

Morning Prayer 21st March 2021

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Passiontide – The Power of the Cross

Opening Hymn: *When I survey the wondrous cross* (sung by St Martin's Voices)

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">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.2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the cross of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them through his blood.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?4 His dying crimson, like a robe,
spreads o'er his body on the tree;
then am I dead to all the globe,
and all the globe is dead to me.5 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. |  <p>When_I_survey_the_wondrous_cross.mp3</p> |
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Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Preparation

O Lord, open our lips

All: and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Let your ways be known upon earth,

All: your saving power among the nations.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation,
to you be praise and glory for ever.

As a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief
your only Son was lifted up
that he might draw the whole world to himself.
May we walk this day in the way of the cross

and always be ready to share its weight,
declaring your love for all the world.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Anthem for Passiontide: Christus factus est – Felice Anerio (sung by St Martin's Voices)

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 for us unto death,
even to the death, death on the cross.
Therefore God exalted Him and gave Him a name
which is above all names.



Opening Prayer

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever.

All: Amen.

The Word of God

Psalm 107.1-22

¹ O give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

² Let the redeemed of the Lord say this,
those he redeemed from the hand of the
enemy,

³ And gathered out of the lands
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

⁴ Some went astray in desert wastes
and found no path to a city to dwell in.

⁹ For he satisfies the longing soul
and fills the hungry soul with good.

⁵ Hungry and thirsty,
their soul was fainting within them.

⁶ So they cried to the Lord in their trouble
and he delivered them from their distress.

⁷ He set their feet on the right way
till they came to a city to dwell in.

**All: ⁸ Let them give thanks to the Lord for
his goodness and the wonders he does for
his children.**

¹⁰ Some sat in darkness and in the shadow of
death, bound fast in misery and iron,

¹¹ For they had rebelled against the words of God and despised the counsel of the Most High.

¹² So he bowed down their heart with heaviness; they stumbled and there was none to help them.

¹³ Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.

¹⁴ He brought them out of darkness and out of the shadow of death, and broke their bonds asunder.

All: ¹⁵ Let them give thanks to the Lord for his goodness and the wonders he does for his children.

¹⁶ For he has broken the doors of bronze and breaks the bars of iron in pieces.

¹⁷ Some were foolish and took a rebellious way, and were plagued because of their wrongdoing.

The Collect for Passiontide

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

Reading Exodus 24.3-8

Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the ordinances; and all the people answered with one voice, and said, 'All the words that the Lord has spoken we will do.' And Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord. He rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and set up twelve pillars, corresponding to the twelve tribes of Israel. He sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt-offerings and sacrificed oxen as offerings of well-being to the Lord. Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he dashed against the altar. Then he took the book of the covenant, and read it in the hearing of the people; and they said, 'All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient. 'Moses took the blood and dashed it on the

¹⁸ Their soul abhorred all manner of food and drew near to the gates of death.

¹⁹ Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.

²⁰ He sent forth his word and healed them, and saved them from destruction.

All: ²¹ Let them give thanks to the Lord for his goodness and the wonders he does for his children.

²² Let them offer him sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

**All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

people, and said, 'See the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words.'

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Responsory: from 1 Corinthians 1 and Galatians 6

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you;

All: by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong.

All: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

We preach Christ crucified,

the power of God and the wisdom of God.

All: By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

God forbid that I should glory,

save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you;

by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reading: Hebrews 12.18-29

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. (For they could not endure the order that was given, 'If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.' Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, 'I tremble with fear.') But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, 'Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.' This phrase 'Yet once more' indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

Hymn: We sing the praise of him who died (sung by St Martin's Voices)

<p>1 We sing the praise of him who died, of him who died upon the cross; the sinner's hope let men deride, for this we count the world but loss.</p> <p>2 Inscribed upon the cross we see in shining letters, 'God is love'; he bears our sins upon the tree; he brings us mercy from above.</p> <p>3 The cross! It takes our guilt away: it holds the fainting spirit up; it cheers with hope the gloomy day, and sweetens every bitter cup.</p> <p>4 It makes the coward spirit brave, and nerves the feeble arm for fight; it takes its terror from the grave, and gilds the bed of death with light:</p> <p>5 The balm of life, the cure of woe, the measure and the pledge of love, the sinner's refuge here below, the angels' theme in heaven above.</p> <p>Thomas Kelly (1769-1855)</p>	 <p>We_sing_the_praise_ of_him_who_died.mp</p>
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Gospel: Luke 1.68-79

