

Passiontide – Evening Prayer

THE WELCOME

The community gather in silence and a candle is lit

The leader announces the psalm and readings, and if there are newcomers welcomes them, and explains the pattern of the prayer as necessary.

THE PREPARATION

O God make speed to save us.

O Lord make haste to help us.

As the deer longs for the water brooks,
so longs my soul for you, O God.

Blessèd are you, Lord God our Redeemer.
as we behold your Son upon the cross
and see the depth of your love for your world,
may we sing your praise now and for ever.

Blessèd be God for ever.

**Morning glory, starlit sky,
soaring music, scholar's truth,
flight of swallows, autumn leaves,
memory's treasure, grace of youth:**

**Open are the gifts of God,
gifts of love to mind and sense;
hidden is love's agony,
love's endeavour, love's expense.**

**Love that gives, gives ever more,
gives with zeal, with eager hands,
spares not, keeps not, all outpours,
ventures all its all expends.**

**Drained is love in making full,
bound in setting others free,
poor in making many rich,
weak in giving power to be.**

**Therefore he who shows us God
helpless hangs upon the tree;
and the nails and crown of thorns
tell of what God's love must be.**

**Here is God: no monarch he,
throned in easy state to reign;
here is God, whose arms of love
aching, spent, the world sustain.**

W H Vanstone

As our evening prayer rises before you O God,
so may your mercy touch our hearts. **Amen.**

PRAYER PRACTICE

The Prayer Practice ends when the leader says Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

LECTIONARY PSALM

OLD OR NEW TESTAMENT LECTIONARY READING

A SONG OF SOLOMON *Please stand if you are able.*

Many waters cannot quench love;
neither can the floods drown it.

**Set me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm;
For love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave;
its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame.
Many waters cannot quench love,
neither can the floods drown it.
If all the wealth of our house were offered for love,
it would be utterly scorned.**

cf Song of Solomon 8.6,7

**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.**

**Many waters cannot quench love;
neither can the floods drown it.**

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Either,

With faith and love and in union with Christ,
let us offer our prayer before the throne of grace.

Have mercy on your people,
for whom your Son laid down his life:
Lord have mercy

Bring healing and wholeness to people and nations,
and have pity on those torn apart by division:
Lord have mercy

Strengthen all who are persecuted for your name's sake,
and deliver them from evil:

Lord have mercy

Look in mercy upon all who suffer,
and hear those who cry out in pain and desolation:

Lord have mercy

Bring comfort to the dying,
and gladden their hearts with the vision of your glory:

Lord have mercy

Give rest to the departed
and bring them, with your saints, to glory everlasting:

Lord have mercy

Let us commend the world, which Christ loves,
to the mercy and protection of God;

Free prayer may be offered and responses made

Or alternatively / additionally

Let us pray.
God the Father, **have mercy upon us.**

God the Son, **have mercy upon us.**

God the Holy Spirit, **have mercy upon us.**

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity, **have mercy upon us.**

By the mystery of your holy incarnation;
by your birth, childhood and obedience;
by your baptism, fasting and temptation,
good Lord, deliver us.

By your ministry in word and work;
by your mighty acts of power;
and by your preaching of the kingdom,
good Lord, deliver us.

By your agony and trial;
by your cross and passion;
and by your precious death and burial,
good Lord, deliver us.

By your mighty resurrection;
by your glorious ascension;
and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,
good Lord, deliver us.

Let us commend the world, which Christ loves,
to the mercy and protection of God;

Free prayer may be offered and responses made

Or alternatively / additionally

For those who are guiding our nation at this time,
and those leading other nations facing similar challenges;
that as they shape national policies,
they may make wise decisions.

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the governments and leaders of countries
facing more extreme challenges;
where resources are more limited,
where many live in war zones or refugee camps.
Together may we build international cooperation,
as we face this challenge as one world.

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For all who are affected by coronavirus,
through illness or isolation or anxiety,
that they may find relief and recovery:

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the isolated and housebound,
that we may be alert to their needs,
and care for them in their vulnerability:

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For our homes and families,
for young people missing the routine of school,
particularly for the children and staff of Christ Church Primary SW9,
and their families and friends:

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For those living in very crowded accommodation,
who are finding it very difficult having to
be together for so much of the time;
that relationships may be deepened and strengthened

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For a blessing on our local community,
that our neighbourhoods
may be places of trust and friendship,
where all are known and cared for:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For doctors, nurses and medical researchers,
and all working in the NHS, the Emergency services,
and those caring for the sick, elderly and infirm,
that through their skill, insights, and care
many will be restored to health:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For the vulnerable and the fearful,
for the gravely ill and the dying,
that they may know your comfort and peace:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

Welcome into your presence all those who have died,
bring them with your saints to
the transforming presence of your love.
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

Free prayer may be offered and responses made

THE COLLECT *either of the following*

Gracious Father,
you gave up your Son out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

True and humble king,
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:
grant us the faith to know you and love you,
that we may be found beside you
on the way of the cross,
which is the path of glory.
Amen.

other COLLECTS may be added here

A prayer for the Community of Christ the Servant

Christ the Servant of all,
and icon of the love that is the essence of the Holy Trinity:
teach us to be still and silent, grounded in the stability of your presence,
that we may meet you in truth,
and worship you in spirit;
empower us to move with energy and in tune with your Spirit,
that in the service of others,
we may reflect your wisdom
and share your reconciling love;
enable us to listen and respond to your voice,
in the Holy Scriptures,
and in your people,
through all the ages and today.

We ask this in your name,
our Lord, brother and friend.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Standing at the foot of the cross,
As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE CONCLUSION

May the Christ, who bore our sins on the cross,
set us free to serve him with joy. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The candle is extinguished