**PASSION SUNDAY ~ LENT 5**

**HYMN** Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  **https://youtu.be/q8bHyNrIhNM**

*Today Passiontide begins. We’ve had a break in Lent for Refreshment Sunday or Mothering Sunday as we call it today. Now we enter the depths as we align ourselves with Jesus as He walks through His last days, experiencing the challenges, the rejection, the misunderstanding and abandonment alongside the welcome of those who have eyes to “see” who He really is.*

**REFLECT** As we prepare to walk through Holy Week, to accompany Jesus to the Cross with the awful suffering and drama that was witnessed there, then wait in the darkness for that amazing climax as the tomb bursts open, as Jesus is alive again! how can we enter these events which happened so long ago?

**CONFESSION**

 **Lord our God, In our selfishness we avoid your call.**

 **Our love is like a morning cloud,**

 **Like the dew that evaporates early.**

 **Have mercy on us and spare us from judgement.**

 **Bind up our wounds and strengthen us. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.**

**CANTICLE**

1 Jesus, Saviour of the world, come to us in your mercy: *•*
we look to you to save and help us.

2 By your cross and your life laid down, you set your people free: *•*
we look to you to save and help us.

3 When they were ready to perish, you saved your disciples: *•*
we look to you to come to our help.

4 In the greatness of your mercy, loose us from our chains, *•*
forgive the sins of all your people.

5 Make yourself known as our Saviour and mighty deliverer; *•*
save and help us that we may praise you.

6 Come now and dwell with us, Lord Christ Jesus: *•*
hear our prayer and be with us always.

7 And when you come in your glory: *•*
make us to be one with you
and to share the life of your kingdom.

**Collect for Ash Wednesday**

 Almighty and everlasting God,

 you hate nothing that you have made

 and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:

 create and make in us new and contrite hearts

 that we, worthily lamenting our sins

 and acknowledging our wretchedness,

 may receive from you, the God of all mercy,

 perfect remission and forgiveness;

 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

 *from* The Prophet Jeremiah, Chapter 3

*"The time is coming,"* declares the LORD,

*"when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel*

*and with the house of Judah.*

*It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers*

*when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt,*

*because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,"*

 declares the LORD.

*"This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel*

*after that time,"* declares the LORD.

*"I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts.*

*I will be their God, and they will be my people.*

*No longer will a man teach his neighbour,*

*or a man his brother, saying, `Know the LORD,'*

*because they will all know me,*

*from the least of them to the greatest,"* declares the LORD.

*"For I will forgive their wickedness*

*and will remember their sins no more."*

**SONG** My Lord, what Love is this? **https://youtu.be/ItR0E1lg7lY**

**GOSPEL READING**

*From* St John Chapter 12

Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Feast.

They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request.

 *"Sir,"* they said, *"we would like to see Jesus."*

Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

Jesus replied, *"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.*

*I tell you the truth,*

*unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies,*

*it remains only a single seed.*

*But if it dies, it produces many seeds.*

*The man who loves his life will lose it,*

*while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.*

*Whoever serves me must follow me;*

*and where I am, my servant also will be.*

*My Father will honour the one who serves me.*

*"Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? `Father, save me from this hour'?*

*No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour.*

*Father, glorify your name!"*

Then a voice came from heaven, *"I have glorified it, and will glorify it again."*  The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered;

 others said an angel had spoken to him.

Jesus said, *"This voice was for your benefit, not mine.*

*Now is the time for judgment on this world;*

*now the prince of this world will be driven out.*

*But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.*

He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

**Open my eyes, Lord, I want to see Jesus,**

**To reach out and touch Him, and say that I love Him.**

**Open my ears, Lord, and help me to listen.**

**Open my eyes, Lord, I want to see Jesus.**

**REFLECTION**

*In this time leading up to the Crucifixion, Jesus was faced with rejection and*

*Misunderstanding ~ even by those closest to Him. Often those who “got” Him were*

*unexpected people in unexpected places, not amongst those He first felt He had come to*

*save. These Greeks got it right. They simply wanted to “See Jesus” ~ they knew He was*

*worth seeing. And Jesus recognizes that what He has come to do is so much bigger …*

*At the beginning of Passiontide, our prayer could be: Father, help me to See Jesus.*

*How might that be answered?*

*Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, a visionary and notable Poet, wrote this*

*Poem looking through the eyes of Rublev as he painted His Icon of the Trinity in the 14th*

*Century. In the Icon Abraham entertains the three angels around a table; the Angels are*

*seen as the three persons of the Trinity themselves. Rowan takes Rublev through the*

*creative process from blank wood block, aware of God’s presence as he applies the paint*

*and offers up humanity and its needs that these Visitors came to save. A Passion process.*

**Rublev**

 One day, God walked in, pale from the grey steppe,

 Slit eyed against the wind, and stopped,

 Said, Colour me, breathe your blood into my mouth.

 I said Here is the blood of all our people,

 These are their bruises, blue and purple,

 Gold, brown, and pale green wash of death.

 These (god) are the chromatic pains of flesh,

 I said, I trust I make you blush,

 Oh I shall stain you with the scars of birth

 For ever. I shall root you in the wood,

 Under the sun shall bake you bread

 Of beechmast, never let you forth

 To the white desert, to the starving sand.

 But we shall sit and speak around

 One table, share one food, one earth. *Rowan Williams*

**SONG** The Love of God comes close (Iona) [**https://youtu.be/aIQO1E6tpJ4**](https://youtu.be/aIQO1E6tpJ4)

**PRAYERS**

Heavenly Father, we pray with the Cross ahead of us, inhabitants of one world.

 As those who inflict wounds on one another: **Be merciful to us.**

 As those who deny justice to others: **Be merciful to us.**

 As those who seize wealth: **Be merciful to us.**

 As those who don’t hold back and grasp: **Be merciful to us.**

 As those who put others on trial: **Be merciful to us.**

 As those who refuse to receive or share: **Be merciful to us.**

 As those afraid of the world’s torment. **Be merciful to us.**

 Giver of Life, we wait with You to bear Your hope to earth’s darkest places.

 Where Love is denied: **Let Love break through.**

 Where justice is destroyed: **Let Righteousness break through.**

 Where hope is crucified: **Let faith persist.**

 Where peace is no more: **Let passion live on.**

 Where truth is denied: **Let the struggle continue.**

 Lord, reach into this silent darkness with Your Love;

 Dissolve the terror of this moment into new hope;

 Relieve the cries of the needy with Your quiet voice of peace;

 That here we may know Your Salvation, Your Glory, Your Future,

 Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**HYMN:**  My song is Love unknown **https://youtu.be/bWRcAa-nFIA**