

Sunday 21st March 2021 – Passiontide Begins

Welcome to Praying Together but Separately

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

HYMN JUST AS I AM (ST M VOICES)

Just as I am, without one plea
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidst me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come.

2 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings within and fears without,
O Lamb of God, I come.

3 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come.

4 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve:
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come.

5 Just as I am (thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down),
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come.

6 Just as I am, of that free love
the breadth, length, depth, and height to prove,
here for a season, then above,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871)

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

We meet in the name of God:

**God the Father,
God the Son,
God the Spirit:
God is one.**

PSALM 119: 9-16

R TEACH ME, O LORD, THE WAY OF YOUR STATUTES

How shall young people cleanse their way
to keep themselves according to your word?
With my whole heart have I sought you;
O let me not go astray from your commandments.

R TEACH ME, O LORD, THE WAY OF YOUR STATUTES

Your words have I hidden within my heart,
that I should not sin against you.

Blessed are you, O Lord;
O teach me your statutes.

R TEACH ME, O LORD, THE WAY OF YOUR STATUTES

With my lips I have been telling
of all the judgements of your mouth.
I have taken greater delight in the way of your testimonies
than in all manner of riches.

R TEACH ME, O LORD, THE WAY OF YOUR STATUTES

I will meditate on your commandments
and contemplate your ways.
My delight shall be in your statutes;
and I will not forget your word.

R TEACH ME, O LORD, THE WAY OF YOUR STATUTES

CONFESSION

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.
Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion,
and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
We confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
Help us to amend what we are
and direct what we shall be;
That we may do justly, love mercy,
And walk humbly with you, our God. Amen**

Kyrie confession:

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin:
Lord have mercy, **Lord have mercy.**

Make me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me:
Christ have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**

Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your holy spirit from me:
Lord have mercy, **Lord have mercy.**

Absolution:

May the God of love bring us back to himself, forgive us our sins, and
assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in one God; Father Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

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

BIBLE READINGS:

First Reading: Jeremiah 31: 31-34

A reading from the book of 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.

Second Reading: Hebrews 5: 5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

"You are my Son,
today I have begotten you"; as he says also in another place,
"You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek."

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

HYMN It is a thing most wonderful. *sung by St Martin's Voices*

- 1 It is a thing most wonderful,
almost too wonderful to be,
that God's own Son should come from heav'n,
and die to save a child like me.
- 2 And yet I know that it is true:
He chose a poor and humble lot,
and wept and toiled and mourned and died
for love of those who loved Him not.

- 3 But even could I see Him die,
I could but see a little part
of that great love which, like a fire,
is always burning in His heart.
- 4 It is most wonderful to know
His love for me so free and sure;
but 'tis more wonderful to see
my love for Him so faint and poor.
- 5 And yet I want to love Thee, Lord;
O light the flame within my heart,
and I will love Thee more and more,
until I see Thee as Thou art.

William Walsham How (1823-1897)

Gospel John 12 v20-33

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

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.

SERMON BY NIGEL

HYMN **Take up thy cross.** *sung by St Martin's Voices*

- 1 "Take up thy cross," the Saviour said,
"if thou wouldst my disciple be;
deny thyself, the world forsake
and humbly follow after me."
- 2 Take up thy cross; let not its weight
fill thy weak spirit with alarm;
His strength shall bear your spirit up
and brace thy heart and nerve thine arm.
- 3 Take up thy cross, then, in His strength,
and calmly every danger brave;
'twill guide thee to a better home,
and lead to victory o'er the grave.
- 4 Take up thy cross, and follow Christ
nor think till death to lay it down;
for only he who bears the cross
may hope to wear the glorious crown.
- 5 To thee, great Lord, the One in Three,
all praise for evermore ascend:
O grant us in our home to see
the heavenly life that knows no end.

Charles William Everest (1814-1877)

OUR PRAYERS

Let us bring to the Father our prayers of intercession through Christ who gave himself for the life of the world.

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

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

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

For those who, weighed down with hardship, failure, or sorrow, feel that
God is far from them,
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

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

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

A PRAYER CONCERNING THE CORONAVIRUS

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
in their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

HYMN. Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us *sung by St Martin's Voices*

- 1 Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
 o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
 guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us
 for we have no help but thee;
 yet possessing every blessing,
 if our God our Father be.
- 2 Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us;
 all our weakness thou dost know;
 thou didst tread this earth before us,
 thou didst feel its keenest woe;
 self denying, death defying,
 thou to Calvary didst go.
- 3 Spirit of our God, descending,
 fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
 love with every passion blending,
 pleasure that can never cloy:
 thus provided, pardoned, guided,
 nothing can our peace destroy. *James Edmeston (1791-1867)*

THE BLESSING

thy Christ crucified draw you to himself,
to find in him a sure ground for faith,
a firm support for hope,
and the assurance of sins forgiven:
and the blessing of God The Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit
be with you, and those you love, now and forever more. **Amen**