

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

Passion Sunday

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Unless a grain of wheat dies ...

The Parish Mass

Sunday 17th March 2024

10.15 am



Welcome to St Matthew's Parish Church

In John's Gospel Jesus often speaks of his 'hour'. The hour is the culmination of his mission, and it is also the condemnation of 'this world' and its ruler. Now the 'hour' (of his passion and death) has finally come. On the one hand he feared it – we see the very real disquiet with which he approaches it. But he also longs for it, for he is sure that in this hour of crisis and suffering the Father will glorify him.

In John's Gospel Jesus does not pray to be delivered from the hour of trial and death (as he does in the other Gospels), for the hour is the whole purpose of his life.

He uses the example of a grain of wheat dying in order to yield a harvest, thereby suggesting that his death will bear much fruit: when he is lifted up on the cross he will draw *all people* to himself. ('All' means Jews and Gentiles which of course includes Greeks who have come asking to see him).

It is our custom to spend some time in quiet preparation before the liturgy begins, and save further conversation until we meet socially for refreshments afterwards. The following prayer, based on today's themes, may be found helpful:

Prayer / Reflection

There is a lot of dying mixed in with living.
Every time we pass from one stage of life to another,
something is 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 fruitful.
And in your mercy grant that when we die to this life
we may be born to eternal life.

Setting

Communion Service in C

William Mathias (1934-1992)

Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

- § *The choir are in their stalls*
- § **All stand** at the sound of the bell
- § *The sanctuary party enter in silence and go to their places*
- § **All sit** with the priest for a period of silent recollection and prayer
- § **All stand** with the priest

Hymn

- § *The priest reverences the altar and honours it with incense*

All

**O HAPPY band of pilgrims,
If onward ye will tread,
With Jesus as your fellow
To Jesus as your head!**

**O happy if ye labour
As Jesus did for men;
O happy if ye hunger
As Jesus hungered then!**

**The cross that Jesus carried,
He carried as your due;
The crown that Jesus weareth,
He weareth it for you.**

**The faith by which ye see him,
The hope in which ye yearn,
The love that through all troubles
To him alone will turn.**

**What are they but forerunners
To lead you to his sight?
What are they save the effluence
Of uncreated light?**

The trials that beset you,
The sorrows ye endure,
The manifold temptations
That death alone can cure,

What are they but his jewels
Of right celestial worth?
What are they but the ladder
Set up to heaven on earth?

O happy band of pilgrims,
Look upward to the skies,
Where such a light affliction
Shall win you such a prize!

Words John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

*Music Knecht
Justin Heinrich Knecht (1752-1817)*

† 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

A grain of wheat has to die in order to bear fruit.
There is a sense in which we have to die
in order to bear fruit with our lives.
We must die to ourselves in order to live for God and for others.
Let us turn to the Lord for the help we need.

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 pride
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 you by the death of his Son,
and strengthen you 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.

§ *Sit*

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Reader A reading from the prophecy of 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.

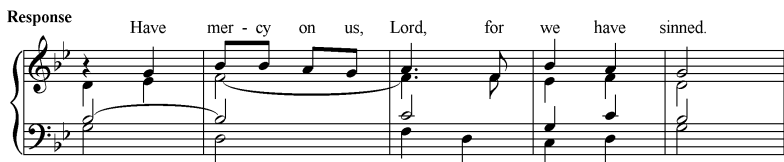
Jeremiah 31.31-34

This is the word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

Psalm



Choir 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. **Response**

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. **Response**

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. **Response**

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. **Response**

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. **Response**

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. **Response**

Psalm 51, 1-13

§ Stand

Holy Gospel

Acclamation



Jesus said, Whoever serves me must follow me,
and where I am, there will my servant be also.

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

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

All

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.



All

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.

John 12.20-33

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



All

Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

§ Sit

Affirmation of Faith

§ Stand

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

Priest Jesus turned to the Father in his hour of need.
Let us turn to God now with all our needs.

§ *Kneel*

Intercessor God, holy and strong,
All **help us to reveal your glory.**

Priest God of love and mercy,
you know our weakness.
May we reach out with joy to grasp your hand,
and so walk more readily in your ways.
We ask this through Jesus Christ your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
All **Amen.**

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

§ *Stand*

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.

