

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

Palm Sunday

OF THE LORD'S PASSION

Year A



The Liturgy of Palms,
Procession of Palms, and Mass of the Passion

Sunday 29 March 2026

9.30 am BST

Welcome to St Matthew's Parish Church



Safeguarding *St Matthew's is committed to providing a safe environment for all who come. If you have any concerns, please speak with one of our welcomers or a churchwarden who may be identified by their lanyard. They will be happy to help you.*

Live streaming *Please note that this service is being streamed. You may sit where you wish. If, however, you prefer not to be seen online, please sit in a side aisle. The administration of Holy Communion will not be shown.*

GDPR *Some of St Matthew's services (most Sunday mornings and some special services) are live-streamed or recorded for those who cannot attend church in person. Under GDPR, the church must gain the consent of anyone whose image may be captured, as this constitutes collection of "personal data". This includes clergy, readers/intercessors, musicians and congregation. Whilst every attempt is made not to capture the faces of members of the congregation, this may occasionally happen if people turn around or move around the church during the service. The exception is communion, when the congregation is not filmed. The side aisles and back of the nave are so far as possible film-free areas not covered by the camera. Any-one whose personal data is collected must give their consent. Consent forms are available both in church and on the website. The full policy can be read on our parish website or on the noticeboards in church.*

Toilet and baby changing facilities *may be found at the base of the church tower. There is also a small servery.*

For younger children *In the north aisle (nearest to Collingwood Road), a carpeted area equipped with age-specific Christian resources is provided. Please feel free to make use of these facilities.*



Collection – ‘Building a Generous Church’



Our response to God’s generosity

We believe in a generous God, who longs for us to share his generosity with others. A generous life is therefore a hallmark of our faith and a testament to it, as the more generous we are, the more we reflect the generous God we believe in. Generosity is, therefore, at the heart of our faith, and our own generosity is a sure sign of our faith in action. Generosity is a spiritual gift, and we need to encourage people to seek this gift as they grow in their faith. The ministry and mission of St Matthew’s is largely funded through the incredible generosity of those who give to it.

* * * * *

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.



¶ The Beginning of Holy Week

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Palm Sunday has a double focus - the Triumphal Entry of Christ into Jerusalem, and the celebration of his passion and death.

The **Liturgy of the Palms** and procession contains the first commemorative actions of Holy Week which remind us of the main events in the last week of Jesus' ministry. Palm branches are carried, although they are secondary to the procession itself. The procession is also an act of praise to Christ the King who reigns and triumphs on the cross, and it expresses our own readiness to take up our cross and follow our crucified and risen Lord, as we go with him to the place of suffering and death.

The practice of giving palm crosses is well established and provides a valuable devotional focus throughout the year. However, in the procession, it is not as telling a symbol as the carrying of branches whether of palm or of other trees, perhaps brought by members of the congregation.

The solemn reading of the passion and death of Jesus Christ is central to the **Liturgy of the Passion**. This year, the narrative comes from Luke, and takes us into the heart of Holy Week. For this reason the full form of the Passion is used. Coming after the Procession, it reminds us that the kingly power of Christ is the power of self-giving love alone.

Although the services of this week are shaped by the historical commemoration of the events of the last week in Jesus' earthly life, taken together, they form an extended celebration of the victory Christ won over death.

Setting

Mass of the Altar of Life

David Halls b. 1948

Order of Service

¶ Commemoration of the Lord's Entry into Jerusalem

At the Parish Centre

§ *As the people gather, suitable music is played or sung*

§ *The sacred ministers enter, and the choir sing the following anthem*

Choir The children of the Hebrews, carrying palms and olive branches,
went forth to meet the Lord, crying out and saying.
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Plainsong

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

The Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
All **and also with you.**

Introduction

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church throughout the world. Christ enters his own city to complete his work as our Saviour, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us go with him in faith and love, so that, united with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life.

The Palm Liturgy

§ *The people hold up their palms to be blessed and the priest extends his hands towards them*

Let us pray:

God our Saviour,
whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah
to suffer and to die;
bless † these palms,
that they may be for us signs of his victory
and grant that we who bear them in his name
may ever hail him as our King,
and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All

Amen.

