
A GETHSEMANE WATCH

PRAYERS REFLECTING ON
THE PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST

A dirt path winds through an olive grove, with sunlight filtering through the trees, creating a dappled light effect on the ground. The path leads towards a building in the distance.

Introduction	1
The First Watch (8–9 pm)	3
8:00—Part with Christ	3
8:10—Jesus Washes the Disciples’ Feet	3
8:20—Jesus Shares the Last Supper with the Disciples	4
8:30—Judas Goes to the High Priest	4
8:40—Judas Receives Thirty Pieces of Silver	5
8:50—Jesus Gives the New Commandment	5
The Second Watch (9–10 pm)	6
9:00—Jesus Says ‘For Their Sakes I Sanctify Myself’	6
9:10—Jesus Prays, ‘That They All May Be One’	6
9:20—Jesus Prays in Agony in Gethsemane	7
9:30—Jesus Prays, ‘Your Will, Not Mine’	7
9:40—Jesus Prays, ‘Your Will, Not Mine’ (2)	7
9:50—Jesus Asks, ‘Could You Not Watch With Me?’	8
The Third Watch (10–11 pm)	9
10:00—The Police Come with Swords and Clubs	9
10:10—The Police Come with Lanterns and Torches	9
10:20—Judas Kisses Jesus	10
10:30—Jesus is Bound	10
10:40—Jesus Heals Malchus	10
10:50—The Disciples Flee	11
The Fourth Watch (11–midnight)	12
11:00—Peter Denies Jesus	12
11:10—The High Priest Asks ‘Are You the Christ?’	12
11:20—Jesus is Silent	13

11:30—Jesus is Blindfolded and Struck	13
11:40—Jesus is Spit Upon	13
11:50—Jesus is Brought Before Pilate	14
The Fifth Watch (midnight–1 am)	15
Midnight—Pilate Says, ‘I Find No Fault in Him’	15
12:10—Jesus is Brought Before Herod	15
12:20—The Crowd Asks for Barabbas	16
12:30—Pilate Says ‘Behold the Man’	16
12:40—The Crowd Cries ‘Crucify Him’ (1)	16
12:50—The Crowd Cries ‘Crucify Him’ (2)	17
The Sixth Watch (1–2 am)	18
1:00—Pilate Washes His Hands	18
1:10—The Crowd Cries ‘His Blood Be Upon Us’	18
1:20—Jesus is Sentenced to Death	18
1:30—Pilate Hands Jesus Over to the Crowd	19
1:40—Jesus is Bound to the Pillar	19
1:50—Jesus is Scourged	20
The Seventh Watch (2–3 am)	21
2:00—The Soldiers Put a Purple Robe on Jesus	21
2:10—Jesus is Crowned with Thorns (1)	21
2:20—Jesus is Crowned with Thorns (2)	21
2:30—The Soldiers Cry ‘Hail, King of the Jews’	22
2:40—A Reed is Put in Jesus’ Hand	22
2:50—The Soldiers Bow Before Jesus	23
The Eighth Watch (3–4 am)	24
3:00—Jesus Carries the Cross	24
3:10—Jesus Falls Beneath the Cross (1)	24
3:20—Jesus Falls Beneath the Cross (2)	25

3:30—The Cross is Laid on Simon of Cyrene	25
3:40—‘Take Up Your Cross’ (1)	26
3:50—‘Take Up Your Cross’ (2)	26
The Ninth Watch (4–5 am)	27
4:00—Jesus Goes Along the Way of Sorrows	27
4:10—Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem	27
4:20—Jesus is Stripped of His Garments	28
4:30—Jesus is Stripped of His Garments (2)	28
4:40—Jesus is Nailed to the Cross	29
4:50—Jesus’ Hands are Pierced with Nails	29
The Tenth Watch (5–6 am)	30
5:00—Jesus’ Feet are Pierced with Nails	30
5:10—The Cross is Raised	30
5:20—Jesus is Enthroned upon the Cross	31
5:30—The Inscription is Placed on the Cross	31
5:40—‘This is the King of the Jews’	32
5:50—The Crowd Watch Jesus	32
The Eleventh Watch (6–7 am)	33
6:00—The Crowd Watch Jesus (2)	33
6:10—The Seven Words from the Cross	33
6:20—The First Word from the Cross	34
6:30—The First Word from the Cross (2)	34
6:40—The Second Word from the Cross	34
6:50—The Second Word from the Cross (2)	35
The Twelfth Watch (7–8 am)	36
7:00—The Third Word from the Cross	36
7:10—The Third Word from the Cross (2)	36
7:20—The Fourth Word from the Cross	37

