



BEFORE YOU BEGIN: At an appropriate time, preferably in the afternoon or evening, gather together to celebrate Good Friday, the passion and death of Jesus Christ. A simple prayer space can be adjusted with a candle, cross or crucifix, and red cloth. If the song is unfamiliar, you may find it on the internet (example: YouTube), shorten it, or simply move on to the other prayers. A leader should divide up the roles and adjust the service as necessary to make sure everyone is able to participate.

For the reading of the Passion, the Leader should assign parts: Narrator (N), Voice (V), Jesus (†), and all others as Crowd (C). These parts may be doubled if there are less than four people able to read a part. Before the prayer service, the Leader may choose to highlight each part, especially for children, to ease in finding their parts. Encourage as much participation as possible.

1. Hymn

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh! 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 nailed Him to the tree?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

Were you there when they pierced Him in the side?
Were you there when they pierced Him in the side?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they pierced Him in the side?

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

2. Introduction

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (All make the Sign of the Cross together.)

All: Amen

Leader: Let us praise God, who fills our hearts and homes with peace. Blessed be God for ever.

All: Blessed be God forever.

Leader: Today we recall the passion of Jesus Christ on the Cross. While we cannot be with our parish family today, we remember and join with all those suffering around the world.

3. A Reading of the Passion

[Reminder: Narrator (N), Voice (V), Jesus (†), and all others as Crowd (C).]

N: From the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged. And the soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and placed it on his head, and clothed him in a purple cloak, and they came to him and said,

C: "Hail, King of the Jews!"

N: And they struck him repeatedly. Once more Pilate went out and said to them,

V: "Look, I am bringing him out to you, so that you may know that I find no guilt in him."

N: So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple cloak. And he said to them,

V: "Behold, the man!"

N: When the chief priests and the guards saw him they cried out,

C: "Crucify him, crucify him!"

N: Pilate said to them,

V: "Take him yourselves and crucify him. I find no guilt in him." **N:** The Jews answered,

C: "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God."

N: Now when Pilate heard this statement, he became even more afraid, and went back into the praetorium and said to Jesus,

V: "Where are you from?"

N: Jesus did not answer him. So Pilate said to him,

V: "Do you not speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you and I have power to crucify you?"

N: Jesus answered him,

†: "You would have no power over me if it had not been given to you from Above. For this reason the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin."

N: Consequently, Pilate tried to release him; but the Jews cried out,

C: "If you release him, you are not a Friend of Caesar. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar."

N: When Pilate heard these words he brought Jesus out and seated him on the judge's bench in the place called Stone Pavement, in Hebrew, Gabbatha. It was preparation day for Passover, and it was about noon. And he said to the Jews,

V: "Behold, your king!"

N: They cried out,

C: "Take him away, take him away! Crucify him!"

N: Pilate said to them,

V: "Shall I crucify your king?"

N: The chief priests answered,

C: "We have no king but Caesar."

N: Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and, carrying the cross himself, he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle...

N: When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four shares, a share for each soldier. They also took his tunic, but the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top down. So they said to one another, in order that the passage of Scripture might be fulfilled that says: They divided my garments among them, and for my vesture they cast lots. This is what the soldiers did. Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved he said to his mother,

†: "Woman, behold, your son."

N: Then he said to the disciple,

†: "Behold, your mother."

N: Now since it was preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the sabbath, for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and that they be taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out. An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true; he knows that he is speaking the truth, so that you also may come to believe. For this happened so that the Scripture passage might be fulfilled: Not a bone of it will be broken. And again another passage says: They will look upon him whom they have pierced. After this, Joseph of Arimathea, secretly a disciple of Jesus for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate if he could remove the body of Jesus. And Pilate permitted it. So he came and took his body. Nicodemus, the one who had first come to him at night, also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes weighing about one hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and bound it with burial cloths along with the spices, according to the Jewish burial custom. Now in the place where he had been crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had yet been buried. So they laid Jesus there because of the Jewish preparation day; for the tomb was close by.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

4. Intercessions

Leader: We join our prayers with our brothers and sisters around the world.

Please respond: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For the Church. (pause) That God will guide her in spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ and to serve all who are in need.

Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: For the Pope. (pause) That God will protect Pope Francis and continue to inspire him in his leadership of the Church around the world. Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: For all members of the Church. (pause) That God will guide all Bishops, Priests, Deacons, and Lay Faithful to share their gifts in service to others.

Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: For catechumens. (pause) That God will strengthen all catechumens, those preparing for baptism, as they enter the Church this Easter Season. Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: For Christian unity. (pause) That God will gather all those who share a belief in his Son, Jesus Christ to journey with one another in faith and service.

Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: For the Jewish People. (pause) That God will be present to all those who are of the Jewish faith and that they may grow closer to him by recognizing his loving kindness.

Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: For those who do not believe in Christ.

(pause) That God will be present to all those who seek the love and mercy which comes from following Jesus Christ. Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: For those who do not believe in God.

(pause) That God will aid in allowing himself to be known through the witness of service, love, and peace of his Church. Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: For those in public office (pause) That God will guide those in government offices to serve the needs of all people, especially the poor and most vulnerable. Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: For all those in need. (pause) That God will hear their prayers and answer them in their time of need, bringing healing, comfort, mercy, peace, forgiveness, and love.

Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: For all who are sick and for all who have died as a result of the Coronavirus, as well as for the safety of healthcare workers, for the consolation of those who cannot leave their homes, and for the encouragement of all who feel anxiety, fear or doubt during this health crisis.

Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

5. Our Father

Leader: Remember us Lord when you come into your kingdom and teach us to pray as you taught us:

All: Our Father...

N: And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. After this, aware that everything was now finished, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said,

†: "I thirst."

N: There was a vessel filled with common wine. So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth. When Jesus had taken the wine, he said,

†: "It is finished."

N: And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit.

(All kneel and pause for a short time in silence before the Cross/Crucifix (if present). Then the Leader invites all to stand.)

6. Conclusion

Leader: Let us pray. (pause) Father, look with love upon your people, the love which our Lord Jesus Christ showed us when he delivered himself to evil men and suffered the agony of the cross, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

7. Adoration of the Cross

(if a Cross/Crucifix is present)

(If there is no Cross/Crucifix present, the Leader leads the Sign of the Cross and all depart quietly or continue to spend some time in quiet prayer. Or:)

Leader: *(turns to the Cross/Crucifix present)* We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

All: for by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Leader: *(Reverences the Cross with a touch, kiss, or other gesture. Then makes a Sign of the Cross in silence. Invite others to do the same. Depart quietly or continue to spend some time in quiet prayer.)*

Besides the candle, the cross/crucifix and red cloth can preferably be left up for prayer time throughout the day until Saturday evening. Encourage those in the household to spend some additional in quiet prayer throughout the remainder of the day/evening and into Saturday morning.

By Michael Poradek, Diocese of Gary Liturgical Commissions