserved.

⁷ He was painfully abused, but he did not complain.

He was silent like a lamb being led to the butcher,
as quiet as a sheep having its wool cut off.

We pray for those who struggle and fall...

We pray for those who are difficult to love and We pray for ourselves...

God in your mercy

HEAR OUR PRAYER

8. Jesus is stripped

Mark 15:22-24

Mandarin

²² The soldiers took Jesus to Golgotha, which means "Place of a Skull." ²³ There they gave him some wine mixed with a drug to ease the pain, but he refused to drink it. ²⁴ They nailed Jesus to a cross and gambled to see who would get his clothes.

We pray for those who are alone and vulnerable...

God in your mercy

HEAR OUR PRAYER

Hymn – O sacred head, sore wounded

O sacred head, sore wounded, with grief and shame weighed down
O kingly head, surrounded with thorns your only crown;
death's shadows rise before you, the glow of life decays;
Yet hosts of heaven adore you and tremble as they gaze.

In this your bitter passion, good Shepherd think of me,
Look on me with compassion, unworthy though I be:
Beneath your cross abiding forever would I rest,
In your dear love confiding, and with your presence blessed.

What language shall I borrow to praise you, heavenly friend,
For this thy dying sorrow, your mercy without end?
Such agony and dying! Such love to sinners free!
O Christ, all grace supplying, turn now your face on me.

9. Nailed to the cross

Luke 23:35, 49

Mandarin

While the crowd stood there watching Jesus, the soldiers gambled for his clothes. The leaders insulted him by saying, "He saved others. Now he should save himself, if he really is God's chosen Messiah!"

⁴⁹ All of Jesus' close friends and the women who had come with him from Galilee stood at a distance and watched.

We thank you for your deep love...

God in your mercy

HEAR OUR PRAYER

10. Jesus dies on a cross

Luke 23:44-46

English

⁴⁴ Around noon the sky turned dark and stayed that way until the middle of the afternoon. ⁴⁵ The sun stopped shining, and the curtain in the temple[c] split down the middle. ⁴⁶ Jesus shouted, "Father, I put myself in your hands!" Then he died.

[silence]

– *the hearts are placed on the cross*

Hymn – Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

O... sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

11. Jesus is taken down from the cross Mark 15:42-46 Mandarin

⁴² It was now the evening before the Sabbath, and the Jewish people were getting ready for that sacred day. ⁴³ A man named Joseph from Arimathea was brave enough to ask Pilate for the body of Jesus. Joseph was a highly respected member of the Jewish council, and he was also waiting for God's kingdom to come.

⁴⁴ Pilate was surprised to hear that Jesus was already dead, and he called in the army officer to find out if Jesus had been dead very long. ⁴⁵ After the officer told him, Pilate let Joseph have Jesus' body.

⁴⁶ Joseph bought a linen cloth and took the body down from the cross.

We pray for those who have died...

God in your mercy

HEAR OUR PRAYER

12. Jesus is laid in the tomb

Mark 15:46-47

English

⁴⁶ Joseph bought a linen cloth and took the body down from the cross. He had it wrapped in the cloth, and he put it in a tomb that had been cut into solid rock. Then he rolled a big stone against the entrance to the tomb. ⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph were watching and saw where the body was placed.

Hymn –

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

O... sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

We pray for those who wait in darkness, longing for light...

God in your mercy

HEAR OUR PRAYER

We depart when ready

For Reflection on Easter Saturday

'Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone'

Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone,
Prevent the dog from barking with a juicy bone,
Silence the pianos and with muffled drum
Bring out the coffin, let the mourners come.

Let aeroplanes circle moaning overhead
Scribbling on the sky the message He Is Dead,
Put crepe bows round the white necks of the public doves,
Let the traffic policemen wear black cotton gloves.

He was my North, my South, my East and West,
My working week and my Sunday rest,
My noon, my midnight, my talk, my song;
I thought that love would last for ever: I was wrong.

The stars are not wanted now: put out every one;
Pack up the moon and dismantle the sun;
Pour away the ocean and sweep up the wood;
For nothing now can ever come to any good. W H Auden