7:30—The Fourth Word from the Cross (2)	37
7:40—The Fifth Word from the Cross	38
7:50—The Fifth Word from the Cross (2)	38
The Thirteenth Watch (8–9 am)	39
8:00—The Sixth Word from the Cross	39
8:10—The Sixth Word from the Cross (2)	39
8:20—The Seventh Word from the Cross	39
8:30—The Seventh Word from the Cross (2)	40
8:40—Darkness Falls	40
8:50—Jesus Dies on the Cross	40
The Fourteenth Watch (9–10 am)	41
9:00—Jesus Dies on the Cross (2)	41
9:10—Jesus Dies on the Cross (3)	41
9:20—The Death of the Lord Jesus: A Thanksgiving	41
9:30—The Centurion Proclaims Jesus as Son of God	42
9:40—The Veil of the Temple is Torn	42
9:50—The Earthquake Marks Jesus' Death	43
The Fifteenth Watch (10–11 am)	44
10:00—'They Shall Look on Him Whom They Pierced'	44
10:10—The Five Wounds of Christ	44
10:20—Nicodemus Comes to the Cross	45
10:30—Joseph of Arimathea Goes to Pilate	45
10:40—Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross	46
10:50—Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross (2)	46
The Sixteenth Watch (11 am–noon)	47
11:00—Jesus is Prepared for Burial	47
11:10—Jesus is Laid in the Tomb	47
11:20—Jesus is Anointed	48

11:30—We are Buried with Christ	48
11:40—The Crown	49
11:50—The Tree of Life	49

Introduction

Nearly twenty-five years ago, as a student at the University of King's College, I came across a copy of 'A Procession of Passion Prayers' by Eric Milner-White, sometime Dean of York, amongst the discarded books in the College library's annual book sale. Without knowing what it was, or even who Milner-White was, I grabbed it for less than a dollar, and it sat on my shelves, unappreciated, for some time.

The next year, as I was getting ready to go to the Chapel for my appointed hour in the Gethsemane Watch, and needing some devotional materials that I could grab in a hurry, I took that little paperback with me, and was astounded to find what a gem it was. In addition to a number of historical passion prayers and prayers reflecting on the cross, Milner-White had also compiled a *Via Crucis*—a series of prayers interpreting and reflecting on almost all of the major points on Jesus' journey from the Upper Room to the Garden Tomb.

During that first Gethsemane Watch with my newly-found pearl of great price, I discovered that these prayers more or less filled the whole hour that I had volunteered to watch with Christ on the night before Good Friday. They have become an important part of my Holy Week devotions ever since, and I have constantly looked for ways to share their beauty and richness with others.

This little book was compiled for Holy Week 2020, in a time when the world was in severe crisis from a global pandemic. Now more than ever, the continual prayers of the Church are needed. Now more than ever, the fear, anxiety, and anguish of the disciples gathered with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane is particularly palpable. Perhaps now more than ever, a collection of prayers like this is needed.

In adapting these prayers, I have tried to stay as faithful as possible to Milner-White's original sentiments, but also to make the language slightly more accessible to modern ears. Those who crave the classic Anglican turn of phrase from earlier prayer books may be better served by the original. (I may still use it in my own devotions!)

The prayers are arranged here for use during a Watch from 8:00 on the evening of Maundy Thursday until noon on Good Friday. Others may adapt the timing to their own needs, or use them all at once, as I did as a student. This work has been a labour of love, intended to help others in their Holy Week devotions, and as a humble imitation of a collection collected and composed by a giant in the Anglican world of liturgy, art, and music. Anyone finding this collection is encouraged to rework and improve upon them, as I have been trying to do.

Jonathan Rowe+
Holy Week, 2020

The First Watch (8–9 pm)

8:00—Part with Christ

Grant us, Lord Christ,
growing part with you, in you,
that shall not be taken away;
part in your purity, in your courage, in your peace;
part by forgiving, and by being forgiven;
part in your obedience to the Father's will,
in your spirit of love,
in your ministries of healing,
in your perpetual prayer;
part in self-offering,
part in your sufferings when it should be your will,
part in your victory and your glory,
for you are God,
the First and the Last,
forever and ever. Amen.

8:10—Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

Almighty God,
you showed the secret of precedence in your kingdom
when hands that had made the earth
washed the disciples feet.
Put away from us all pride of place and possession,
so that in serving each other,
we may be found worthy of that part in your Son
which can never be taken away,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end. Amen.

8:20—Jesus Shares the Last Supper with the Disciples

Lord, this is your feast,
prepared by your longing,
spread at your command,
attended at your invitation,
blessed by your own Word,
distributed by your own hand,
this undying memorial of your everlasting love,
and it continues to the end of time.
Lord, this is the Bread of heaven, the Bread of life.
Whoever eats of it shall never hunger again.
And this is the Cup of pardon,
healing, gladness, and strength.
Whoever drinks of it shall never thirst again.
So may we come,
Lord, to your Table;
Lord Jesus, come to us. Amen.

