

ORDER OF SERVICE
LENT 5
PASSION SUNDAY



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

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All Amen

Hymn: Be still my soul

Reading From the New Testament

Philippians 3:4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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 12:1-8.

All Glory to you O Lord

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."

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.**

Hymn: Wonderful, merciful, saviour

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: He will hold me fast