



Morning Prayer
Passion Sunday
21st March 2021

An Order for Morning Prayer on Sunday

21 March 2021

Passion Sunday

† Preparation

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

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

We have come together in the name of Christ
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,
to hear and receive God's holy word,
to pray for the needs of the world,
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins,
that by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

Prayers of Penitence

Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest.

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.

cf Romans 5.8

**Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore to us the joy of your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse us from our sins,
and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Blessed is the Lord,
for he has heard the voice of our prayer;

Therefore shall our hearts dance for joy
and in our song will we praise our God.

Blessed are you, Lord our God,
creator and redeemer of all;
to you be glory and praise for ever.
From the waters of chaos you drew forth the world.
and in your great love fashioned us in your image.
Now, through the deep waters of death,
you have brought your people to new birth
by raising your Son to life in triumph.
May Christ your light ever dawn in our hearts
as we offer you our sacrifice of thanks and praise.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
Blessed be God for ever.

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.

Amen.

¶ The Word of God

Psalmody

Psalm 51.1-13

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness;
according to the abundance of your compassion
blot out my offences.
- 2 Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I acknowledge my faults
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
- 5 So that you are justified in your sentence
and righteous in your judgement.
- 6 I have been wicked even from my birth,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
- 7 Behold, you desire truth deep within me
and shall make me understand wisdom
in the depths of my heart.
- 8 Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean;
wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.
- 9 Make me hear of joy and gladness,
that the bones you have broken may rejoice.
- 10 Turn your face from my sins
and blot out all my misdeeds.

- 11 Make me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
- 12 Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your holy spirit from me.
- 13 Give me again the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your gracious spirit;

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.

First Reading

Jeremiah 31.31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It 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. ³³But 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. ³⁴No 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.

Thanks be to God.

The reading may be followed by a time of silence.

Old Testament Canticle

A Song of Humility

- 1 Come, let us return to the Lord
who has torn us and will heal us.

- 2 God has stricken us
and will bind up our wounds.
- 3 After two days, he will revive us,
and on the third day will raise us up,
that we may live in his presence.
- 4 Let us strive to know the Lord;
his appearing is as sure as the sunrise.
- 5 He will come to us like the showers,
like the spring rains that water the earth.
- 6 ‘O Ephraim, how shall I deal with you?
How shall I deal with you, O Judah?
- 7 ‘Your love for me is like the morning mist,
like the dew that goes early away.
- 8 ‘Therefore, I have hewn them by the prophets,
and my judgement goes forth as the light.
- 9 ‘For loyalty is my desire and not sacrifice,
and the knowledge of God rather than burnt-offerings.’ *Hosea 6.1-6*

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.

Second Reading

John 12.20-33

²⁰Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus.’ ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very 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. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever

serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

²⁷‘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. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.’ Then a voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, ‘An angel has spoken to him.’ ³⁰Jesus answered, ‘This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.’ ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The reading may be followed by a time of silence.

Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead

And Christ shall give you light.

You have died and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead.

Set your minds on things that are above,
not on things that are on the earth.

And Christ shall give you light.

When Christ our life appears you will appear with him in glory.

**Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead,
and Christ shall give you light.**

Gospel Canticle

Benedictus

- 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. *Luke 1.68-79*

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.

Sermon (There is a reflection at the end of this booklet)

The 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

Let us pray that Christ shall be glorified in the Church and in the world.

Grant to your servant Church the zeal to bring all people to Christ and to make known his saving sacrifice of himself ... Give her power to drive out evil and to find her life in his death and resurrection.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all who work to spread the gospel and offer their lives in its service ... Guide the seekers after truth, and lead into the right way those who care only for the pleasures of this world and the satisfaction of their own lives.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Make us willing servants of the faith, helping those around us to find their way and be renewed in the power of Christ ... By the power of the Cross may all divisions in our community be mended, and all hurts healed.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Have mercy on all who suffer in body, mind or spirit ... May they hear the divine voice of power and comfort, be relieved from their affliction and find new life after loss.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have died to this world ... May they grow into the life of heaven where joy is endless and what has been offered on earth comes to perfect fruition.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We pray in the name of Christ, lifted on the Cross for our salvation.