8:30—Judas Goes to the High Priest

O God,
through the only Son,
you have made us your children.
May we never conspire against our high calling in you,
so that we may not pass, like Judas,
into the endless night,
and that we may never leave the true Light
who alone has the words of eternal life,
the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

8:40—*Judas Receives Thirty Pieces of Silver*

O God,
for our sakes you allowed your Holy One
to be sold for thirty pieces of silver.
Keep us mindful of the great price
with which you have bought us:
the precious blood of your dear Son,
that we may never, even for the whole world,
betray your merciful great kindness,
nor betray him who now lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Ghost,
one God, world without end. Amen.

8:50—*Jesus Gives the New Commandment*

Give us grace,
O God our Father,
to keep the new commandment,
the great commandment,
and all the commandments,
by loving you with all our heart
and mind and soul and strength,
and by loving one another for your sake;
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Second Watch (9–10 pm)

9:00—Jesus Says ‘For Their Sakes I Sanctify Myself’

O Lord Jesus Christ,
our eternal High Priest,
by the blood of the Cross
you sanctified yourself for our sakes.
Grant us for your sake to offer
ourselves, our souls and bodies,
to our God and Father,
that we may find unity with one another and with you,
the unity which your Spirit alone can give,
without measure, world without end. Amen.

9:10—Jesus Prays, ‘That They All May Be One’

O God,
by your Son Jesus Christ
you call the children of your Church
into a great and holy unity,
just as he is one with you.
Turn us again,
that we may overcome years of division,
and recover in you what we have lost in ourselves;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.

9:20—*Jesus Prays in Agony in Gethsemane*

We bless you, O Lord Christ,
for your never-failing mercy.
Though filled with loneliness and agony,
you chose to die for our redemption,
and to make both earth and heaven rejoice.
Now you reign, the First and the Last and the Living One,
God, forever and ever. Amen.

9:30—*Jesus Prays, ‘Your Will, Not Mine’*

Lord Jesus Christ,
you were tempted like we are,
but without sin.
In the hour of temptation,
bring us to kneel beside you in the Garden,
not to rise until our struggles are past
and our choice resolved to do the Father’s will,
for your tender mercies’ sake. Amen.

9:40—*Jesus Prays, ‘Your Will, Not Mine’ (2)*

O Lord God,
when we pray to you,
desiring well and with true intentions,
if you see a better way
to your glory and our good,
then may your will be done, and not ours;
as it was with your dear Son
in the garden of Agony,
even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

9:50—*Jesus Asks, ‘Could You Not Watch With Me?’*

Blessed Lord,

coming to the Garden

you asked your friends

to watch with you in prayer.

Awaken us from the many sleeps of our little faith,

so that we may pray with you for others,

and for the finishing of the Father’s will,

with whom you live and reign

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, forever and ever. Amen.

The Third Watch (10–11 pm)

10:00—*The Police Come with Swords and Clubs*

O God,
you allowed the swords and clubs
of human violence
to oppose the pure majesty
of the Prince of peace.
Grant us, his disciples,
to fear no threat of force or assaults of evil,
but to stand fast in the might of your Spirit
and the testimony of faith,
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

10:10—*The Police Come with Lanterns and Torches*

Light of light,
out of the darkness
men approached you
with lanterns and torches.
Keep us from following
the little lights of the world
that deepen our night,
and lead us to that holy city
where the true light shines
that never goes down,
where you reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end.

10:20—*Judas Kisses Jesus*

Lamb of God,
with pure and innocent lips
you gently touched lips
that were full of deceit.

Receive us in our weakness and lack of faith
with the same gentleness,
and with the kiss of your pardon
convict us of our sin.

Grant this for all your mercies' sake. Amen.

10:30—*Jesus is Bound*

O Christ, the Lord of life,
you made yourself a prisoner to death.

Deliver us from the bonds of sin,
and from every dungeon
in which your praise is forgotten.

To you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
be all majesty and dominion, world without end. Amen.

10:40—*Jesus Heals Malchus*

O Eternal Father,
even in the chaos of his arrest,
your Son turned to heal a wounded enemy.

Save us from taking up
the swords of wrath and hatred,
lest we perish by them.

Arm us instead with the holy and healing Spirit
of the same Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the same Spirit,
one God, world without end. Amen.

10:50—*The Disciples Flee*

O Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of the living God,
your disciples deserted and rejected you,
so that you redeemed us alone in your pains.
Give faith to the lonely and abandoned,
that they may know you to be the Friend
who will never leave them,
who with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
lives and reigns one God, world without end. Amen.

The Fourth Watch (11–midnight)

11:00—Peter Denies Jesus

Lord Jesus Christ,
look upon us with the eyes
that looked upon Peter in the hall,
so that with Peter we may repent,
and be forgiven by the same love.
Lord Jesus Christ,
turn your face from our sins, but not from us,
for your endless mercies' sake. Amen.

11:10—The High Priest Asks 'Are You the Christ?'

