

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

Passion Sunday

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Wheatfield, 1888 – Vincent van Gogh

The Parish Mass

offered for and on behalf of our community
during the Coronavirus Pandemic

Sunday 21st March 2021

10.15 am

Prayer / Reflection

There is a lot of dying mixed with living.
Every time we pass from one stage of life to another,
something in us dies and something new is born.
We taste death in moments of loneliness, rejection,
sorrow, disappointment, and failure.
We are dying before our time when we live in bitterness,
in hatred, and in isolation.
Each day we are creating our own death by the way we live.
Lord, help us to live in such a way that our lives will be faithful,
and in your mercy grant that when we die to this life
we may be born to eternal life.

¶ A Corporate Preparation for Mass

The Priest enters in silence, genuflects, and kneels facing the altar

After a period of silent recollection ...

All I will go to the altar of God
to the God of my joy and gladness.

Give judgement for me, O God,
and defend my cause against an ungodly people:
deliver me from the deceitful and the wicked.
All **For you are the God of my refuge;**
why have you cast me from you,
and why go I so heavily, while the enemy oppresses me?

O send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me:
and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling.
All **That I may go to the altar of God,**
to the God of my joy and gladness;
and on the lyre I will give thanks to you, O God my God.

Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul,
and why are you so disquieted within me?
All **O put your trust in God;**
for I will yet give him thanks,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

I will go to the altar of God.
All **To the God of my joy and gladness.**

From Psalms 42 and 43

Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

† In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All Amen.

The Greeting

All The Lord our redeemer be with you
and also with you.

The Mass is introduced

Invitation to Confession

God shows his love for us
in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
let us then show our love for him
by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Silence is kept

Confession

All **Almighty God,**
long-suffering and of great goodness:
I confess to you,
I confess with my whole heart
my neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments,
my wrong doing, thinking, and speaking;
the hurts I have done to others,
and the good I have left undone.
O God, forgive me,
for I have sinned against you;
and raise me to newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Kyries

Lord Jesus, you help us to die to selfishness
so as to bear the fruit of humility:

Kyrie eleison.

All Kyrie eleison.

You help us to die to selfishness so as to bear the fruit of love:
Christe eleison.

All Christe eleison.

You help us to die to sin so as to bear the fruit of holiness:
Kyrie eleison.

All Kyrie eleison.

Absolution

May the Father † forgive us
by the death of his Son
and strengthen us to live in the power of the Spirit
all our days.

All Amen.

The Collect

Let us pray.

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.

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Jeremiah 31.31-34

Reader A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, ‘Know the Lord’, for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 51.1-13

Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness;
according to the abundance of your compassion
 blot out my offences.

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my faults
and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
So that you are justified in your sentence
and righteous in your judgement.

All **The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit.**

I have been wicked even from my birth,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
Behold, you desire truth deep within me
and shall make me understand wisdom
 in the depths of my heart.

Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean;
wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.
Make me hear of joy and gladness,
that the bones you have broken may rejoice.

All **The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit.**

Turn your face from my sins
and blot out all my misdeeds.
Make me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your holy spirit from me.
Give me again the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your gracious spirit;

All **The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit.**

Holy Gospel

John 12.20-33

Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.
Christ humbled himself and became obedient unto death,
even death on a cross.
Therefore God has highly exalted him
and given him the name that is above every name.

All **Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

All The Lord our redeemer be with you
and also with you.

All Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love

their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say - "Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

All This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The Homily

Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

All **Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

Prayers of the Faithful

On this day that the Lord has made
let us give God the glory,
who suffered on the Cross for the world's redemption.

All For forgiveness for the many times we have denied Jesus,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

All For grace to seek out those habits of sin
which mean spiritual death,
and by prayer and self-discipline to overcome them,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

All For Christian people,
that through the suffering of disunity
there may grow a rich union in Christ,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

All For those who make laws, interpret them, and administer them,
that our common life may be ordered in justice and mercy,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

All For those who still make Jerusalem a battleground,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

All For those who have the courage and honesty to work openly
for justice and peace,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

All For those in the darkness and agony of isolation,
that they may find support and encouragement,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For those who, weighted down with hardship, failure, or sorrow,
feel that God is far from them,
for the sick and suffering ...
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who are tempted to give up the way of the cross,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

That we, with those who have died in faith,
may find mercy in the day of Christ ...
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

Once we were far off
but now in union with Christ Jesus
we have been brought near through the shedding of Christ's blood,
for he is our peace.

