

Good Friday

Three Hours at the Cross I

Noon

We will be dwelling on the events of Easter through the eyes of a Roman soldier on Good Friday. His journey takes him through all manner of attitudes and feelings we can identify with, ranging from boredom and indifference to curiosity, fascination and hope.

Please use the time, especially the silence to ponder where you can identify with him that day. Listen too to the other words we will hear and pray through what you have learned from your journey to Golgotha and the Cross of Christ.

The Governor

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast off the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever, Amen.

Psalm 97 *Dominus regnavit.*

The Lord is King, the earth may be glad thereof : yea, the multitude of the isles may be glad thereof.
Clouds and darkness are round about him : righteousness and judgement are the habitation of his seat.
There shall go a fire before him : and burn up his enemies on every side.
His lightnings gave shine unto the world : the earth saw it, and was afraid.
The hills melted like wax at the presence of the Lord : at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.
The heavens have declared his righteousness : and all the people have seen his glory.
Confounded be all they that worship carved images, and that delight in vain gods : worship him, all ye gods.
Sion heard of it, and rejoiced : and the daughters of Judah were glad because of thy judgements, O Lord.
For thou Lord art higher than all that are in the earth : thou art exalted far above all gods.
O ye that love the Lord, see that ye hate the thing which is evil : the Lord preserveth the souls of his saints; he shall deliver them from the hand of the ungodly.
There is sprung up a light for the righteous : and joyful gladness for such as are true-hearted.
Rejoice in the Lord, ye righteous : and give thanks for a remembrance of his holiness.

Reading: Matthew 27. 1 - 14.

The Dream of the Rood [excerpt]

A dream came to me at deep midnight
when humankind kept their beds
- the dream of dreams!
I shall declare it.

It seemed I saw the Tree itself borne on the air, light wound about it,
- a beam of brightest wood, a beacon clad in overlapping gold,
glancing gems fair at its foot, and five stones set in a crux flashed from the crosstree.
Around angels of God all gazed upon it, since first fashioning fair.
It was not a felon's gallows, for holy ghosts beheld it there,
and men on mould, and the whole Making of it shone for it - *signum* of victory!

Stained and marred, stricken with shame I saw the glory tree
shine out gaily, sheathed in yellow decorous gold;
and gemstones made for their Maker's tree a right mail-coat.
Yet through the masking gold I might perceive
what terrible sufferings were once sustained thereon:
It bled from the right side.
Troth in the heart.

Address

Music

Silence

[at 12:30] The Lord's Prayer.

*The Dream of the Rood is one of the oldest pieces of writing that exists in English.
It is an example of Old English 'dream poetry' about a vision of the 'rod' - Old English for pole or crucifix.
Parts of it can be found on the Ruthwell Cross - a free-standing Anglo Saxon stone, carved cross dating from the
early eighth century.*