Lord Jesus Christ,
bound and alone
you proclaimed the Messiah
in the presence of the High Priest
and elders of your people.
Make plain the truth that remains
in the midst of the passing show.
Open our ears to hear,
our eyes to see,
and our lips to declare,
that with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
you are one eternal and glorious God,
world without end. Amen.

11:20—*Jesus is Silent*

Keep us, Lord God,
from hasty excuses
when we seem to be at fault.
Instead, may we be silent with your Son,
who, when he was insulted, did not retaliate,
and when he suffered, did not threaten,
but committed himself to you,
the only righteous and true judge.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honour and praise, world without end. Amen.

11:30—*Jesus is Blindfolded and Struck*

Jesus our Lord and our God,
you offered your cheek to the smiters,
and for our sake you were filled with reproach.
Grant that we may learn from you,
for you are meek and lowly of heart,
and that following the example of your sufferings,
we may be patient in bearing our own,
for the sake of your holy Name. Amen.

11:40—*Jesus is Spit Upon*

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God,
you were silent when people fouled your face with spitting.
Save us from the sin of scorning a brother or sister,
lest in them we also defile the image of your glory,
who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end. Amen.

11:50—*Jesus is Brought Before Pilate*

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,
the judge of the living and the dead;
at the first hour of the day
you were brought before Pilate
and condemned to a cruel death,
even though no fault could be found in you.
Although our sins are scarlet-red,
condemn us not on the day of judgement,
but number us among the forgiven
who praise you with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end. Amen.

The Fifth Watch (*midnight–1 am*)

Midnight—Pilate Says, ‘I Find No Fault in Him’

O Most Holy and righteous God, show us,
who deserve nothing, your mercy.
O most loving Father,
forgive us, who have sinned,
for the merits of your dear Son,
whom we condemned,
though no fault could be found in him,
who suffered, deserving only glory,
our Saviour and Redeemer Jesus Christ. Amen.

12:10—Jesus is Brought Before Herod

O Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of the living God,
you were despised by King Herod and his court,
and mocked in a fool's robe.
Strengthen us to endure any shame
for the sake of your name,
and to seek approval not from the world,
but only from you,
who lives and reigns
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.

12:20—The Crowd Asks for Barabbas

O God our Father,
your own people preferred Barabbas in his guilt
before Christ in his innocence.
Keep us from seeking false freedoms,
and help us to follow him who you have crowned,
to the perfect liberty of your sons and daughters,
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

12:30—Pilate Says ‘Behold the Man’

O God, the Father of humankind,
you allowed your only Son
to be made a spectacle of,
to be despised and treated with scorn,
so that in his humiliation
you might reveal his majesty.
Draw us daily closer to you,
to behold the man and to worship the King,
immortal, eternal, world without end. Amen.

12:40—The Crowd Cries ‘Crucify Him’ (1)

O Lord our Redeemer and King,
doomed by the cries of your own people,
deliver us from the lies of popular opinion,
and consecrate our minds and voices
to the service of truth,
for your honour and glory,
now and evermore. Amen.

12:50—*The Crowd Cries 'Crucify Him' (2)*

O Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of the Holiest and Highest,
have mercy on us who cried out for your death.
Keep us from crucifying you again,
and teach us to confess you humbly
and with all our hearts
as our Saviour and our God,
who lives and reigns
in the glory of the eternal Trinity,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.

The Sixth Watch (1–2 am)

1:00—*Pilate Washes His Hands*

Almighty God,
the Judge of the whole world,
keep us from faltering in courage like Pontius Pilate.
When he saw that an uproar was starting,
he washed his hands of Jesus
and delivered him guiltless to death.
Turn our hands instead to justice,
in the name of your only Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

1:10—*The Crowd Cries ‘His Blood Be Upon Us’*

O Lord God,
keep us from following the multitude to do evil,
so that we do not take the blood of your dear Son
upon us and our children.
Speak the truth to our souls
with your still, small voice,
that we may hear and live,
through the same our only Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

1:20—*Jesus is Sentenced to Death*

O Lord Jesus Christ,
we condemn your unjust condemnation.
Save us from all malice in accusing each other,
since what we do to others, we also do to you.
Fill our hearts with charity,
so that we may follow your example;
in your holy Name we pray. Amen.

1:30—*Pilate Hands Jesus Over to the Crowd*

O God,
your heart and mind and hands
are full of righteousness.
Remember the condemnation
of your holy and beloved Son,
and remove from the earth
all courts that do no justice,
and that love no mercy.
Uphold in every place the innocent oppressed
for whom Christ suffered and died,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end. Amen.

1:40—*Jesus is Bound to the Pillar*

O Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of the living God,
the pitiless scourge
fell upon your body, bound to a pillar.
Draw us to repentance by your anguish,
to humility by your submission,
to worship by your silence,
by whose stripes we are healed,
for you live and reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.

1:50—*Jesus is Scourged*

O Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of the living God,
you were bruised for our iniquities,
but redeemed us in your love and pity.
Hold us back from the sins that scourge you,
and that also harm others and ourselves,
by your merciful power,
you who live and reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
God, forever and ever. Amen.

