



Tuesday Holy Week

**We welcome you to St Matthew's Church this evening and hope you enjoy our worship together.*

**If you are with us for the first time please fill in one of the Welcome leaflets. Thank you.*

Please join in the words in **bold print.*

**Remember to switch off your mobile phone whilst you are in the church.*

The Gathering

Entry Hymn (818)

To God be the glory, great things He hath done,
So loved he the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life our redemption to win,
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice;
Oh, come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory; great things He hath done.*

Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Chorus

Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our transport when Jesus we see.

Chorus

*Frances Jane van Alstyne (Fanny J. Crosby)
(1820-1915)*

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

We pray together

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom 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.**

Confession

O God, you know my foolishness and my sins are not hidden from you: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Let not the flood overwhelm me nor the depths swallow me up; let not the pit shut its mouth upon me:

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Hear me, O Lord, as your loving kindness is good; turn to me as your compassion is great:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you,

+ pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Collect

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. **Amen.**

The Readings

1 Corinthians 1: 18-31

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.’

²⁰Where is the one who is wise?

Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory. Christ humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him and given him the name that is above every name.

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

The Lord be with you
And also with you

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

John 12: 20-36

Now among 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. ³⁴The crowd answered him, 'We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains for ever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?' ³⁵Jesus said to them, 'The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. ³⁶While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.'

After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you O Christ

A Meditation

Prayers of Intercession

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

The Peace

Christ is our peace.
He has reconciled us to God
in one body by the cross.
We meet in his name and share his
peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with
you

And also with you

Hymn (448)

I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall,
in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread, and bids us
share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends.

The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known:
alive among us here.

Together met, together bound,
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one.

*Brian Wren (b.1936) © 1971, 1995, Stainer
& Bell Ltd*

Prayer of Preparation

Jesus, true vine and bread of life,
ever giving yourself that the world
might live, let us share your death
and passion:

make us perfect in your love.

Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

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 thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation; in your love you made us for yourself. When we turned away

you did not reject us, but came to meet us in your Son. In Christ you shared our life

that we might live in him and he in us.

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends he took bread, and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, and said:

Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me.

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory, send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son. With your whole Church throughout the world

we offer you this sacrifice of praise and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

Agnus Dei

**Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,
give us your peace.**

Invitation to Communion

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the
Father.**

Post Communion

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of
your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you
our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

Final Hymn (24)

The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended,
the darkness falls at thy behest;
to thee our morning hymns
ascended,
thy praise shall sanctify our rest.

We thank thee that thy Church
unsleeping, while earth rolls onward
into light, through all the world her
watch is keeping, and rests not now
by day or night.

As o'er each continent and island
The dawn leads on another day,
The voice of prayer is never silent,
Nor dies the strain of praise away.

The sun that bids us rest is waking
Our brethren 'neath the western sky,
And hour by hour fresh lips are
making
Thy wondrous doings heard on high.

As o'er each continent and island
the dawn leads on another day,
the voice of prayer is never silent,
nor dies the strain of praise away.

John Ellerton (1826–1893)

The Blessing

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...

Go in peace to love and serve the
Lord

In the name of Christ. Amen

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