

Introduction

Call to worship

"Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies it remains but a single grain. But if it dies, it yields much fruit" John 12, 24

Lord, we have joined together for common worship. Yet each of us has brought something different to this service. Some of us have come with happiness and gratitude and want to give thanks. Some have come with sadness and disappointment and need to be comforted and encouraged. Some have come with guilt and confusion and seek to be forgiven or redirected. Some have come with no particular feeling at all and need to be challenged and helped to see the truth.

All Help us Lord to hear your voice during this time of worship that our needs may be met in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

A Passiontide Responsory

Lord God you carried the cross of love up the hill to Calvary

All We are called to remember that road

We wish to have fellowship with you in your sorrow, that through your suffering we may have strength and peace

All Help us to be strong that we may never betray you as Judas did or deny you as Peter did

We remember how they spat upon you, how they mocked you and how they pierced your hands and feet

All We remember how you quietly prayed, Father forgive them for they know not what they do

During Passiontide may we too learn the meaning of forgiveness so that we may learn to love you as you love us.

All Amen

Confession and Absolution

Forgive us Lord for being afraid. We have been afraid of going the second mile. We have been afraid to return good for evil. We have been afraid to let love rule in our relationships with others. We have been afraid to surrender ourselves to your will.

All Forgive us Lord and help us to realise that we cannot truly follow you until we permit your Spirit to remove all fear from our minds, replacing it with your peace and hope through Jesus Christ our Lord.

May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by his spirit and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord

All Amen

Collect

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 our Lord.

All Amen

Hymn: Be still my soul

Reading From the New Testament

Hebrews 5 5-10

In the same way, Christ did not take on himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him,

"You are my Son;

today I have become your Father."

And he says in another place,

"You are a priest forever,

in the order of Melchizedek."

During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

This is the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Song: I will sing of my redeemer

The Gospel

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 12 20-33.

All Glory to you O Lord

Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

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

who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

"Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!"

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince 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 show the kind of death he was going to die.

This is the gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you O Christ

Sermon

Hymn: Lord Jesus think on me

Intercessions

Ending with the LORD'S PRAYER

All Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth,
As it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that 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.

Closing Prayer

We have gathered today Lord God as your people to offer you our sacrifice of prayer and worship. We have fed on your word, been refreshed through your living water, felt the encircling of your Spirit around our gathering and our individual lives. As we live out our day may we continue to know your presence and power in the very different lives that we lead, to your praise and glory.

All Amen

Blessing

May the Father who so loved the world that he gave his only Son bring you by faith to His eternal life

May Christ who accepted the cup of sacrifice in obedience to the Father's will keep you steadfast as you walk with Him the way of His cross

May the Spirit who strengthens us to suffer with Christ that we may share His glory set your minds on life and peace

And the blessing of God Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you this Passiontide and always.

All Amen

Hymn: Wonderful, merciful, saviour