The Seventh Watch (2–3 am)

2:00—*The Soldiers Put a Purple Robe on Jesus*

O Christ,
the King of kings and Lord of lords,
we your servants mocked you
as an impostor in a purple robe.
You who are forever clothed in glory and majesty,
open our eyes to see your truth and love,
and our lips to praise you as Redeemer and God,
world without end. Amen.

2:10—*Jesus is Crowned with Thorns (1)*

O Christ,
by the thorns which dug into your brow,
you have drawn out the thorns of pain from the world,
and have crowned our sorrows with peace.
Make us so bold that we may never fear suffering,
and that we may not suffer in your service
without cheerfulness and trust,
in you who live and reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.

2:20—*Jesus is Crowned with Thorns (2)*

O Christ, the King of kings,
your sinless and venerable head
was crowned with thorns.
Grant us, following your example,
to seek no crown other than victory over sin,
through your tender mercies' sake. Amen.

2:30—*The Soldiers Cry ‘Hail, King of the Jews’*

O Lord Christ,
Word and Wisdom of God,
your own creation abused you as a pretender
and treated you with scorn.
Grant us, O Saviour,
to give the supreme glory
to you and you only,
and may you always rule over our hearts,
who with the Father and the Holy Spirit
lives and reigns, one God world without end. Amen.

2:40—*A Reed is Put in Jesus’ Hand*

O Lord Christ,
you alone hold the sceptre
of true and everlasting royal authority.
By the reed forced into your hand,
grant us courage to proclaim you King of kings,
even in the face of scorn,
and to serve only you,
who reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
ever one God, world without end. Amen.

2:50—*The Soldiers Bow Before Jesus*

O God,
your most dear Son's enemies
bowed the knee before him in scorn.
We pray for the day
when his Name will be set above every name,
and every knee shall bow before him in truth,
for you have given him all authority and power,
all worship and majesty, from age to age,
world without end. Amen.

The Eighth Watch (3–4 am)

3:00—*Jesus Carries the Cross*

O Lord, the lover of humanity,
in lifting the Cross to your shoulder
you carried in symbol and in truth
all the sins of the world.
Strengthen us to ignore passing trials,
and to cheerfully take upon ourselves your yoke
for the glory that does not pass away,
where with the Father and the Holy Spirit
you live and reign, God,
world without end. Amen.

3:10—*Jesus Falls Beneath the Cross (1)*

O Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of the living God,
you fell to earth
under the cruel weight of the Cross,
and yet you were and are forever in heaven.
We praise and magnify
the majesty of your weakness for us,
and your power and dominion
on the throne of the Highest,
world without end. Amen.

3:20—*Jesus Falls Beneath the Cross (2)*

O Lord,
the Almighty Word and everlasting mercy,
you sustain heaven and earth,
but for our sakes you fell in bodily weakness
under the burden of the cross.
Support our steps, we pray,
every time they stumble.
When we fall, raise us up again
in the power of your Spirit,
who with you and the Father
lives and reigns, one God,
now and forever. Amen.

3:30—*The Cross is Laid on Simon of Cyrene*

O Lord, the sign of the Cross
has been printed on our foreheads.
May we be ready and willing
to bear the Cross itself,
in company with Simon of Cyrene
and all your saints who have endured
for you and with you,
in your name, who now live and reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
ever one God, world without end. Amen.

3:40—‘Take Up Your Cross’ (1)

Grant, O Father Almighty,
that we, for whom and by whom
your blessed Son was cruelly lifted up,
may acknowledge both our shame
and our glory in his Cross
by bearing our own,
for his Name’s sake. Amen.

3:50—‘Take Up Your Cross’ (2)

Lord Jesus,
when we follow your command
to take up the Cross and follow you,
save us from the sullen heart that will drag it,
and the cowardly one that will let it fall,
that we may support it cheerfully
and with determination
in the strength of your own Spirit,
who lives and reigns with you and the Father,
one God, world without end. Amen.

The Ninth Watch (4–5 am)

4:00—*Jesus Goes Along the Way of Sorrows*

O Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of the living God,
you would not enter heaven
except through the gate of scorn and wounds.
Where you have gone before,
let us not fear to follow,
nor turn in any hardships
out of the way that leads to you,
who lives and reigns
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end. Amen.

4:10—*Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem*

Lord God our Father,
as we your sons and daughters
look upon the Saviour,
ready to die for our sakes,
may we mourn not for him,
whose pains were our glory,
but for ourselves,
whose shames are his wounds.
May we repent and return to you,
who with the Son and the Holy Spirit are one God,
holy and mighty, world without end. Amen.

4:20—*Jesus is Stripped of His Garments*

O Lord and Saviour,
you were stripped naked on the Cross,
but are eternally robed in holiness and light.
Take from us the rags of both our sins
and our imagined righteousness,
and clothe us with your glory,
who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
ever one God, world without end. Amen.

