



**A SERVICE OF EVENING PRAYER
FOR USE AT HOME
Sunday 5th April 2020
The Sixth Sunday in Lent
Palm Sunday**

HYMN: ICH 215

**Ah, holy Jesu, how hast thou offended,
that we to judge thee in hate pretended:
by foes derided, by thine own rejected,
O most afflicted.**

**Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesu, hath undone thee.
'Twas I, Lord Jesu, I it was denied thee:
I crucified thee.**

**Lo, the good Shepherd for the sheep is offered;
the slave hath sinnèd, and the Son hath suffered;
for man's atonement, while he nothing heedeth,
God intercedeth.**

**For me, kind Jesu, was thy incarnation,
thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation;
thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion,
for my salvation.**

**Therefore, kind Jesu, since I cannot pay thee,
I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee,
think on thy pity and thy love unswerving,
not my deserving.**

*Words: Robert Bridges (1844-1930) based on an 11th cent. Latin meditation by Johann Heerman (1585-1647)
Tune: HERZLIEBSTER JESU later form of a melody by Johann Crüger (1598-1662) harm. J.S. Bach (1685-1750)*

OPENING RESPONSES:

**O Lord, open thou our lips
and our mouth shall show forth thy praise.**

**God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

**Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.**

PSALM: 27

**The Lord is my light, and my salvation; whom then shall I fear:
the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?
When the wicked, even mine enemies, and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh:
they stumbled and fell.
Though an host of men were laid against me, yet shall not my heart be afraid:
and though there rose up war against me, yet will I put my trust in him.**

One thing have I desired of the Lord, which I will require:
even that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the fair beauty of
the Lord, and to visit his temple.
For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his tabernacle:
yea, in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me, and set me up upon a rock of stone.
And now shall he lift up mine head:
above mine enemies round about me.
Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation with great gladness:
I will sing, and speak praises unto the Lord.
Hearken unto my voice, O Lord, when I cry unto thee:
have mercy upon me, and hear me.
My heart hath talked of thee, Seek ye my face:
Thy face, Lord, will I seek.
O hide not thou thy face from me:
nor cast thy servant away in displeasure.
Thou hast been my succor:
leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.
When my father and my mother forsake me:
the Lord taketh me up.
Teach me thy way, O Lord:
and lead me in the right way, because of mine enemies.
Deliver me not over into the will of mine adversaries:
for there are false witnesses risen up against me, and such as speak wrong.
I should utterly have fainted:
but that I believe verily to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.
O tarry thou the Lord's leisure:
be strong, and he shall comfort thine heart; and put thou thy trust in the Lord.

Glory be to the Father:
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 5:1-7

Let me sing for my beloved
my love-song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watch-tower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.
What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?

And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.
I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his pleasant planting;
he expected justice,
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness,
but heard a cry!

THE CANTICLE MAGNIFICAT:

**My soul doth magnify the Lord:
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded:
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth:
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me:
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him:
throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm:
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat:
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things:
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.**

SECOND READING: Matthew 21:33-46

'Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son." But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance." So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those

tenants?' They said to him, 'He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.'

Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes"?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.'

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

THE CANTICLE NUNC DIMITTIS:

**Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:
according to thy word.**

For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation.

Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people.

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:

and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost.**

**As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.**

THE APOSTLES' CREED:

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.

The Lord be with you
and with thy Spirit.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**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. Amen.

O Lord, show thy mercy upon us
and grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the Queen
and mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness
and make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people
and bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord,
because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us
and take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

COLLECT OF THE DAY:

Almighty and everlasting God, who of thy tender love towards mankind, hast sent thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility; Mercifully grant, that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

LENTEN COLLECT:

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent; Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PEACE:

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels and all just works do proceed; Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST ALL PERILS:

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord: and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PRAYERS

Holy Jesus, you come to meet us in humble ways.

You meet us in the lengthening of the light.

You meet us in the fragrance of the earth, melting.

You meet us in the delicate petals of the first yellow crocus blossom.

You meet us in the first bee we see.

This year we will look for little signs of life, not passing them by,
but stopping and giving thanks for your presence in the beauty of our world.

Your holy presence is all around us.

Thank you for this congregation gathered to worship,
and for way you have shaped us into a loving supportive community
reaching out to those in need.

