



St NICOLAS' CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Friday 15 March 2022

Good Friday



The Revd Paul Smith

The Gathering

The minister enters in silence. All may kneel for a time of silent prayer.

The Collect

Eternal God, in the cross of Jesus we see the cost of our sin and the depth of your love: in humble hope and fear may we place at his feet all that we have and all that we are, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



There is a green hill far away

CP 123

There is a green hill far away,
without a city wall,
where the dear Lord was crucified,
who died to save us all.

We may not know, we cannot tell,
what pains he had to bear;
but we believe it was for us
he hung and suffered there.

He died that we might be forgiven,
he died to make us good,
that we might go at last to heaven,
saved by his precious blood.

There was no other good enough
to pay the price of sin;
he only could unlock the gate
of heaven, and let us in.

O dearly, dearly has he loved,
and we must love him too,
and trust in his redeeming blood,
and try his works to do.

Cecil Francis Alexander (1818 – 1895)

The Liturgy of the Word

Please sit for

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 52.13 - 53.12



1. My God my God look upon me, why hast thou for - saken me :
 3. And thou con - - - - - tinu - est holy :
 5. They called upon thee and were holpen :
 7. All they that see me laugh me to scorn :
 9. But thou art he that took me out of my moth - er's womb :
 11. O go not from me, for trouble is hard at hand :
 13. They gape upon me with their mouths :
 15. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue cleaveth to my gums :
 17. They pierced my hands and my feet, I may tell all my bones :
 19. But be not thou far from me O Lord :
 Glory be to the father, and to the Son :



and art so far from my health, and from the words of my com - plaint?
 O thou worship of Israel.
 they put their trust in thee and were not con - founded.
 they shoot out their lips and shake their heads saying,
 thou wast my hope, when I hang-ed yet up - on my moth - er's breasts.
 and there is none to help me.
 as it were a ramping and a roar - ing lion.
 and thou shalt bring me into the dust of death.
 they stand staring and looking u - pon me.
 thou art my succour haste thee to help me.
 and to the Ho - ly Ghost.



2. O my God I cry in the day-time but thou hearest not :
 4. Our fathers hoped in thee :
 6. But as for me, I am a worm and no man :
 8. He trusted in God that he would de - liver him :
 10. I have been left unto thee ever since I was born :
 12. Many oxen are come a - bout me :
 14. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint :
 16. For many dogs are come a - bout me :
 18. They part my garments a - mong them :
 20. Deliver my soul from the sword :
 21. Save me from the lion's mouth :
 As it was in the beginning, is now, and e - ver shall be :



and in the night-season also I take no rest.
 they trusted in thee and thou didst de - liver them.
 a very scorn of men and the out - cast of the people.
 let him de - liver him if he will have him.
 thou art my God, even from my moth - er's womb.
 fat bulls of Basan close me in on e - very side.
 my heart also in the midst of my body is even like melt - ing wax.
 and the council of the wicked lay - eth siege a - gainst me.
 and cast lots up - on my vesture.
 my darling from the power of the dog.
 thou hast heard me also from a - mong the horns of the unicorns.
 world without end. A - men.

Silence is kept after which please stand to sing

 **O Sacred head sore wounded** **CP 119**

O sacred head, sore wounded,
Defiled and put to scorn:
O kingly head, surrounded
With mocking crown of thorn;
What sorrow mars thy grandeur?
Can death thy bloom deflower?
O countenance whose splendour
The hosts of heaven adore!

Thy beauty, long desired,
Hath vanished from our sight:
Thy power is all expired,
And quenched the Light of light.
Ah me! for whom thou diest,
Hide not so far thy grace:
Show me, O Love most highest,
The brightness of thy face.

I pray thee, Jesus, own me,
me, Shepherd good, for thine;
who to thy fold hast won me,
and fed with truth divine.
Me guilty, me refuse not,
incline thy face to me,
this comfort that I lose not,
on earth to comfort thee.

In thy most bitter passion
My heart to share doth cry.
With thee for my salvation
Upon the cross to die.
Ah, keep my heart thus moved
To stand thy cross beneath,
To mourn thee, well-beloved,
Yet thank thee for thy death.

My days are few, O fail not,
With thine immortal power,
To hold me that I quail not
In death's most fearful hour:
That I may fight befriended,
And see in my last strife
To me thine arms extended
Upon the cross of life.

*Paul Gerhardt (1607 – 1676), from a C14 Latin Hymn
Tr Robert Bridges (1844 – 1930)*

It is traditional to stand for the Passion, but please feel free to sit if you prefer.

The Passion Reading

John 18.1 – 19.37

At the end

This is the Passion of the Lord.

No response is made.

Silence is kept



Drop, drop, slow tears

CP 106

Drop, drop, slow tears,
and bathe those beautiful feet,
which brought from heaven
the news and Prince of Peace.

Cease not, wet eyes,
his mercies to entreat;
to cry for vengeance
sin doth never cease.

In your deep floods
drown all my faults and fears;
nor let his eye see sin,
but through my tears.

Phineas Fletcher (1582 – 1650)

The Proclamation of the Cross

*Please stand as a wooden cross is brought into church
and placed in the sight of the people.*

The procession stops three times and the following versicle and response is said:

This is the wood of the cross, on which hung the Saviour of the world.
Come, let us worship.

