



Road to the Cross

*“You know that after two days the Passover is coming,
and the Son of Man will be delivered up
to be crucified.” (Matt 26:2)*

Call to Worship

Behold, God is our salvation;
We will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the LORD God is our strength and our song,
and he has become our salvation. *(Isa 12:2)*

**Sing praises to the LORD,
for he has done gloriously;
let this be made known in all the earth.** *(Isa 12:5)*

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,
to you all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden.
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Psalm 100. All People That on Earth do Dwell.

All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with mirth,
his praise forth tell,
Come ye before him and rejoice.

O enter then his gates with praise,
Approach with joy his courts unto:
Praise, laud, and bless
his name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

Know that the Lord is God indeed;
Without our aid he did us make:
We are his flock, he doth us feed,
And for his sheep he doth us take.

For why? the Lord our God is good,
His mercy is for ever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

William Kethe (1594)

Confession and Assurance

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”
(Matt 22:37-40)

Have mercy on us, O God

**According to your unfailing love;
According to your great compassion.**

If we say we have no sin,
we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins,
God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(1 John 1:8, 9)

Therefore, let us confess our sins against God,
and against our neighbour,
first in silence and then aloud together.

Please kneel or remain seated.

Prayer of Confession

**Almighty and most merciful God,
We have wandered and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.
We have offended against your holy laws.
We have left undone those things that we ought to have done;
and we have done those things that we ought not to have done;
and there is no health in us.
But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us sinners.
Spare those who confess their faults.
Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises
declared to mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord.
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may live a disciplined, righteous and godly life,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

Assurance of Pardon

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him
should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)*

Oh the Mercy of God

Oh the mercy of God,
the glory of grace.
That You choose to redeem us,
to forgive and restore.
And You call us Your children,
chosen in Him.
To be holy and blameless,
to the glory of God.

*To the praise
of His glorious grace.
To the praise
of His glory and power.
To Him be all glory,
honour and praise.
For ever and ever,
and ever, A-men.*

Oh the richness of grace,
the depths of His love.
In Him is redemption,
the forgiveness of sin.
You called us as righteous,
predestined in Him.
For the praise of His glory,
included in Christ.

Oh the glory of God,
expressed in His Son.
His image and likeness
revealed to us all.
The plan of the ages,
completed in Christ.
That we be presented,
perfected in Him.

God's Word

First Reading: Jer 20:7-18, "Sorrows of a Prophet", p. 648

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 119 (Sections 21 & 22)

Princes persecute me without cause, but my heart stands in awe of your words.

I rejoice at your word like one who finds great spoil.

I hate and abhor falsehood, but I love your law.

Seven times a day I praise you for your righteous rules.

Great peace have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble.

I hope for your salvation, O Lord, and I do your commandments.

My soul keeps your testimonies; I love them exceedingly.

I keep your precepts and testimonies, for all my ways are before you.

Let my cry come before you, O Lord; give me understanding according to your word!

Let my plea come before you; deliver me according to your word.

My lips will pour forth praise, for you teach me your statutes.

My tongue will sing of your word, for all your commandments are right.

Let your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen your precepts.

I long for your salvation, O Lord, and your law is my delight.

Let my soul live and praise you, and let your rules help me.

I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek your servant, for I do not forget your commandments.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever, age after age.

Amen.

Second Reading: Matt 26:1-13, p. 831

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Road to the Cross (David Thornhill-Smith)

Psalm 102 Lord, Hear My Prayer

Lord, hear my prayer, and let my cry
Have ready access unto Thee;
When in distress to Thee I fly,
O hide not Thou Thy face from me.
Attend, O Lord, to my desire,
O haste to answer when I pray;
For grief consumes my strength like fire,
My days as smoke pass swift away.

My heart is withered like the grass,
And I forget my daily bread;
In lonely grief my days I pass
And sad my thoughts upon my bed.
My foes reproach me all the day,
My drink is tears, my bread is grief,
For in Thy wrath I pine away,
My days are like a fading leaf.

But Thou, Jehovah, shalt endure,
Thy throne forever is the same;
And to all generations sure
Shall be Thy great memorial name.
The time for Zion's help is near,
The time appointed in Thy love;
O let Thy gracious aid appear,
Look Thou in mercy from above.

The Lord, exalted on His throne,
Looked down from Heav'n with pitying
eye
To still the lowly captive's moan
And save His people doomed to die.
All men in Zion shall declare
His gracious name with one accord,
When kings and nations gather there
To serve and worship God the Lord.

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The Apostles 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 power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary.
He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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 of Intercession

After each petition:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

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.**

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

All baptised Christians who trust in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and seek to lead a new life by God's mercies, are welcome at this table. If you do not profess faith in Christ, simply allow the bread and wine to pass by, and reflect on what is taking place.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Please join in saying the Sanctus ("The Holy", based on Isaiah 6:3)

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Father, as we have received
these gifts of bread and wine,
you have fed us with the spiritual food
of the body and blood
of our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Thank you for assuring us of your goodness and love,
and that we are members of his body.**

**Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Gifts and Offerings

Gifts and offerings may be placed in the offertory box at the back of the hall. "*Honour the LORD with your wealth and with the first-fruits of all your produce.*" (Prov 3:9)

Ride on, Ride on in Majesty!

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark! All the tribes hosanna cry.
O Saviour meek, pursue your road,
with palms and scattered
garments strowed

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

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
The angel armies of the sky
look down with sad
and wond'ring eyes
to see th' approaching sacrifice.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Your 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 your meek head to mortal pain,
then take, O God, your pow'r and reign.

Henry Hart Milman (1827)

Benediction

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
**In the Name of Christ,
Amen.**

Please diarise and pray for the items below:

IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS		
Tue 4 th Apr	Tots & Toys	
Thurs 6 th Apr	Sufferings and Death of Christ	Refreshments 7.00pm for 7.15pm start
Sun 9 th Apr	Easter Sunday	10am
FURTHER AHEAD		
Thurs 27 th Apr	CAL Event	Billy McCurrie: <i>Would God forgive a terrorist?</i>

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