4:30—*Jesus is Stripped of His Garments (2)*

O Lord Jesus Christ,
you lived in poverty your whole life
and died naked on the Cross.
Give us your spirit of poverty,
like a pearl of great price,
so that dying to what passes away
and is worth nothing,
we may win eternal treasure,
and possess all things in you.
We ask this in your name,
who live and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end. Amen.

4:40—*Jesus is Nailed to the Cross*

O Lord Jesus Christ,
you were silent when men nailed you to the Cross,
and by your pain you triumphed over pain.
Pour your Spirit on your servants who suffer,
that in their quietness and courage
you may triumph again,
and redeem every sorrow;
you who live and reign
in the glory of the eternal Trinity,
one God, world without end. Amen.

4:50—*Jesus' Hands are Pierced with Nails*

O Lord Jesus Christ,
touch us with those hands of yours
which were nailed to the Cross,
to bear the weight of the body of your death
and of our sin.
In touching, forgive, revive, and renew us,
for your endless mercies' sake. Amen.

The Tenth Watch (5–6 am)

5:00—*Jesus' Feet are Pierced with Nails*

O Lord Jesus Christ,
draw near, approach us
on those sacred feet
which went about doing good,
and grew weary along the way of sorrows,
and were pierced with nails by us.
With the true sorrow,
which works not death but life,
may we draw near to you,
for your endless mercies' sake. Amen.

5:10—*The Cross is Raised*

O Lord Jesus Christ,
lifted up so that all humanity may see
what it is to love,
grant us to behold
and be drawn by your love,
that with our whole strength
we may love both you
and all those for whom you died,
for your sake, who live and reign
in the unity of the Father and the Holy Spirit,
God, forever and ever. Amen.

5:20—*Jesus is Enthroned upon the Cross*

O Lord Jesus Christ,
raised on your throne
of contempt and power,
crowned with glory and thorns,
reign, O Saviour, from the Cross
over the whole world of sinful hearts,
and over our own,
as you reign among the hosts of your redeemed,
God, forever and ever. Amen.

5:30—*The Inscription is Placed on the Cross*

O Lord, the King of kings,
you established the power of your reign
by hanging upon the Cross.
Sign our lives, as our brows,
with your Cross,
that what you have written on us
may be written forever,
and that we may all be yours,
you who live and reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
ever one God, world without end. Amen.

5:40—‘This is the King of the Jews’

O Lord Jesus Christ,
reigning eternally from the Cross of death,
lay the print of your Cross
on all your symbols of our power,
that the work you give us to do,
for the Church, for the community,
for family and friends,
may show your own spirit of tender self-sacrifice,
to the glory of your Name
and the perfecting of your kingdom,
now and world without end. Amen.

5:50—The Crowd Watch Jesus

Grant us, O Lord,
to take our stand beside your holy Cross,
to lift up our hands to the marks of the nails,
our eyes to the openings of your love,
and our hearts to hide in yours,
now and forever. Amen.

The Eleventh Watch (6–7 am)

6:00—*The Crowd Watch Jesus (2)*

O Lord Jesus Christ,
engrave upon our hearts
the image of your Cross.
Soften our bitterness,
calm our complaints,
strengthen us in our duties,
deepen our love,
and brighten our hope,
for your honour,
you who live and reign
in the glory of the eternal Trinity,
now and forever. Amen.

6:10—*The Seven Words from the Cross*

O Lord Jesus Christ,
from your silence upon the Cross
you gave your Church Seven Words.
Grant that we may ponder them
as the inexhaustible Gospel
of your love and of the world's redemption;
and that we may also learn by speech and silence
to glorify our Father in heaven,
who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit
one God, world without end. Amen.

6:20—*The First Word from the Cross*

Grant us, O Lord,
the glory of praying
with our Saviour the Crucified,
by praying for our enemies,
and by forgiving those who treat us poorly,
that we may better deserve
the gift of your glorious pardon,
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

6:30—*The First Word from the Cross (2)*

O Lord Jesus Christ,
touch us with those hands of yours
which human sin and our own sin pierced with nails.
Forgive our ignorances, many and frequent.
Lord, we did not know, and we do not know
what we did in sinning against you.
Touch us to forgive and to bless, O Lord,
for your endless mercies' sake. Amen.

6:40—*The Second Word from the Cross*

O Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of the migh High,
as a King you reigned
even from a Cross,
and you opened Paradise
to the broken and contrite heart.
Hear us, begging for your pardon,
and with true and lowly repentance
allow us entry into your kingdom,
where now you reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
God, forever and ever. Amen.

6:50—*The Second Word from the Cross (2)*

O Lord Jesus Christ,
look upon us with those eyes of yours
with which you looked upon the robber on the cross,
that with him we may confess our sins
and beseech you humbly,
'Lord, remember me when you come in your kingdom,'
and may we be comforted by the same voice,
for your endless mercies' sake. Amen.