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

The Collect is said.

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.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer is said

**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

The Blessing

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,
and keep us in eternal life.

Amen.

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Passion Sunday

By +Peter Hill

One of my great delights on a sunny spring morning is to walk out early and see the tell-tale silver snail trails criss-crossing the garden path. To those of you who are gardeners that might well be a curse but then I'm no gardener! For me those silver trails are a delightful sign of pilgrimage.

So what is Christian pilgrimage? For me it is the intertwining of journeys: my own, other people's, and Christ's. It is the sharing of stories, the intermingling of passions, which in the end is all wrapped up in the passion of Jesus. And today, this 5th Sunday in Lent is **Passion Sunday**, traditionally the day we begin to home in on Jesus' Passion and the way of the cross.

Yes, for me pilgrimage is about walking and visiting holy sites, and in so doing I mingle my own pilgrimage with those of others. But underlying all pilgrimage is the passion of Christ and I believe that to be a universal reality. That is the way God has ordained it.

***We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow travellers on the road.
We are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.***

Today's Gospel from John chapter 12 is a pilgrimage story

Firstly, there is the pilgrimage of some Greek visitors to Jerusalem. These "others", these foreigners, these outsiders come to the disciple Philip and say "Sir, we would like to see Jesus." They appear to be genuine seekers. In the original Greek the word "see" means literally "to look deeply into .." Dag Hammarskjöld, the Christian UN Secretary General in the 1960s said, "The longest journey is the journey inward"

Currently sociologists are telling us that in the confusion of this post-modern world many are searching for meaning more urgently and seriously than for some years past. The old certainties: religious or scientific seem to have gone. Where is identity to be found?

Isn't the modern cult of celebrity and the popularity of the reality TV shows evidence of this? We seem impelled to examine other people's stories, putting them alongside our own and asking "What's it all about?"

Then there is the pilgrimage of the disciples, Philip and Andrew. They so represent us. Part of our pilgrimage as disciples is to assist the search others are making, share our story and introduce people to Jesus. That is what Philip and Andrew do.

The Greeks came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." v. 21. Look closely at what happens:

- They go to Philip. Why? He has a Greek name and he is from Bethsaida, essentially a Greek city.
- He dithers, but has the sense to take them to Andrew.
- Andrew was always bringing people to Jesus: his brother Simon Peter, the boy with the loaves and fishes and now the Greeks.

In your situation you may be the obvious person, like Philip, for folk to come to about meaning, God, and Jesus. Are you open to that possibility? Can you respond? What do you say? What do you do? Who will you ask for help?

Pilgrimage is the business of the church. Pilgrimage is about divine appointments; it is being vulnerable, being challenged As we make pilgrimage with others we learn more about ourselves. We see Christ in friend and stranger. Some of us are more like Philip and others more like Andrew.

But in the end we can take people only so far, for it is Jesus alone who can draw people to himself. v. 32: "But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself."

"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you the truth, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds."

That is the strange at first sight message Jesus gives to those who come to Him on pilgrimage. The totally unexpected and disorienting response,

for pilgrimage is the challenge of Jesus to come and die ... to come and die in order to live. Seeding, death and resurrection, that is what enables change and transformation.

This is pilgrimage and passion.

“Come & die with me”, says the Saviour. This is our daily pilgrim challenge.

“Come and die,” says Jesus, “not only every day, but your whole life through.”

For true pilgrimage involves the conviction of our own mortality.

We so often live as if we are immortal, superhuman; as if we can go on and on holding up our own worlds and maybe other people's. We are truly indispensable to others, to God and ourselves! In truth we are afraid to let things die, including ourselves! We have formal and informal preservation societies for all sorts of things in our lives that need to be put to death!

Well I have some bad news and some good news:

The **bad news** is that we **are** all going to die, we are mortal human beings.

The **extremely good news** is that I can guarantee that there is only one Saviour of the world and it is not me ... or you! It is the Lord Jesus Christ!

So there it is: Pilgrimage is passion, Jesus passion and ours!