§ *The priest sprinkles the branches with holy water in silence*

The Palm Gospel

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

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

When Jesus had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, ‘Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, “The Lord needs them.” And he will send them immediately.’ This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

‘Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

‘Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!’

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, ‘Who is this?’ The crowds were saying, ‘This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.’

Matthew 21.1-11

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Priest Let us go forth in peace, praising Jesus our Messiah,
as did the crowds who welcomed him to Jerusalem.

§ *The procession to church (Jerusalem) begins in the following order -
servers, choir, sacred ministers and people*

Processional hymn

All ***ALL glory, laud, and honour
To thee, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.***

²
**Thou art the King of Israel,
Thou David’s royal Son,
Who in the Lord’s name comest,
The King and blessed One.**

³
**The company of angels
Are praising thee on high,
And mortal men and all things
Created make reply.**

⁴
**The people of the Hebrews
With palms before thee went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems
Before thee we present.**

⁵
**To thee before thy passion
They sang their hymns of praise;
To thee, now high exalted,
Our melody we raise.**

⁶
**Thou didst accept their praises,
Accept the prayers we bring,
Who in all good delightest,
Thou good and gracious King.**

⁷
**Thy sorrow and thy triumph
Grant us, O Christ, to share,
That to the holy city
Together we may fare.**

8
**Do thou direct our footsteps,
Upon our earthly way,
And bring us by thy mercy
To heaven's eternal day.**

9
**For homage may we bring thee
Our victory o'er the foe,
That in the Conqueror's triumph
This strain may ever flow.**

10
**Within that blessed city
Thy praises may we sing,
And ever raise hosannas
To our most loving King.**

Words St. Theodulph of Orleans c.750-821
translated by John Mason Neale 1818-1866

Melody Melchior Teschner 1584-1635
Harmony by Johann Sebastian Bach 1685-1750

When the priest enters the church building ...

Priest **O Jerusalem, look towards the east and behold:
lift up your eyes, O Jerusalem, and behold the power of your King!**
All **'Blessed is he who comes.
Hosanna in the highest.'**

The Entry into Jerusalem

§ *The procession enters and all go to their seats*

§ *The priest honours the altar with incense*

All **RIDE on, ride on in majesty!
Hark, all the tribes hosanna cry:
Thy humble beast pursues his road
With palms and scattered garments strowed.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die:
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin
O'er captive death and conquered sin.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty!
The wingèd squadrons of the sky
Look down with sad and wondering eyes
To see the approaching sacrifice.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty!
The last and fiercest strife is nigh;
The Father on his sapphire throne
Awaits his own anointed Son.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
Bow thy meek head to mortal pain,
Then take, O God, thy power, and reign.**

Words Henry Hart Milman 1791-1868

Music Winchester New
adapted from a chorale in *Musicalisches Hand-Buch*, 1690

¶ Liturgy of the Passion

§ *The presiding priest, now wearing eucharistic vestments, goes to his chair*

The Collect

Let us pray for a closer union with Christ
in his suffering and in his glory.

Almighty and everlasting God,
who in your tender love towards the human race
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to take upon him our flesh
and to suffer death upon the cross:
grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility,
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
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

First Reading

Reader A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah.

The Lord God has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens -
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.
The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.
I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.
The Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
It is the Lord God who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Isaiah 50.4-9a

All This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Silence is kept

Evangelist And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another,

Disciples Surely not I, Lord?

Jesus The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.

Evangelist Judas, who betrayed him, said,

Judas Surely not I, Rabbi?

Jesus You have said so.

Evangelist While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said,

Jesus Take, eat; this is my body.

Evangelist Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying,

Jesus Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

Evangelist When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Then Jesus said to them,

Jesus You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.

Evangelist Peter said to him,

Peter Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you.

Jesus Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.

Peter Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.

Evangelist And so said all the disciples.

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,

Jesus Sit here while I go over there and pray.

Evangelist He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them,

Jesus I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.

Evangelist And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed,

Jesus My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.

Evangelist Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

Jesus So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Evangelist Again he went away for the second time and prayed,

Jesus My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.

Evangelist Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them,

Jesus Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.

Evangelist While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

Judas The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.

Evangelist At once he came up to Jesus and said,

Judas Greetings, Rabbi!