Please sit

You are worthy, O Lamb, for you were slain,
and by your blood you ransomed for God
saints from every tribe and language and nation;
you have made them to be a kingdom and priests
serving our God.

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

To him who loves us
and has freed us from our sins by his blood,
and made us a kingdom of priests
to stand and serve before our God;

**to him who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb
be praise and honour, glory and might,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Please stand to sing

 **When I survey the wondrous cross**

CP 127

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them through his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

His dying Crimson, like a robe,
spreads o'er his body on the Tree;
then I am dead to all the Globe,
and all the Globe is dead to me.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Galatians 6. 14
Isaac Watts (1674 – 1748)

Please sit or kneel for

The Litany

God the Father,
have mercy upon us.

God the Son,
have mercy upon us.

God the Holy Spirit,
have mercy upon us.

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity,

have mercy upon us.

From all evil and mischief; from pride, vanity and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all evil intent,

good Lord, deliver us.

From sloth, worldliness, and love of money; from hardness of heart and contempt for your word and your laws,

good Lord, deliver us.

From sins of body and mind; from the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,

good Lord, deliver us.

From famine and disaster; from violence, murder, and dying unprepared,

good Lord, deliver us.

In all times of sorrow; in all times of joy; in the hour of death, and at the day of judgement,

good Lord, deliver us.

By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your birth, childhood, and obedience; by your baptism, fasting, and temptation,

good Lord, deliver us.

By your ministry in word and work; by your mighty acts of power; and by your preaching of the kingdom,

good Lord, deliver us.

By your agony and trial; by your cross and passion; and by your precious death and burial,

good Lord, deliver us.

By your mighty resurrection; by your glorious ascension; and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,

good Lord, deliver us.

Hear our prayers, O Lord our God.

Hear us, good Lord.

Govern and direct your holy Church; fill it with love and truth; and grant it that unity which is your will.

Hear us, good Lord.

Give us boldness to preach the gospel in all the world, and to make disciples of all the nations.

Hear us, good Lord.

Enlighten Steven and Gavin our bishops and all your ministers with knowledge and understanding, that by their teaching and their lives they may proclaim your word.

Hear us, good Lord.

Give your people grace to hear and receive your word, and to bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

Hear us, good Lord.

Bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived.

Hear us, good Lord.

Strengthen those who stand; comfort and help the faint-hearted; raise up the fallen; and finally beat down Satan under our feet.

Hear us, good Lord.

Guide the leaders of the nations into the ways of peace and justice.

Hear us, good Lord.

Guard and strengthen your servant Elizabeth our Queen, that she may put her trust in you, and seek your honour and glory.

Hear us, good Lord.

Endue the High Court of Parliament and all the Ministers of the Crown with wisdom and understanding.

Hear us, good Lord.

Bless those who administer the law, that they may uphold justice, honesty, and truth.

Hear us, good Lord.

Give us the will to use the resources of the earth to your glory, and for the good of all creation.

Hear us, good Lord.

Bless and keep all your people.

Hear us, good Lord.

Bring your joy into all families; strengthen and deliver those in childbirth, watch over children and guide the young, bring reconciliation to those in discord and peace to those in stress.

Hear us, good Lord.

Help and comfort the lonely, the bereaved, and the oppressed.

Lord, have mercy.

Keep in safety those who travel, and all who are in danger.

Lord, have mercy.

Heal the sick in body and mind, and provide for the homeless, the hungry, and the destitute.

Lord, have mercy.

Show your pity on prisoners and refugees, and all who are in trouble.

Lord, have mercy.

Forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and turn their hearts.

Lord, have mercy.

Hear us as we remember those who have died in the peace of Christ, both those who have confessed the faith and those whose faith is known to you alone, and grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, have mercy.

Give us true repentance; forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance and our deliberate sins; and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to your holy word.

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

Silence is kept

Please stand to sing

 **Were you there when they crucified my Lord** **CP 126**

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

The Conclusion

(Please sit or kneel)

Let us pray for the coming of the kingdom, in the words our Saviour taught us.

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.

The service concludes with the following prayer.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, set your passion, cross and death between your judgement and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Grant mercy and grace to the living, rest to the departed, to your Church peace and concord and to us sinners forgiveness, and everlasting life and glory; for, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you are alive and reign, God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Silence is kept.

After the concluding prayer the

Gospel of the Burial of Christ (John 19.38-42)

is read and the wooden cross is carried out.

No blessing or dismissal is added.

Minister and congregation depart in silence.



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Front Cover Image

Theyre Lee-Elliott (1903-1988), Tempera and gouache on paper

85 x 65 cm, 1959

Methodist Modern Art Collection LEE/1963

Matthew 27: 35–36, 38–39

Lee-Elliott's Crucified tree form draws on a tradition dating from the thirteenth century in which the cross on which Jesus is crucified is a living tree. In this painting, he has developed the 'living tree' one stage further and created a crucifixion which conveys 'the agony' with the head and shoulders falling forward and the arms stretched up backwards, in a V. The cross, tree and body are fused into a single suffering whole. A modern touch is added with the strands of barbed wire. In fact, there is something of the First World War battlefield about the painting; the dead trees, now a familiar icon of the twentieth century, add an additional resonance to the work.

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