

## ¶ Evening Prayer

Passiontide

Wednesday, 31 March 2021

Wednesday of Holy Week

### Preparation

○ God, make speed to save us.

**All** ○ Lord, make haste to help us.

Let your ways be known upon earth

**All** your saving power among the nations.

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation,  
to you be glory and praise for ever.

As we behold your Son, enthroned on the cross,  
stir up in us the fire of your love,  
that we may be cleansed from all our sins,  
and walk with you in newness of life  
singing the praise of him who died  
for us and our salvation.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**All** Blessed be God for ever.

That this evening may be holy, good and peaceful,  
let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept.*

As our evening prayer rises before you, ○ God,  
so may your mercy come down upon us  
to cleanse our hearts  
and set us free to sing your praise  
now and for ever.

**All** Amen.

*The appointed psalmody is said.*

*Psalm 88*

1 O Lord, God of my salvation, ◆  
I have cried day and night before you.

2 Let my prayer come into your presence; ◆  
incline your ear to my cry.

3 For my soul is full of troubles; ◆  
my life draws near to the land of death.

4 I am counted as one gone down to the Pit; ◆  
I am like one that has no strength,

5 Lost among the dead, ◆  
like the slain who lie in the grave,

6 Whom you remember no more, ◆  
for they are cut off from your hand. *R*

7 You have laid me in the lowest pit, ◆  
in a place of darkness in the abyss.

8 Your anger lies heavy upon me, ◆  
and you have afflicted me with all your waves.

9 You have put my friends far from me ◆  
and made me to be abhorred by them.

10 I am so fast in prison that I cannot get free; ◆  
my eyes fail from all my trouble. *R*

11 Lord, I have called daily upon you; ♦  
I have stretched out my hands to you.

12 Do you work wonders for the dead? ♦  
Will the shades stand up and praise you?

13 Shall your loving-kindness be declared in the grave, ♦  
your faithfulness in the land of destruction?

14 Shall your wonders be known in the dark ♦  
or your righteous deeds in the land where all is forgotten? R

15 But as for me, O Lord, I will cry to you; ♦  
early in the morning my prayer shall come before you.

16 Lord, why have you rejected my soul? ♦  
Why have you hidden your face from me?

17 I have been wretched and at the point of death from my youth; ♦  
I suffer your terrors and am no more seen.

18 Your wrath sweeps over me; ♦  
your horrors are come to destroy me;

19 All day long they come about me like water; ♦  
they close me in on every side.

20 Lover and friend have you put far from me ♦  
and hid my companions out of my sight.

*In the depths of our isolation  
we cry to you, Lord God;  
give light in our darkness  
and bring us out of the prison of our despair  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

## Scripture Reading

### *Isaiah 63.1-9*

'Who is this that comes from Edom,  
from Bozrah in garments stained crimson?  
Who is this so splendidly robed,  
marching in his great might?'

'It is I, announcing vindication,  
mighty to save.'

'Why are your robes red,  
and your garments like theirs who tread the wine press?'

'I have trodden the wine press alone,  
and from the peoples no one was with me;  
I trod them in my anger  
and trampled them in my wrath;  
their juice spattered on my garments,  
and stained all my robes.  
For the day of vengeance was in my heart,  
and the year for my redeeming work had come.  
I looked, but there was no helper;  
I stared, but there was no one to sustain me;  
so my own arm brought me victory,  
and my wrath sustained me.  
I trampled down peoples in my anger,  
I crushed them in my wrath,  
and I poured out their lifeblood on the earth.'

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,  
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,  
because of all that the Lord has done for us,  
and the great favour to the house of Israel  
that he has shown them according to his mercy,  
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.  
For he said, 'Surely they are my people,

children who will not deal falsely';  
and he became their saviour  
in all their distress.  
It was no messenger or angel  
but his presence that saved them;  
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;  
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

*The Song of Christ's Glory*

*Refrain:*

**All At the name of Jesus  
every knee shall bow.**

1 Christ Jesus was in the form of God, ◆  
but he did not cling to equality with God.

2 He emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, ◆  
and was born in our human likeness.

3 Being found in human form he humbled himself, ◆  
and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

4 Therefore God has highly exalted him, ◆  
and bestowed on him the name above every name,

5 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, ◆  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth;

6 And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, ◆  
to the glory of God the Father.

*Philippians 2.5-11*

**All 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.**

**All At the name of Jesus  
every knee shall bow.**

## Scripture Reading

*John 12:1-11*

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well, since it was on account of him that many of the Jews were deserting and were believing in Jesus.

## Responsory

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you;

**All by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.**

Christ committed no sin, no guile was found on his lips.

**All We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.**

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree  
that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

**All By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.**

By his wounds you have been healed.

**All We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you;**

**by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.**

*cf 1 Peter 2*

## Homily

*The homily is given by Fr Charlie Annis nCR, our guest preacher this week.*

## Gospel Canticle

*The Magnificat (The Song of Mary) is said.*

**All God's love for us is revealed  
in that, while we were yet sinners,  
Christ died for us.**

1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; ◆  
he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

2 From this day all generations will call me blessed; ◆  
the Almighty has done great things for me  
and holy is his name.

3 He has mercy on those who fear him, ◆  
from generation to generation.

4 He has shown strength with his arm ◆  
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,

5 Casting down the mighty from their thrones ◆  
and lifting up the lowly.

6 He has filled the hungry with good things ◆  
and sent the rich away empty.

7 He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, ◆  
to remember his promise of mercy,

8 The promise made to our ancestors, ◆  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

**All 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.**

**All God's love for us is revealed  
in that, while we were yet sinners,  
Christ died for us.**

## Prayers

With faith and love and in union with Christ,  
let us offer our prayer before the throne of grace.  
Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer**

Have mercy on your people,  
for whom your Son laid down his life:  
Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer**

Bring healing and wholeness to people and nations,  
and have pity on those torn apart by division:  
Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer**

Strengthen all who are persecuted for your name's sake,  
and deliver them from evil:  
Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer**

Look in mercy upon all who suffer,  
and hear those who cry out in pain and desolation:  
Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer**

Bring comfort to the dying,  
and gladden their hearts with the vision of your glory:  
Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer**

Give rest to the departed  
and bring them, with your saints, to glory everlasting:  
Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer**

Let us commend the world, for which Christ died,  
to the mercy and protection of God.

*Silence is kept.*

*The Collect of the day is said*

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.**

*The Lord's Prayer is said*

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.**

**The Conclusion**

May Christ, who bore our sins on the cross,  
set us free to serve him with joy.

**All Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**