Evangelist and kissed him.

Jesus Friend, do what you are here to do.

Evangelist Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

- Jesus** Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?
- Evangelist** At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,
- Jesus** Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.
- Evangelist** Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.
- Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said,
- Witnesses** This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'
- Evangelist** The high priest stood up and said,
- Caiaphas** Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?
- Evangelist** But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him,
- Caiaphas** I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.
- Jesus** You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.
- Evangelist** Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,
- Caiaphas** He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?
- Priests** He deserves death.
- Evangelist** Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying,

Priests Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?

Evangelist Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said,

Servant-girl 1 You also were with Jesus the Galilean.

Evangelist But he denied it before all of them, saying,

Peter I do not know what you are talking about.

Evangelist When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders,

Servant-girl 2 This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.

Evangelist Again he denied it with an oath,

Peter I do not know the man.

Evangelist After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,

Bystanders Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.

Evangelist Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

Peter I do not know the man!

Evangelist At that moment the cock crowed.

Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

§ **PLEASE STAND if you are able** (Good Friday morning)

Evangelist When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said,

Judas I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.

Priests What is that to us? See to it yourself.

Evangelist Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said,

Priests It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money.

Evangelist After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, 'And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me.'

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him,

Pilate Are you the King of the Jews?

Jesus You say so.

Evangelist But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him,

Pilate Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?

Evangelist But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them,

Pilate Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?

Evangelist For he realised that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him,

Pilate's Wife Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.

Evangelist Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them,

Pilate Which of the two do you want me to release for you?

Crowd Barabbas.

Pilate Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?

Crowd Let him be crucified!

Evangelist Then he asked,

Pilate Why, what evil has he done?

Evangelist But they shouted all the more,

Crowd Let him be crucified!

Evangelist So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying,

Pilate I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.

Evangelist Then the people as a whole answered,

Crowd His blood be on us and on our children!

Evangelist So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying

Soldiers Hail, King of the Jews!

Evangelist They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.'

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

Passers-by You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.

- Evangelist** In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,
- Priests** He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'
- Evangelist** The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.
- From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice,
- Jesus** Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?
- Evangelist** that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'
When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,
- Bystanders** This man is calling for Elijah.
- Evangelist** At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said,
- Bystanders** Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.
- Evangelist** Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

Act of Reverence

all are invited to kneel for a time, or bow deeply

Then, rising with the priest

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said,

- Centurion** Truly this man was God's Son!
- Evangelist** Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said,

Priests Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, ‘He has been raised from the dead,’ and the last deception would be worse than the first.

Pilate You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.

Evangelist So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

Asst priest This is the Passion of the Lord.

No response is made

§ We **SIT** for a time of silent contemplation

Homily

§ Sit

At the end, there may be a time of quiet reflection

Prayers of the Faithful

Priest In solidarity with Christ in his suffering we offer our prayers to God.

§ *Kneel*

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

All **Lord, have mercy.**

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.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

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

All **Lord, have mercy.**

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.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

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

All **Lord, have mercy.**

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

All **Lord, have mercy.**

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

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who, weighted down with hardship, failure, or sorrow,
feel that God is far from them, (*the acutely ill ...*)
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, (*the recently departed ...,
anniversaries of death ...*)
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

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

§ Stand

¶ 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.

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

The Offertory

§ *The Gifts are presented to the presiding priest and the altar is prepared*

Hymn

§ *A monetary collection is taken towards the ministry and mission of St Matthew's. For alternative ways of giving please refer to the front of this booklet.*

1
MY song is love unknown,
My Saviour's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown,
That they might lovely be.
 O who am I,
 That for my sake
 My Lord should take
 Frail flesh, and die?

2
He came from his blest throne,
Salvation to bestow:
But men made strange, and none
The longed-for Christ would know.
 But O my friend,
 My friend indeed,
 Who at my need
 His life did spend!

3
Sometimes they strew his way,
And his sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King.
 Then 'Crucify!'
 Is all their breath,
 And for his death
 They thirst and cry.

4
They rise, and needs will have
My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save,
The prince of life they slay.
 Yet cheerful he
 To suffering goes,
 That he his foes
 From thence might free.

5
Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like thine!
 This is my friend,
 In whose sweet praise
 I all my days
 Could gladly spend.