The Twelfth Watch (7–8 am)

7:00—*The Third Word from the Cross*

O Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of the living God,
your love, streaming from the bare Cross,
entrusted your best beloved,
mother and disciple, each to the other.
Grant us the grace and glory
of forgetting ourselves
in a constant tender healing
of the sorrows of those you love,
for your mercy's sake. Amen.

7:10—*The Third Word from the Cross (2)*

O Lord Jesus Christ,
fill us with that love of yours
with which, from your own pain,
you comforted your mother in hers,
and stripped and naked
gave her both a home and a son.
Lead us to such love,
without compare and without limits,
now and forever. Amen.

7:20—*The Fourth Word from the Cross*

O Christ our Redeemer, you live forever
with the Father and the Holy Spirit
in an eternal undivided divinity
and a perfect unbroken love.
By the divine compassion
which suffered the anguish of the forsaken,
show and assure us,
the bewildered and weak,
that you will never forsake us,
our Lord and our God,
world without end. Amen.

7:30—*The Fourth Word from the Cross (2)*

O Lord Jesus Christ,
fill us with that faith of yours
with which, in the last agony,
you cried to your Father,
'My God, my God',
that no suffering, no sin,
no shadow of doubt
may darken our trust in God,
nor separate us from our Father and yours,
now or ever. Amen.

7:40—The Fifth Word from the Cross

O Lord Jesus Christ,
thirsting on the Cross,
you brought rivers out of the hard rock,
to lead humanity to living fountains of water.
Strengthen us both to desire and drink your cup,
that we may not thirst again,
nor ever go anywhere else to drink,
in your name we pray,
you who live and reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end. Amen.

7:50—The Fifth Word from the Cross (2)

O Lord Jesus Christ,
fill us with that thirst of yours
for the will of God and for the souls of others,
proclaimed in the word, 'I am thirsty,'
that we may fear no physical pain,
if only you will give us the cup of obedience and love
to drink with you when you offer it,
for your endless mercies' sake. Amen.

The Thirteenth Watch (8–9 am)

8:00—*The Sixth Word from the Cross*

Blessed Saviour,
by your bitter baptism into our suffering,
you accomplished all your calling,
to bring us into an eternal and joyful kingdom.
Baptize and renew us with your own Spirit,
that we may also perfect the work
you have given us to do,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

8:10—*The Sixth Word from the Cross (2)*

O Lord Jesus Christ,
fill us with that strength of yours
with which you resolved yourself to the Father's work
and utterly accomplished it,
that in the morning and the evening we may do his will,
and when night comes and no one can work,
we may say with you and to you,
'It is finished,'
to the glory of your name. Amen.

8:20—*The Seventh Word from the Cross*

Grant us, Lord,
the peace of claiming you in death as our Father,
because we have served you in life as our God,
for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

8:30—*The Seventh Word from the Cross (2)*

O Lord Jesus Christ,
grant us that trust of yours,
unquestioning, complete,
with which, upon the Cross itself,
you peacefully commended your spirit to your Father,
that whatever comes,
we may recline in the same everlasting arms,
for your endless mercies' sake. Amen.

8:40—*Darkness Falls*

Grant, O Lord God,
that while the darkness comes over the whole land
to cover the dying Saviour, your dear Son,
we may behold the marvellous light
that shines from his Cross,
and be led by it to the kingdom
where with you and the Holy Spirit
he lives and reigns,
one God, world without end. Amen.

8:50—*Jesus Dies on the Cross*

O Lord, our Shepherd and our Guide,
grant us to walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
fearing no evil, lacking nothing, accompanied by you,
who have passed that way yourself, and made it light,
and who now live and reign
in the glory of the eternal Trinity,
world without end. Amen.

The Fourteenth Watch (9–10 am)

9:00—*Jesus Dies on the Cross (2)*

O God, we beseech you
by the closing of your dear Son's eyes in death,
that the broken and imperfect lights of our mortal vision
may be newly lit in him,
and shine unclouded until his perfect day,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end. Amen.

9:10—*Jesus Dies on the Cross (3)*

O Lord Jesus Christ,
we made this world
a scene of scorn and death for you.
In the majesty of your mercy,
make your heaven the home
of our rejoicing and honour,
world without end. Amen

9:20—*The Death of the Lord Jesus: A Thanksgiving*

Blessed be your name,
Jesus, Son of the most high God.
Blessed be the sorrow you suffered
when your holy hands and feet were nailed to the Cross.
Blessed be your love when, in the fullness of your pain
you gave your soul into the hands of the Father.
By your Cross and precious blood
you have redeemed all the world,
all longing souls departed
and all those yet to be born.
We praise you in the glory of the eternal Trinity,
one God, world without end. Amen.