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

All: Glory to you, O Lord

¹ Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, who has come to his people and set them free. ² He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, born of the house of his servant David. ³ Through his holy prophets God promised of old to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us. ⁴ To show mercy to our ancestors, and to remember his holy covenant. ⁵ This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies, ⁶ Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life. ⁷ And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, ⁸ To give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of all their sins. ⁹ In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, ¹⁰ To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Prayers and Intercessions

Prayer is a longing of the soul. It is daily admission of one's weakness. A yearning for a better world. It's asking God to intervene.

Prayer for the power of the cross

Thank you Lord, for the price you were willing to pay on the cross.
Thank you for taking our sin to your cross.
Thank you for dying so painfully for us.
Thank you that you gave up your life so that we might live freely.
Thank you for the power of the Resurrection that brings ultimate victory over sin and death.
Thank you that this same power still works within us today.
We praise you that you are the Victorious One, the Mighty Conqueror, the Prince of Peace.
We ask you for the fresh filling of your Spirit today, so that we can use the power of your cross to live out your purposes in this generation, free, brave, and strong.
In Jesus' Name,

All: Amen

Intercessions

In peace, let us pray to Jesus our Lord, who lives to make intercession for us.

Gracious God, we pray for peace, justice and reconciliation throughout the world. We pray for the honouring of human rights, and for the relief of the oppressed. We give thanks for all that is gracious in the lives of people. Especially we pray for:

.....

God of love:

All: hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, you have taught us, through your servant St Francis, that all creation is your handiwork. Grant us your grace that we may exercise wise stewardship of this Earth; tread lightly upon it; and cherish its beauty and resources; that our children may enjoy its riches, throughout all generations, and your name be glorified through all that you have made and the diversity of all that you have given to us.

Today we pray for:

.....

God of love:

All: hear our prayer.

We pray for the renewal of the Church in faith, love and service. We pray for Mark our bishop and for the life of this parish/community. We give thanks for the gift of your word, the grace of the sacraments and the fellowship of your people.

Especially we pray:

.....

God of love:

All: hear our prayer.

We pray for our local communities and for all people in their daily life and work. We pray for the young and the elderly, for families, and all who are alone. We give thanks for human skill and creativity and all that reveals your loveliness.

Especially we pray for:

.....

God of love:

All: hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are in need. We pray for all who bring support, comfort, care and healing. We give thanks for human love and friendship and for all that enriches our daily lives.

Especially we pray for:

.....

God of love:

All: hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have passed away and those who mourn. Especially we pray for, and the families of:

.....

God of love:

All: hear our prayer.

We ask that we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit, in communion with all your saints, entrusting one another and all our lives to Christ.

All: Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who 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.**

The Conclusion

Hymn: Take up thy cross (sung by St Martin's Voices)

<p>1 "Take up thy cross," the Saviour said, "if thou wouldst my disciple be; deny thyself, the world forsake and humbly follow after me."</p> <p>2 Take up thy cross; let not its weight fill thy weak spirit with alarm; His strength shall bear your spirit up and brace thy heart and nerve thine arm.</p> <p>3 Take up thy cross, then, in His strength, and calmly every danger brave; 'twill guide thee to a better home, and lead to victory o'er the grave.</p> <p>4 Take up thy cross, and follow Christ nor think till death to lay it down; for only he who bears the cross may hope to wear the glorious crown.</p> <p>5 To thee, great Lord, the One in Three, all praise for evermore ascend: O grant us in our home to see the heavenly life that knows no end.</p> <p>Charles William Everest (1814-1877)</p>	 <p>Take_up_thy_cross.m p3</p>
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May Christ, who bore our sins on the cross,
set us free to serve him with joy.

All: Amen.

May God give to you and to all those you love
his comfort and his peace,
his light and his joy,
in this world and the next;
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father,
the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you
and remain with you always! **All: Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

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