



BELFAST  
CATHEDRAL

A SERVICE OF MORNING PRAYER  
FOR USE AT HOME  
The Sixth Sunday in Lent  
Palm Sunday  
Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2020



#### THE GREETING

The Lord be with you  
and also with you.

God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. *Romans 5:8*

#### PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD

O Lord, open our lips  
and our mouth will proclaim your praise.

God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

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.**

Praise the Lord.

**The Lord's name be praised.**

#### HYMN: ICH 238\*

**Ride on, ride on in majesty,  
hark! all the tribes 'Hosanna' cry;  
O Saviour meek, pursue thy road  
with palms and scattered garments strowed.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty:  
thy last and fiercest strife is nigh;  
the Father on his sapphire throne  
awaits his own anointed Son.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty:  
in lowly pomp ride on to die;  
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin  
o'er captive death and conquered sin.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty:  
in lowly pomp ride on to die;  
bow thy meek head to mortal pain;  
then take, O God, thy power, and reign.**

*Words: Henry H. Milam (1791-1868) based on Matthew 21:8-9; Zechariah 9:9  
Tune: WINCHESTER NEW Melody adapted from Musikalisches Hand-Buch (Hamburg, 1690) by William Henry  
Havergal (1793-1870)*

#### PENITENCE

Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

*Silence is kept.*

**Heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault; by what we have done and by what we have failed to do. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Merciful Lord, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**THE PROPER PSALM: 31:9-16**

Thou hast not shut me up into the hand of the enemy:

but hast set my feet in a large room.

Have mercy upon me, O Lord, for I am in trouble:

and mine eye is consumed for very heaviness; yea, my soul and my body.

For my life is waxen old with heaviness:

and my years with mourning.

My strength faileth me, because of mine iniquity:

and my bones are consumed.

I became a reproof among all mine enemies, but especially among my neighbours:

and they of mine acquaintance were afraid of me; and they that did see me without conveyed themselves from me.

I am clean forgotten, as a dead man out of mind:

I am become like a broken vessel.

For I have heard the blasphemy of the multitude:

and fear is on every side, while they conspire together against me, and take their counsel to take away my life.

But my hope hath been in thee, O Lord:

I have said, Thou art my God.

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.

**THE CANTICLE: THE SONG OF CHRIST'S GLORY** (*Philippians 2: 6-11*)

Christ Jesus was in the form of God:

but he did not cling to equality with God.

He emptied himself, taking the form of a servant:

and was born in our human likeness.

And being found in human form he humbled himself:

and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted him:

and bestowed on him the name above every name.

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow:

in heaven and on earth and under the earth;

and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord:

to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**GOSPEL OF THE PASSION: Mark 14:32-15:41**

Jesus and his disciples went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his them, 'Sit here while I pray.' He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.' And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, 'Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I

want, but what you want.' He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, 'Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.' And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them, 'Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.'

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, 'The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.' So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, 'Rabbi!' and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them, 'Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled.' All of them deserted him and fled.

A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.

They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, 'We heard him say, "I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands."' ' But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, 'Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?' But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, 'Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?' Jesus said, 'I am; and "you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power", and "coming with the clouds of heaven."' '

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, 'Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?' All of them condemned him as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him, 'Prophecy!' The guards also took him over and beat him.

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, 'You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.' But he denied it, saying, 'I do not know or understand what you are talking about.' And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, 'This man is one of them.' But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, 'Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean.' But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, 'I do not know this man you are talking about.' At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, 'Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.' And he broke down and wept.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' He answered him, 'You say so.' Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, 'Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.' But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, 'Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?' For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, 'Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?' They shouted back, 'Crucify him!' Pilate asked them, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Crucify him!' So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, 'The King of the Jews.' And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, 'Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!' In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.' Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.' And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.' Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

#### **THE CANTICLE: BENEDICTUS** (*The Song of Zechariah, Luke 1: 68-79*)

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel;

who has come to his people and set them free.

The Lord has raised up for us a mighty saviour;

born of the house of his servant David.

Through the holy prophets God promised of old;

to save us from our enemies, from the hands of those who hate us,

to show mercy to our forebears;

and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:

to set us free from the hand of our enemies.