Thank you for showing us the joy of losing ourselves and finding your strength.

We need strength this week to love our families,

to be kind even when we are tired,

and to give to our community, even when we feel we have nothing to give.

We come to you in humility because we are not a perfect people.

We know what's right and we would like to do it,
but we feel that road is too hard, and too costly.
Forgive us for cheering you on your lonely road
while we take the easy way.
We love a humble Saviour riding a donkey,
but we want the best things, and honour without responsibility.
Today we pray for all who are tempted by power:
for our political leaders with many followers who will do anything to stay popular;
for those with great financial resources, who only want to use it for themselves;
for those with power over vulnerable people, who hurt those in their care.
You know how each one of us is being tempted in our own life:
In this moment of silence we meet you at our own crossroads,
we feel your great tender love for us and listen to your voice
Thank you that you don't just show us the way,
you are the way, and you empower us to follow you.
We follow you together, with hosannas in our hearts,
as we pray in your holy name.

A PRAYER FOR CARERS

Holy Spirit, promised Counsellor, we pray at this time of stress and anxiety for those who are called to the ministry of nurse, doctor, or hospital administrator, and also for those who, without special training, bear heavy burdens at home in caring for the ill and elderly. We remember those who have to manage somehow on their own, and ask your blessing on all the ordinary folk who are good neighbours and friends in need. Draw us closer in bonds of loving care and Christian compassion, and help us to see and respond to need around us. In the bearing, and alleviating, of human pain may the Father's will be done, the Father's love be known, and the Father's grace be mighty to help; through Jesus Christ, his Son, our Lord.

A PRAYER OF ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

THE GRACE

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

HYMN: ICH 231

**My song is love unknown,
my Saviour's love to me,
love to the loveless shown,
that they might lovely be.
O who am I,
that for my sake
my Lord should take
frail flesh and die.**

**He came from his blest throne,
salvation to bestow;
but we made strange, and none
the longed-for Christ would know.
But O, my Friend,
my Friend indeed,
who at my need
his life did spend!**

Sometimes they strew his way,
and his sweet praises sing,
resounding all the day
hosannas to their King.
Then 'Crucify!'
is all their breath
and for his death
they thirst and cry.

Why, what hath my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run,
he gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries!
Yet they at these
themselves diplease
and 'gainst him rise.

They rise, and needs will have
my dear Lord made away;
a muderer they save,
the Prince of life they slay.
Yet cheerful he
to suffering goes
that he his foes
from thence might free.

In life, no house, no home
my Lord on earth might have;
in death no friendly tomb
but what a stranger gave.
What may I say?
Heav'n was his home;
but mine the tomb
wherein he lay.

Here might I stay and sing,
no story so divine;
never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine!
This is my Friend,
in whose sweet praise
I all my days
could gladly spend.

Words: Samuel Crossman (1624-83)
Tune: LOVE UNKNOWN John Ireland (1879-1962)

THE BLESSING

May the peace of God which passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

THE CLOSING RESPONSES

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Belfast Cathedral Closure

We regret that, due to current restrictions as a result of the Covid-19 virus, Belfast Cathedral is closed to services, tourism, events and as a public gathering venue.

However, please continue to search the cathedral website (www.belfastcathedral.org) or our Facebook Page "Belfast Cathedral" for up to date news and online prayer resources.

Also an online daily prayer from the Corrymeela Community:

https://www.corrymeela.org/news/180/prayers-for-community-in-a?fbclid=IwAR3ILx4ZCuZEm-cFkOs3vX-5m_67QszusdrVgxRHHL2n9DOquegAhIRdWdo

HOLY WEEK 2020

Monday 6th to Good Friday 10th March

Our Holy Week Services for you to use at home each day are available to download from the Cathedral Website.

Please join us on the Cathedral Facebook page for a Live Streaming of **Evening Prayers for Wednesday of Holy Week and Maundy Thursday at 4.30pm.**
Also a Live Stream of the Seven Words of Christ from the Cross of Calvary from 12 noon – 1pm on Good Friday, 10th March.

Next Sunday 12th April is Easter Day.
Please join us for an Easter Day Service of Resurrection Hope Streamed on the Cathedral Facebook Page At 11.00am.