

## 1. Welcome & prayer of confession & thanksgiving

## 2. Song: *Forever (We sing Hallelujah)*

## 3. Bible Reading: Luke 22:63 – 23:25

<sup>63</sup> Now the men who were holding Jesus in custody were mocking him as they beat him. <sup>64</sup> They also blindfolded him and kept asking him, “Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?” <sup>65</sup> And they said many other things against him, blaspheming him.

### Jesus Before the Council

<sup>66</sup> When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes. And they led him away to their council, and they said, <sup>67</sup> “If you are the Christ, tell us.” But he said to them, “If I tell you, you will not believe, <sup>68</sup> and if I ask you, you will not answer. <sup>69</sup> But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God.” <sup>70</sup> So they all said, “Are you the Son of God, then?” And he said to them, “You say that I am.” <sup>71</sup> Then they said, “What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips.”

### Jesus Before Pilate

**23** Then the whole company of them arose and brought him before Pilate. <sup>2</sup> And they began to accuse him, saying, “We found this man misleading our nation and **forbidding** us to give tribute to Caesar, **and** saying that he himself is Christ, a

**king.”** <sup>3</sup> And Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” And he answered him, “**You have said so.**” <sup>4</sup> Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, “I find no guilt in this man.” <sup>5</sup> But they were urgent, saying, “He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place.”

## Jesus Before Herod

<sup>6</sup> When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. <sup>7</sup> And when he learned that he belonged to Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. <sup>8</sup> When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. <sup>9</sup> So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer. <sup>10</sup> The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. <sup>11</sup> And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate. <sup>12</sup> And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.

<sup>13</sup> Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, <sup>14</sup> and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of **your** charges against him. <sup>15</sup> Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him. <sup>16</sup> I will therefore punish and release him.”

## Pilate Delivers Jesus to Be Crucified

<sup>18</sup> But they all cried out together, “Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas”— <sup>19</sup> a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. <sup>20</sup> Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, <sup>21</sup> but they kept shouting, “Crucify, crucify him!” <sup>22</sup> A third time he said to them, “Why? What evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him.” <sup>23</sup> But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And **their** voices prevailed. <sup>24</sup> So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. <sup>25</sup> He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will.

4. *Song: Man of Sorrows*

5. *Bible Reading: Luke 23:26-56*

## The Crucifixion

<sup>26</sup> And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. <sup>27</sup> And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. <sup>28</sup> But turning to them Jesus said, “**Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep**

for yourselves and for your children. <sup>29</sup> For behold, the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’  
<sup>30</sup> Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ <sup>31</sup> For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

<sup>32</sup> Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. <sup>33</sup> And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>34</sup> And Jesus said, “**Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.**” And they cast lots to divide his garments. <sup>35</sup> And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” <sup>36</sup> The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine <sup>37</sup> and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” <sup>38</sup> There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!”  
<sup>40</sup> But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?”  
<sup>41</sup> And he indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” <sup>42</sup> And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” <sup>43</sup> And he said to him, “**Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.**”

## The Death of Jesus

<sup>44</sup> It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, (12-3pm) <sup>45</sup> while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup> Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, **“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!”** And having said this he breathed his last. <sup>47</sup> Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, “Certainly this man was innocent!” <sup>48</sup> And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. <sup>49</sup> And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.

## **Jesus Is Buried**

<sup>50</sup> Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, <sup>51</sup> who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. <sup>52</sup> This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. <sup>53</sup> Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. <sup>54</sup> It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. <sup>55</sup> The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. <sup>56</sup> Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments.

On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

## 6. Message

On Good Friday, I reckon the job of the preacher is pretty-well done, simply by reading the record of the:

- trial of Jesus;
- torture;
- crucifixion;
- death; and
- burial of Jesus....

Good Friday: – It's a day of remembering what Jesus went through, to achieve what He did...

It's a reminder, that spells out (in graphic detail), the **cost** of the grace that we receive from the Father – the cost that is the forgiveness of **our** sins....

Jesus endured the:

- mocking;
- scourge;
- torture;
- public humiliation;
- execution...

that we might be saved...

That was the cost of my salvation, because by God's Law, when God judges **my** heart, I deserve the punishment of death....

But the thing is, the only person who ever lived, who did **not** commit **any** sin – the only One whose heart **is** perfect and pure – He's the one who died...

A couple of weeks ago, we were in Luke 12, and Jesus had said, “Beware of the leaven of the Religious leaders, which is hypocrisy”.... And at the ‘travesty of justice’, that was the trial of Jesus, their hypocrisy and their false-testimony is brought to light – it’s there for everyone to see.

And it’s on the **basis** of their false-testimony, **and** their uncompromising **demand** for the execution of Jesus, that justice is thrown out the window, for political expedience...

And yet, if it didn’t happen, we couldn’t be saved...

Did you notice their hypocrisy?

The accusations they put to Pilate were these:

1) *“We found this man, misleading our nation”*

In their eyes: Probably True.

Upon further investigation: False

2) *“Forbidding us to give tribute to Cesar”*

Blatantly False

3) *“Saying that He Himself is Christ, a King”*

Now, Jesus didn’t deny He was the Christ, but let’s be clear: the charge they were putting before Pilate, is one of “insurrection” – that Jesus was wanting to oust Cesar and claim the throne of Israel for Himself (as Israel’s new King)...

So, Pilate found that claim false...

4) The 4<sup>th</sup> accusation, “*He stirs up the people with His teaching, across the whole country*”

Well, He certainly was a stirring preacher. But he wasn't drumming up an insurrection, which is what they were really accusing Him of.

And so Pilate found that claim, false as well.

And Pilate's judgment was this: He

<sup>13</sup> ... called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, <sup>14</sup> and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. <sup>15</sup> Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him.