Free to worship him without fear;  
holy and righteous before him all the days of our life.  
And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
To give his people knowledge of salvation;  
by the forgiveness of all their sins.  
In the tender compassion of our God;  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us.  
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death;  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.  
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.

### **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living 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.**

### **HYMN: ICH 104\***

**O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my dear Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of his grace!**

**Jesus! The name that charms our fears,  
that bids our sorrows cease;  
'tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'tis life, and health, and peace.**

**He breaks the power of cancelled sin,  
he sets the prisoners free;  
his blood can make the foulest clean,  
his blood availed for me.**

**My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the world abroad,  
the honours of thy name.**

*Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88)*

*Tune: LYNGHAM Thomas Jarman (1782-1862)*

### **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**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.**

Show us your mercy, O Lord,  
**and grant us your salvation.**

O Lord, save the Queen  
**and grant her government wisdom.**

Let your ministers be clothed with righteousness  
**and let your servants shout for joy.**

O Lord, save your people  
**and bless those whom you have chosen.**

Give peace in our time, O Lord,  
**and let your glory be over all the earth.**

O God, make clean our hearts within us  
**and renew us by your Holy Spirit.**

#### **COLLECT OF THE DAY**

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 our Lord. **Amen.**

#### **LENTEN COLLECT**

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remissions and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### **COLLECTS AT MORNING PRAYER**

Go before us, Lord, in all our doings, with your most gracious favour, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally by your mercy attain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray that your Holy Spirit may so guide and govern us that in all the cares and occupations of our daily life, we may never forget your presence but may remember that we are always walking in your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### **PRAYERS**

Let us stand with Christ in his suffering and offer our prayers in his holy name:

For forgiveness for the many times we have denied Jesus,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For grace to seek out those habits of sin which mean spiritual death, and by prayer and self-discipline to overcome them,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For Christian people, that through the suffering of disunity there may grow a rich union in Christ,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who make laws, interpret them, and administer them, that our common life may be ordered in justice and mercy,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who still make Jerusalem a battleground,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who have the courage and honesty to work openly for justice and peace,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those in the darkness and agony of isolation, that they may find support and encouragement,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who, weighed down with hardship, failure, or sorrow, feel that God is far from them,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who are tempted to give up the way of the cross,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

That we, with those who have died in faith, may find mercy in the day of Christ,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

#### **A PRAYER FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS:**

O Heavenly Father, who by your Son Jesus Christ has taught us the glory of self-sacrifice and service: bless all doctors and nurses who are called to care for the sick, especially those who suffer from the Coronavirus. Help them always remember that they are fellow-workers with you; and give them such patience, skill and love that they may bring healing and comfort to those who they serve, and their loved ones. Guard them in their work from themselves contracting the virus, and watch over their families and loved ones in their anxiety for them. We ask this in the name of the one who spent himself for others with no thought for himself, even our Great Healer, Jesus Christ.

#### **HYMN: ICH 243\***

**The royal banners forward go,  
the cross shines forth in mystic glow;  
where he in flesh, our flesh who made,  
our sentence bore, our ransom paid.**

**His feet and hands outstretching there,  
he willed the piercing nails to bear;  
for us, and our redemption's sake  
a victim of himself to make.**

**There whilst he hung, his sacred side  
by soldier's spear was opened wide,  
to cleanse us in the precious flood  
of water mingled with his blood.**

**To thee, eternal Three in One,  
let homage meet by all be done:  
as by the cross thou dost restore,  
so rule and guide us evermore.**

**Amen.**

*Words: Venantius Honorius Fortunatus (530-609) tr. John Mason Neale (1818-66)*

*Tune: GONFALON ROYAL Percy C. Buck (1871-1947)*

#### **PRAYER OF BLESSING**

May Christ draw us to himself and grant that we find in his cross a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sins forgiven; and may the blessing of God almighty: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

#### **GOING OUT AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Bible passages in this service are from the New Revised Standard Version.  
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belfastcathedral.org*

### **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](http://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](https://www.corrymeela.org/news/180/prayers-for-community-in-a?fbclid=IwAR3ILx4ZCuZEm-cFkOs3vX-5m_67QszusdrVgxRHHL2n9DOquegAhIRdWdo)

### **HOLY WEEK 2020**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> to Good Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March**

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

Please also 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, 10<sup>th</sup> March.**

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