9:30—*The Centurion Proclaims Jesus as Son of God*

O Lord God,
you revealed to the centurion, who did not know you,
the power of Christ in his death.
Open our darkened human eyes
to the eternal glory
of both the Crucified and the Risen Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end. Amen.

9:40—*The Veil of the Temple is Torn*

Almighty and eternal God,
your worship broke out of the ancient sanctuary
at the tearing of the veil,
and became the salvation and joy
of the whole earth.
Lead us, now and always,
into the Holy of Holies
by the new and living way
which you have given us in your Son,
incarnate and crucified, our everlasting Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
be all honour and dominion,
world without end. Amen.

9:50—*The Earthquake Marks Jesus' Death*

O Lord, your wondrous Cross
shakes every earthly power,
and opens the dark prisons of the dead.
By its undying mercy and might
release us, we pray,
from the bonds of our death,
to go forth rejoicing as free children,
for you live and reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit
one God, world without end. Amen.

The Fifteenth Watch (10–11 am)

10:00—‘They Shall Look on Him Whom They Pierced’

O Lord Christ, when you come
to judge the living and the dead,
with the countless company of saints
and all the angels of God worshipping,
grant us to plead only the wounds
of you who we pierced,
that your mercy may pass over
the places of our guilt,
and that you may destroy
not our life, but our death,
forever and ever. Amen.

10:10—The Five Wounds of Christ

By your five wounds, O Lord Christ,
make plain to us our sins,
that we may repent.
Show the triumph of faith,
that we may believe
and remain steadfast to the end.
Show the wonder of your love,
that we may adore.
Interpret our sorrows,
that we may rejoice.
Show us the Father,
that we may be his,
forever and ever. Amen.

10:20—*Nicodemus Comes to the Cross*

Grant, O Lord God,
that our faith, like that of Nicodemus,
may grow from doubt to assurance,
and from fear to strength,
until we stand invincible by the side of him
who died upon the Cross,
and who now lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end. Amen.

10:30—*Joseph of Arimathea Goes to Pilate*

Almighty God,
your servant Joseph of Arimathea
went boldly to Pilate,
requesting the body of Jesus.
Grant us, according to your Son's own promise,
to receive his most holy Body,
not for burial and a tomb,
but as the Living Bread
that came down from heaven,
and now reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end. Amen.

10:40—*Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross*

Lord Jesus Christ,
your friends and disciples
lifted your torn body down from the Cross,
and gently wrapped it for rest.
So let us faithfully go forth
to bind up the wounded spirit
and heal the broken life,
in your dear Name, and to your praise,
you who reign in the glory of the eternal Trinity,
world without end. Amen.

10:50—*Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross (2)*

O Lord Jesus Christ,
your blessed body
was tenderly taken down from the Cross,
and wrapped in fine white linen.
When our earthly affections
have been taken away by your death,
clothe us in the righteousness of your saints.
We pray to you who live and reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end. Amen.

The Sixteenth Watch (11 am–noon)

11:00—*Jesus is Prepared for Burial*

Gather us, O Father of mercy,
around the body of your dear Son,
slain and still,
that by such proof and power of love
we may be drawn into one living body
of faith and praise,
close to each other, close to him,
who now lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end. Amen.

11:10—*Jesus is Laid in the Tomb*

O Lord Jesus Christ,
God humbled in our flesh,
lowered from your throne
to an earthly sepulchre,
lift us up, we pray,
from all our lowliness,
from the graves of failure and sin,
you who are Humanity received into glory,
and who reign in the unity
of the Father and the Holy Spirit,
world without end. Amen.

11:20—*Jesus is Anointed*

O Blessed Jesus Christ,
Son of the eternal God,
your faithful followers prepared
and anointed your body for burial.
Grant us in this life
the many anointings of your grace,
and in death,
the holy and beautiful clothing
of your immortality,
you who live and reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.

11:30—*We are Buried with Christ*

Bury our sins,
O blessed Saviour,
in your own grave,
and make us rise up
in the life of grace,
and continue to grow in it,
until we come to the city of light and joy,
where with the Father and the Holy Spirit
you live and reign,
one God, world without end. Amen.

11:40—*The Crown*

O God, almighty to deliver and to exalt,
you have raised the holy and royal head
of your only begotten Son
from under thorns and a stone
to be crowned with many crowns
in the eternal heavens.

Bring us, by the power of your grace,
to the dawning of that day
when he shall forever be our Resurrection,
our life and our dazzling crown,
who with you and the Holy Spirit
lives and reigns,
one God, world without end. Amen.

11:50—*The Tree of Life*

Almighty and everlasting God,
you have raised up from earth to heaven
a mighty Tree, standing forever,
on which in human sight hangs a Man,
stretched and nailed,
rejected, dying, and alone.

You who are true and who show only truth,
grant us not to fear to suffer with him,
to die with him and be buried with him,
that we may also be made alive with him
and be glorified together with him in the heavenly places,
where now he reigns with you and the Holy Ghost,
one God, world without end. Amen.