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

As we are able, let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

The Offertory

The altar is prepared

Invitation to Prayer

Pray, my brothers and sisters,
that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

All **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

Prayer over the Gifts

Dearest Lord, true vine and bread of life,
ever giving yourself that the world might live,
let us share your death and passion:
make us perfect in your love.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

All Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For as the time of his passion and resurrection draws near
the whole world is called to acknowledge his hidden majesty.
The power of the life-giving cross
reveals the judgement that has come upon the world
and the triumph of Christ crucified.

He is the victim who dies no more,
the Lamb once slain, who lives for ever,
our advocate in heaven to plead our cause,
exalting us there to join with angels and archangels,
for ever praising you and saying:

All
Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

All glory be to you, our heavenly Father,
who, in your tender mercy,
gave your only Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption;
who made there by his one oblation of himself once offered
a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction
for the sins of the whole world;
he instituted, and in his holy gospel commanded us to continue,
a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again.

Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray,
and grant that, by the power of your Holy Spirit,
we receiving these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine,
according to your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution,
in remembrance of his death and passion,
may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

All Jesus Christ is Lord:
**Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

Therefore, Lord and heavenly Father,
in remembrance of the precious death and passion,
the mighty resurrection and glorious ascension
of your dear Son Jesus Christ,
we offer you through him this our sacrifice of praise
and thanksgiving.

Grant that by his merits and death,
and through faith in his blood,
we and all your Church may receive forgiveness of our sins
and all other benefits of his passion.
Although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins,
to offer you any sacrifice,
yet we pray that you will accept this
the duty and service that we owe.
Do not weigh our merits, but pardon our offences,
and fill us all who share in this holy communion
with your grace and heavenly blessing;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

The Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung

The Lord's Prayer

Jesus offered up prayer and entreaty,
aloud and in silent tears, to the Father.
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.**

Breaking of the Bread

All We break this bread,
communion in Christ's body once broken.

Agnus Dei

All **Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Invitation to Communion

Let us receive into our hearts and minds the living Lord.

All **May we live in him and he in us.**

The Parish Priest receives holy communion with special intention for our parish and all who are prevented from participating in person.

Giving of Communion

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

Spiritual Communion – for those at home

It is an ancient practice of the Church that, when you are prevented from attending the Holy Eucharist, people are invited to express, in the words of St Thomas Aquinas, “an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received Him.” Therefore, during this time you are invited to pray this prayer, which may be said as often as you desire:

Act of Reception

All **In union, blessed Jesus,
with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church
where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day,**

(and remembering particularly my own parish ...)

**I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving,
for creation and all the blessings of this life,
for the redemption won for us by your life, death,
and resurrection,
for the means of grace and the hope of glory.**

(and particularly for the blessings given me ...)

**I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament,
and, since I cannot at this time receive communion,
I pray you to come into my heart.
I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart,
my soul, and my mind.
Let nothing separate me from you;
let me serve you in this life until, by your grace,
I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace.
Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us
that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters
we do also for you:
give us the will to be the servant of others
as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for us,
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

All Amen.

**God of our pilgrimage,
you have fed with your holy word
and we look forward to the day when we may together
receive you in the sacrament of the eucharist.
Refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our Lenten journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Notices for the Community

¶ Sending Out

All The Lord our redeemer be with you
and also with you.

Solemn Blessing

All May the Father,
 who so loved the word that he gave his only Son,
 bring you by faith to his eternal life.
Amen.

All May the Son,
 who accepted the cup of sacrifice
 in obedience to the Father's will,
 keep you steadfast as you walk with him the way of the cross.
Amen.

All May the Spirit,
 who strengthens us to suffer with Christ
 that we may share his glory,
 set your minds on life and peace.
Amen.

All And the blessing of God almighty,
 the Father, the Son †, and the Holy Spirit,
 be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

The Dismissal

All The Mass is ended, go in peace.
Thanks be to God.