

The Temple Church

Good Friday, 3 April 2026

CHORAL MATTINS, 11.15 a.m.

Welcome to this service. We are pleased that you can join us here at the Temple Church on this most special morning. We follow the services of the Book of Common Prayer (1662). Much of the service is sung by the Choir alone. We hope that you will take advantage of the opportunity this offers to let the music and words take your mind and your heart – with all the concerns you have for those you love, for yourself and for our world – to the cross of Christ.

The Round Church was built (1162) to recreate the shape and thereby the sanctity of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, the site of Christ's death and burial. To the medieval mind we are gathered at the place which is made by today's events into the holiest ground in the holiest city in the world.

ORGAN PRELUDE

O Mensch, beweine deine Sünde gross BWV 622 *J. S. Bach (1685-1750)*

All stand.

INTROIT

Christus factus est pro nobis obediens
usque ad mortem, mortem autem crucis.
Propter quod et Deus exaltavit illum
et dedit illi nomen
quod est super omne nomen.

*Christ became obedient unto death,
even the death of the cross.
Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him,
and given him a name which is above every name.*

*Music: Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)
Words: Philippians 2. 8-9*

HYMN

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| 1.
There is a green hill far away,
Without a city wall,
Where the dear Lord was crucified,
Who died to save us all. | 2.
We may not know, we cannot tell,
What pains he had to bear;
But we believe it was for us
He hung and suffered there. |
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3.
He died that we might be forgiven,
He died to make us good,
That we might go at last to heaven,
Saved by his precious blood.

4.
There was no other good enough
To pay the price of sin;
He only could unlock the gate
Of heaven, and let us in.

5.
O dearly, dearly has he loved,
And we must love him too,
And trust in his redeeming blood,
And try his works to do.

Music: W. Horsley (1774-1858)
Words: Miss C. F. Alexander (1818-1895)

All sit or kneel for the Confession.

THE CONFESSION

Almighty and most merciful Father; We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; And we have done those things which we ought not to have done; And there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent; According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake; That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

All stand at 'Glory be.....'

THE RESPONSES (*Plainsong*)

VENITE
(*We say the Venite together*)

O come, let us sing unto the Lord:

let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving:

and shew ourselves glad in him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God: and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are all the corners of the earth:

and the strength of the hills is his also.

The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands prepared the dry land.

O come, let us worship and fall down: and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is the Lord our God:

and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

To-day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts:

as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness;

When your fathers tempted me: proved me, and saw my works.

Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said:

It is a people that do err in their hearts, for they have not known my ways;

Unto whom I swear in my wrath: that they should not enter into my rest.

PSALM 69 (*Plainsong*)

Save me, O God: for the waters are come in, even unto my soul.

I stick fast in the deep mire, where no ground is:

I am come into deep waters, so that the floods run over me.

I am weary of crying; my throat is dry:

my sight faileth me for waiting so long upon my God.

They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head:

they that are mine enemies, and would destroy me guiltless, are mighty.

I paid them the things that I never took:

God, thou knowest my simpleness, and my faults are not hid from thee.

Let not them that trust in thee, O Lord God of hosts, be ashamed for my cause:

let not those that seek thee be confounded through me, O Lord God of Israel.

And why? for thy sake have I suffered reproof: shame hath covered my face.

I am become a stranger unto my brethren:

even an alien unto my mother's children.

For the zeal of thine house hath even eaten me:

and the rebukes of them that rebuked thee are fallen upon me.

I wept, and chastened myself with fasting:

and that was turned to my reproof.

I put on sackcloth also: and they jested upon me.

They that sit in the gate speak against me:

and the drunkards make songs upon me.

But, Lord, I make my prayer unto thee: in an acceptable time.

Hear me, O God, in the multitude of thy mercy:

even in the truth of thy salvation.

Take me out of the mire, that I sink not:

O let me be delivered from them that hate me, and out of the deep waters.

Let not the water-flood drown me, neither let the deep swallow me up:

and let not the pit shut her mouth upon me.

Hear me, O Lord, for thy loving-kindness is comfortable:

turn thee unto me according to the multitude of thy mercies.

And hide not thy face from thy servant, for I am in trouble:

O haste thee, and hear me.
Draw nigh unto my soul, and save it:
O deliver me, because of mine enemies.
Thou hast known my reproof, my shame, and my dishonour:
mine adversaries are all in thy sight.
Thy rebuke hath broken my heart; I am full of heaviness:
I looked for some to have pity on me, but there was no man, neither found
I any to comfort me.
They gave me gall to eat: and when I was thirsty they gave me vinegar to
drink.
Let their table be made a snare to take themselves withal:
and let the things that should have been for their wealth be unto them an
occasion of falling.
Let their eyes be blinded, that they see not:
and ever bow thou down their backs.
Pour out thine indignation upon them:
and let thy wrathful displeasure take hold of them.
Let their habitation be void: and no man to dwell in their tents.
For they persecute him whom thou hast smitten:
and they talk how they may vex them whom thou hast wounded.
Let them fall from one wickedness to another:
and not come into thy righteousness.
Let them be wiped out of the book of the living:
and not be written among the righteous.}
As for me, when I am poor and in heaviness:
thy help, O God, shall lift me up.
I will praise the name of God with a song: and magnify it with thanksgiving.
This also shall please the Lord:
better than a bullock that hath horns and hoofs.
The humble shall consider this, and be glad:
seek ye after God, and your soul shall live.
For the Lord heareth the poor: and despiseth not his prisoners.
Let heaven and earth praise him: the sea, and all that moveth therein.
For God will save Sion, and build the cities of Judah:
that men may dwell there, and have it in possession.
The posterity also of his servants shall inherit it:
and they that love his Name shall dwell therein.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