Words Samuel Crossman 1624-1683

Music Love Unknown
John Ireland 1879-1962

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

O Lord, through the passion of our only begotten Son,
may our reconciliation with you be near at hand,
so that, though we do not merit it by our own deeds,
yet by this sacrifice made once for all,
we may feel already the effects of your mercy.
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:

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.**

§ *Remain standing*

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his 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, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,

President

in songs of e - ver last - ing praise

Response

Bless-ing and hon-our and glo-ry and power be yours for e-ver and e-ver. A - men.

The Lord's Prayer

§ *Kneel*

Standing at the foot of the cross,
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.

Invitation to Communion

Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

The clergy receive Holy Communion

Giving of Communion

Father, if this cup cannot pass without my drinking it,
your will be done.

Spiritual Communion – *for those watching at home*

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.

Words at the distribution:

The body of Christ, broken for you.

Response **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Response **Amen.**

Agnus Dei is sung here by the choir

Motet

Choir Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest.

Music Stephen Moore b. 1985

Hymn

All **NOW** my soul, thy voice upraising,
 Tell in sweet and mournful strain
How the Crucified, enduring
 Grief and wounds, and dying pain,
Freely of his love was offered,
 Sinless was for sinners slain.

See, his hands and feet are fastened!
 So he makes his people free;
Not a wound whence blood is flowing
 But a fount of grace shall be;
Yea, the very nails which nail him
 Nail us also to the tree.

Jesu, may those precious fountains
 Drink to thirsting souls afford;
Let them be our cup and healing,
 And at length our full reward:
So a ransomed world shall ever
 Praise thee, its redeeming Lord.

Words Latin, Claude de Santeuil 1628-1684
translated by Henry William Baker 1821-1877

Music Webbe's St. Thomas
Samuel Webbe 1740-1816

§ *All sit for a period of silent prayer and thanksgiving*

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

§ *Stand*

Lord Jesus Christ,
you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant,
and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation:
give us the mind to follow you
and to proclaim you as Lord and King,
to the glory of God the Father.

All **Amen.**

**Faithful God,
may we who share this banquet
glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
our salvation, life and hope,
who reigns as Lord now and for ever.
Amen.**

Hymn

All **THE royal banners forward go,
The cross shines forth in mystic glow,
Where he in flesh, our flesh who made,
Our sentence bore, our ransom paid.**

**Where deep for us the spear was dyed,
Life's torrent rushing from his side,
To wash us in that precious flood,
Where mingled water flowed, and blood.**

**Fulfilled is all that David told
In true prophetic song of old,
Amongst the nations, God, says he,
Has reigned and triumphed from the tree.**

**O tree of beauty, tree of light,
O tree with royal purple dight,
Elect on whose triumphal breast
Those holy limbs should find their rest!**

**On whose dear arms, so widely flung,
The weight of this world's ransom hung,
The price of humankind to pay
And spoil the spoiler of his prey.**

**O Cross, our one reliance, hail!
So may thy power with us prevail
To give new virtue to the saint,
And pardon to the penitent.**

**To thee, eternal three in one,
Let homage meet by all be done;
Whom by the cross thou dost restore,
Preserve and govern evermore. Amen.**

Words Latin, Venantius Fortunatus 530-609
translated by John Mason Neale 1818-1866

Music Gonfalon Royal
Percy Buck 1871-1947

Notices for the Community

§ Sit

¶ Sending Out

§ Stand

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

Solemn Blessing

All You believe that by his dying Christ destroyed death for ever.
Amen.

All You have been crucified with Christ
and live by faith in the Son of God,
who loved you and gave himself for you.
Amen.

All May he send you out to glory in his cross,
and live no longer for yourselves but for him,
who died and was raised to life for us.
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

Valet will ich dir geben BWV 735

J S Bach 1685-1750

'Farewell I gladly bid thee'

§ *Please remain standing until the procession has departed*

- § *Those leaving immediately are asked to be aware of those who wish to listen to the organ voluntary.*
- § *Refreshments are served after Mass, please join us in the Parish Centre*

This evening at 5.30 pm
**A Service of Penitence and Forgiveness
for Holy Week**

Our thanks are due to Anonymous Donor 20
who has 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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