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

The Offertory

Hymn

*The Gifts are presented and the altar is prepared.
A monetary collection is taken. Please give as you are able.*

All **I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth,
At Bethlehem I had my birth
 Dance, then, wherever you may be,
 I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
 And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
 And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.**

**I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,
But they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John,
They came with me and the Dance went on.**

**I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;
The holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high;
They left me there on a cross to die.**

**I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black,
It's hard to dance with the Devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone;
But I'm the Dance and I still go on.**

**They cut me down and I leapt up high;
I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.
 Dance, then, wherever you may be,
 I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
 And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
 And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.**

Words Sydney Carter (1915-2004)

Music: Lord of the dance
American Shaker tune adapted by Sydney Carter

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

Hear us, almighty God,
and, having instilled in your servants the teachings of the Christian faith,
graciously purify them by the working of this sacrifice.
Through Christ our Lord.

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 singing:

*Choir 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:

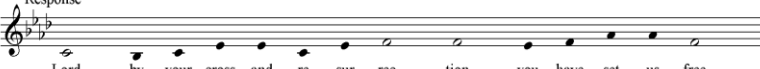
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Deacon




Je - sus Christ is Lord:

Response



Lord, by your cross and re - sur - rec - tion you have set us free.



You are the Sa - viour 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



A- men.

The Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung

§ Kneel

The Lord's Prayer

Jesus offered up prayer and entreaty to the Father,
aloud and in silent tears.
Let us pray with confidence to our heavenly Father as he 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

*Choir 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

*All Let us receive into our hearts and minds the living Lord.
 May we live in him and he in us.*

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*

Act of Reception

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.

Motet

Choir 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 Goss (1800-1880)

Hymn

All **JESU, the very thought of thee
 With sweetness fills my breast;
But sweeter far thy face to see,
 And in thy presence rest.**

**No voice can sing, nor heart can frame,
 Nor can the memory find,
A sweeter sound than thy blest name,
 O Saviour of mankind!**

**O hope of every contrite heart,
O joy of all the meek,
To those who fall, how kind thou art!
How good to those who seek!**

**But what to those who find? Ah, this
Nor tongue nor pen can show;
The love of Jesus, what it is,
None but his lovers know.**

**Jesu, our only joy be thou,
As thou our prize wilt be;
Jesu, be thou our glory now,
And through eternity.**

Words Jesu dulcis memoria
Bernard of Clairvaux (attributed) (1090-1153),
Anonymous Latin (12th century),
Edward Caswall (1814-1878)

Music St Botolph
Gorgon Slater (1896-1979)

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray:

§ *Stand*

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.
Amen.

All

**God of our pilgrimage,
you have fed us with the bread of heaven
and cup of salvation.
Refresh and sustain us as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Hymn

All

**O JESUS, I have promised
To serve thee to the end;
Be thou for ever near me,
My Master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle
If thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If thou wilt be my guide.**

**O let me hear thee speaking
In accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion,
The murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
To hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
Thou guardian of my soul.**

**O Jesus, thou hast promised
To all who follow thee,
That where thou art in glory
There shall thy servant be;
And Jesus, I have promised
To serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
My Master and my friend.**

**O let me see thy footmarks,
And in them plant mine own;
My hope to follow duly
Is in thy strength alone;
O guide me, call me, draw me,
Uphold me to the end;
And then in heaven receive me,
My Saviour and my friend.**

Words John Ernest Bode (1816-1874)

*Music Wolvecote
William Harold Ferguson (1874-1950)*

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 world 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.

Organ Voluntary

Wo soll ich fliehen hin? BWV 694 J S Bach (1685-1750)

'Where should I flee?'

The procession departs

Those leaving immediately are asked to be aware of those who wish to listen to the organ voluntary.

Next Sunday HOLY WEEK begins

9.30 am The Palm Liturgy, (in Parish Centre)
Procession of Palms, and Mass of the Passion

5.30 pm Service of Penitence and Forgiveness

Collection – responding to God's generosity

We invite you to make a monetary offering towards the ministry and mission of St Matthew's Church. You may do so using any of the following methods:

Cash, cheques, stewardship envelopes - using the receptacle provided at the back of church. If you are a taxpayer please use the envelopes in the chairs, and fill out the details in order that our parish may also benefit from the Gift Aid (an extra 25p for every pound given) associated with your giving.

Contactless giving - using the terminal provided. Just press the button for the amount you wish to give - £5, £10, or £20, and then hold your bank card over the reader.

Giving on your smart phone - using the QR code printed below. It gives you the option of any amount, Gift Aid, and making a regular payment.

Giving online - click the donate button on the parish website or Facebook page and follow the instructions.

Your generosity is gratefully received. Thank you.



*Our thanks are due to Mandy and Mark Ludlow
who have generously financed
the production of this week's service booklet.*

**Please take this booklet home
as an aid to prayer and reflection during the week,
and then re-cycle it.**

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