All sit.

THE FIRST LESSON
Isaiah 52. 13 – 53. 12

All stand.

THE REPROACHES

O my people, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me!

I led you out of Egypt, from slavery to freedom, but you led your Saviour to the cross.

O my people, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me!

Holy is God! Holy and strong! Holy immortal One, have mercy on us.

For forty years I led you safely through the desert. I fed you with manna from heaven, and brought you to a land of plenty; but you led your Saviour to the cross.

Holy is God! Holy and strong! Holy immortal One, have mercy on us.

What more could I have done for you? I planted you as my fairest vine, but you yielded only bitterness: when I was thirsty you gave me vinegar to drink, and you pierced your Saviour's side with a lance.

Holy is God! Holy and strong! Holy immortal One, have mercy on us.

I opened the sea before you, but you opened my side with a spear.
I led you on your way in a pillar of cloud, but you led me to Pilate's court.

O my people, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me!

I bore you up with manna in the desert, but you struck me down and scourged me.

I gave you saving water from the rock, but you gave me gall and vinegar to drink.

O my people, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me!

I gave you a royal sceptre, but you gave me a crown of thorns.
I raised you to the height of majesty, but you have raised me high on a cross.

O my people, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me!

Music: John Sanders (1933-2003)

All sit.

THE SECOND LESSON
John 18. 1 – 19. 37

All stand.

CANTICLE

Salvator mundi salva nos, qui per crucem et sanguinem redemisti nos:
auxiliare nobis, te deprecamur, Deus noster.

*O Saviour of the World, who by thy cross and precious blood hast
redeemed us, save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.*

Music: John Blow (c.1649-1708)

Words: Antiphon at Holy Unction, Cantiones Sacrae, 1575

*All remain standing and (in the tradition of the Temple Church) all face East to say
together:*

THE CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried, He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead, He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost: The holy Catholick Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen.

All sit or kneel at 'Let us pray'.

RESPONSES AND COLLECTS (*Plainsong*)

Almighty God, we beseech thee graciously to behold this thy family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was contented to be betrayed, and given up into the hands of wicked men, and to suffer death upon the cross, who now liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.
Amen.

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified; Receive our supplications and prayers, which we offer before thee for all estates of men in thy holy Church, that every member of the same, in his vocation and ministry may truly and godly serve thee; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

All sit.

THE ANTHEM

Crucifixus etiam pro nobis sub Pontio Pilato.
Passus et sepultus est.

*He was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.*

Music: Antonio Lotti (1667-1740)

Words: Nicene Creed

THE PRAYERS

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

All stand.

HYMN

**1.
When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.**

**3.
See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**2.
Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them through his blood.**

**4.
Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.**

Music: Rockingham, E. Miller (1731-1807)

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

FINAL READING

John 19. 38-42

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Herzliebster Jesu

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

There will be a retiring collection.

EASTER SERVICES

Saturday 4 April, 8.00pm

EASTER VIGIL AND FIRST COMMUNION OF EASTER

Temple Singers

*Music to include: Missa Ego flos campi (Padilla),
Haec dies (Byrd), Tulerunt dominum meum (Gombert)*

Sunday 5 April, 11.15am

CHORAL COMMUNION: EASTER SUNDAY

Temple Church Choir

*Music to include: Surrexit Christus hodie (Scheidt),
Missa brevis in D, K194 (Mozart), Hallelujah Chorus (Handel)
Ave Verum corpus (Mozart)*

Wednesday 15 April, 6.00pm

EASTER CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 19 April, 11.15am

EASTER CAROL SERVICE

To include Vaughan Williams's 'Five Mystical Songs'

CONFIRMATION

On Sunday 19 July at 11.15am, we will have our annual service of Baptism, Confirmation and Choral Communion. If you or any of your children or grandchildren would like to consider confirmation this summer, please do get in touch.

Robin Griffith-Jones, Master of the Temple, master@templechurch.com
Church Office: 020 7353 8559

SAFEGUARDING

If you have any concerns about safeguarding, the Safeguarding Officer can be contacted confidentially at safeguarding@templechurch.com or via 020 7427 5650.

The full Safeguarding Policy is available on the Temple Church website at <https://www.templechurch.com/safeguarding-policy>