Do you catch the significance of what Pilate is saying???

“You have testified that **He** is misleading the people”... Pilate found that testimony to be “**false**”. So, **who** was doing the misleading??? The religious leaders... Their blatant hypocrisy, was not hidden, even from Pilate.

BTW, by God's Law, if a person gives false testimony (and they're found out), well, **their** punishment, is to cop the punishment that the falsely accused would've gotten, if **they** had been convicted...



And so, we've got blatant hypocrisy all round:

The religious leaders (by God's Law) should have been put to death because of their false testimony against Jesus... But Pilate, not only lets them go, he lets **Barabbas** go, who actually **was** guilty of murder and insurrection – he **was** guilty, of all of the things that they accused Jesus of (**falsely**) – ultimately about raising a rebellion against Cesar. Barabbas had done it. Jesus had not...

Why did Pilate release Barabbas??? Because the religious leaders **wanted** the leader of the rebellion to be free. And the one who was **not** a leader of the rebellion, they wanted Him killed.

Absolute hypocrisy...

And what Jesus feels about hypocrites – it's pretty telling really, in the way Jesus responded, when He was hauled before the religious council.

They said: <sup>67</sup> "If you are the Christ, tell us."

But they didn't want to know... Jesus said: "If I tell you, you will not believe"

Things don't change much, do they...

Sometimes we Christians beat ourselves up over this... Do you ever do that? There's a person whom you love; and you desperately try to get them to believe, and nothing seems to work... Nothing you tell them, seems to get traction – it's like

your wheels are spinning, pushing an immovable object...  
and they just will not believe...

And some may say, “*If God Himself comes and shows Himself to me, **then** I’ll believe....*” No they won’t...

When Jesus (the Son of God) walked this Earth:

- He did many signs and wonders  
And they demanded more proof;
- When He taught, they heard the Wisdom of the Word of God Himself,  
and they did not believe

As I read this, I was reminded of Jeremiah 17:9–10 (ESV)  
And God says:

<sup>9</sup> The heart is deceitful above all things,  
and desperately sick; (incurably)  
who can understand it?

<sup>10</sup> “I the LORD search the heart  
and test the mind,  
to give every man according to his ways,  
according to the fruit of his deeds.”

You see, the religious leaders had hardened hearts. Their hearts were desperately sick – incurably so... They would **never** yield to the Son of God.... No matter what evidence was before them; No matter how corrupt their methods had to be, to reject Him... They did not want to have anything to do with Jesus...

That's why Jesus said: "If I tell you, you will not believe

In fact, He knew they wouldn't even engage in conversation – their minds were made up... He said: <sup>68</sup> and if I ask you, you will not answer.

At that point, they had completely rejected Jesus... But their rejection, could not put a stop to the purposes of God... And so Jesus said: <sup>69</sup> But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God."

Wow...

from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God.

BTW, This picture is immensely comforting for some, and absolutely terrifying for others...

For those who **do** believe in Jesus, and I'm not just talking about "belief, as in 'I know stuff'"... It's for those who believe **in** Jesus – **trust** in Jesus – with their entire life – Their present and their future, are totally committed and entrusted to Him... And if that's you, what an immensely comforting word this is, that the Son of Man, is seated at the right hand of the power of God... Woo Hoo!!

Oh, but for those whose hearts are desperately sick – for those who incurably reject the saving work of the Holy Spirit, Jeremiah 17 addresses that to:

<sup>13</sup> O LORD, the hope of Israel,  
all who forsake you shall be put to shame;  
those who turn away from you shall be written in the  
earth,  
for they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain  
(spring/bore) of living water.

2000 years ago on a cross (on the outskirts of Jerusalem), a bore was drilled... Jesus became the fountain/spring/bore of living water...

And there are no shades of grey – there are 2 types of people in the world today... Those who drink deep from this well, and those who forsake the Lord...

Which one are you???

Are you one of Jesus' disciples? Are you someone who praises God, that Jesus, who gave His life, to redeem us from sin, is now vindicated (been shown to be right/innocent/unjustly condemned) – He's been given the place of honour – the place the Son sits... He sits at **the right hand of the power of God.**

Or have you forsaken the Lord, and you wish that blasted preacher would just shut his trap....

The invitation to us, is to be like the criminal on the cross beside Jesus... Not the one who mocked Him... But the one who experienced the mercy of Jesus....

He recognised his sin; He repented of His sin; And He called out to Jesus, to save him...

And what did Jesus say?

- Don't bother me now...
- I'm a bit busy at the moment;
- This is the critical point where I'm saving the world....

No... <sup>43</sup> ... he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

And that is the invitation for us today:

To:

- Come to the cross;
- repent of our incurably desperately sick, sinful rejection of Jesus; and
- call out to Jesus...  
to drink from the fountain of living water, that is life in Christ Jesus...

That's the invitation. What are you going to do with it?

Let's pray:

Heavenly Father,  
we thank You for the cross...

That horrible, torturous, mechanism of death;  
And yet, through it, we have life...

We thank You, Lord Jesus Christ.  
On this Good Friday,  
we remember Your commitment to The Father,  
and Your selfless act of redeeming us for Your good will.

And as we consider these things,  
how can we remain neutral?

We cannot...

By Your Holy Spirit,

I pray that our hearts would be transformed.

That what was incurably opposed to You,  
would desperately yearn to draw near  
and know You,  
and be filled by You,  
For Your glory

Amen.

*7. Song: At the Cross (Love ran red)*

*8. Prayer – for others*

*9. Song: When I survey the Wondrous cross*

Sentence: From the lips of Jesus – who will believe???

Scripture: Luke 22:66-71 (reading from 22:63-23:56)

Location: St George

Date: 29/03/2024 (Good Friday)

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Bush Disciples

# 10. Communion