



**In the Cross  
is Salvation**



*"Yes you needed this. And yes, you are worth it."*

**Leader:**

Christian communities across the world gather in public places, in magnificent cathedrals, in parish churches, in humble village settings, all with a common aim, to celebrate the Passion of Christ.

They re-enact the sorrowful journey of Jesus to Calvary and they venerate the Cross, the symbol of our salvation. Let us unite in solidarity with Christians everywhere, as we celebrate the supreme act of love for humankind in the sufferings and death of Jesus.

**Let us pray together:**

Good Friday's wood, on which hung the Saviour of the world, remains waiting for our kiss. It bore the one who says to us now, and eternally, from the Cross:  
"Yes you needed this. And yes, you are worth it."

**Hymn:**

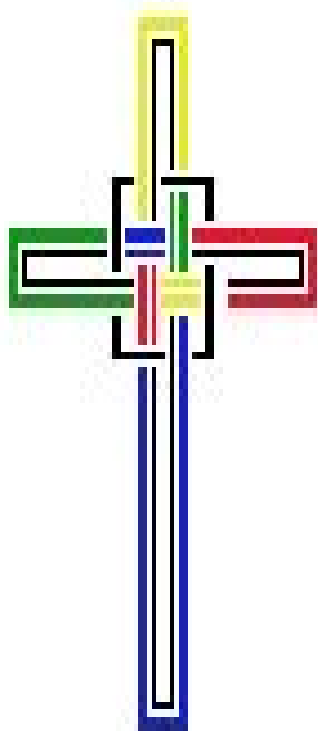
O faithful cross you stand unmoved.

*R:* O Cross of Christ, immortal tree  
on which our Saviour died,  
The world is sheltered by your arms  
That bore the Crucified

*L:* From bitter death and barren wood  
the tree of life is made;  
Its branches bear unfailing fruit  
And leaves that never fade

*R:* O faithful Cross, you stand unmoved  
while ages run their course:  
Foundation of the universe,  
Creation's binding force.

*L:* Give glory to the risen Christ  
and to his Cross give praise,  
The sign of God's unfathomed love,  
the hope of all our days

**Closing Reflection (*The Old Rugged Cross*):**

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,  
The emblem of suffering and shame;  
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best  
For a world of lost sinners was slain. *R.*

*Refrain*

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,  
Till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross,  
And exchange it some day for a crown.*

O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,  
Has a wondrous attraction for me;  
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above  
To bear it to dark Calvary. *R*

In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,  
A wondrous beauty I see,  
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,  
To pardon and sanctify me. *R*

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true;  
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;  
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away,  
Where His glory forever I'll share. *R*

## Intercessions:

*Response: In your Cross is our salvation*

Jesus, our Saviour, you laid down your life for your friends; - let us love one another as you have loved us. *Response:*

Jesus, our life, by dying on the Cross you destroyed hell and death: - grant that we may die with you and rise in glory. *Response:*

You gave salvation to the repentant thief; - pardon all our sins. *Response:*

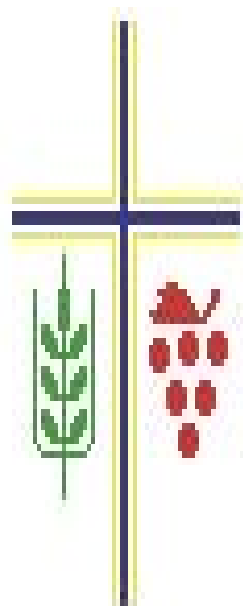
You made the Cross the tree of life; - share your redemption with all humankind. *Response:*

May the example of your suffering encourage and inspire all those whose Cross is heavy at this time; - give hope to the Christians of Iraq especially in these days. *Response:*

Jesus, in your manner of death, the Cross has become the universal symbol of Christians; - may we always sign ourselves reverently in your memory and may we honour your sacred symbol *Response:*

## All:

Creator and creating God,  
we thank you for the manifestation  
of your love for us  
in the Paschal mysteries  
we celebrate at this time.  
Deepen our understanding of these mysteries  
and strengthen our faith  
that our lives may be transformed  
by the fruits the suffering and death of Jesus. Amen.



## Psalms:

*Ant: God did not spare his own Son,  
but gave him up for us all (Psalm 50)*

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my offence.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt  
and cleanse me from my sin.

My offences truly I know them  
my sin is always before me  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;  
What is evil in your sight I have done

That you may be justified  
when you give sentence  
and be without reproach when you judge,  
O see, in guilt I was born,  
a sinner was I conceived.

Indeed you love truth in the heart;  
then in the secret of my heart teach me wisdom.  
O purify me, then I shall be clean;  
O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear rejoicing and gladness,  
that the bones you have crushed may revive.  
From my sins turn away your face  
and blot out all my guilt.

A pure heart create for me, O God  
put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help;  
with spirit of fervour sustain me,  
That I may teach transgressors your ways  
and sinners may return to you.



O rescue me God, my helper,  
 and my tongue shall ring out your goodness.  
 O Lord, open my lips  
 and my mouth shall declare your praise  
 For in sacrifice you take no delight,  
 burnt offering from me you would refuse,  
 my sacrifice, a contrite spirit.  
 A humbled contrite heart you will not spurn.

*Glory be to the Father....*

*Ant: God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all*

*Ant: After Jesus had taken the vinegar he said:*

*'It is accomplished' and bowing his head He gave up his spirit.*



Though he was in the form of God  
 Jesus did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped

He emptied himself, taking the form of a servant  
 being born in the likeness of men.

And being found in human form,  
 He humbled himself and became obedient to death,  
 even death on a cross

Therefore, God has highly exalted him,  
 and bestowed on him a name which is  
 above every name,

That at the name of Jesus every knee  
 should bow, in heaven and on earth  
 and under the earth,

And every tongue confess that  
 Jesus Christ is Lord,  
 To the glory of God the Father.

*Glory be to the Father....*

*Ant: After Jesus had taken the vinegar he said:*

*'It is accomplished' and bowing his head He gave up his spirit.*

### Scripture Reading - 1 Peter 2: 21-24

Christ suffered for you and left you an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness: through his wounds you have been healed.

*The word of the Lord*

*Thanks be to God.*

### Reflection: Behold the man

Holy God, Good Friday is the day we most love, yet most hold in awe.

We behold the Man, and tremble.

O God, as Jesus is lifted up, our faith must either be renewed or lost.

We see him and recognise the kind of person we want, yet are afraid, to be.

Behold the Man...despised...outcast...accursed - quite dispensable when the powerful snap their fingers or rattle their money bags

God we confess that the things we deeply fear meet us at this execution.

It is a nightmare from which we wish to hide our faces;

From the one who seems abandoned by earth and heaven.

This Golgotha is the place where our smooth sensible ideas of...success...

power...wisdom...faith - and divine love,

are shattered by a hammer beat.

Either we must abandon this world's wisdom and begin again,

or, we must abandon you God.

Here at this Cross, our faith either rises...or, falls.

Lord, we believe...help us in our disbelief.

*Ecce Homo...Ecce Deus...Behold the Man...Behold God.*

(Pause for short personal reflection)