



Tuesday 30 March 2021

- The hymns are Youtube links. To hear the hymns please hover the mouse over each link, press Ctrl and then return.
- The prayers and litanies are best read slowly a phrase at a time. They benefit from being repeated often.
- To see service transcripts from previous weeks, please visit the page, <http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/resources/index.htm>

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The Welcome

HYMN 1 O worship the King (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

In the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit

All Amen

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All And also with you.

O Lord open our lips:

All and our mouth shall proclaim your praise:

Let us worship the Lord:

All all praise to his name.

**All 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.**

Prayers of preparation and penitence

As we continue into Holy Week, we walk with Jesus in Jerusalem as he prepares himself—body, mind and spirit—for the crucifixion that led to resurrection.

These prayers are inspired by the words that Jesus uttered on the Cross.

Jesus said, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' We confess our willingness to live as though God does not exist.

Father, forgive us:

All Save us and help us

Jesus said, 'Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.' We confess our refusal to trust you or give parts of our lives to you.

Father, forgive us:

All Save us and help us

Jesus prayed, 'Father forgive them'. We confess our refusal to forgive and to accept God's forgiveness that pleads with us to change.

Father, forgive us:

All Save us and help us

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Jesus prayed, 'Today you will be with me in paradise'. We confess our refusal to help others find heaven and our unwillingness to spread the Gospel.

Father, forgive us:

All Save us and help us

Jesus said, 'I thirst'. We confess our refusal to help those who are hungry and thirsty, or any other kind of need.

Father, forgive us:

All Save us and help us

Jesus said, 'Behold: this is your mother.' We confess our refusal to give comfort to the lonely, the oppressed, and those who need us.

Father, forgive us:

All Save us and help us

God our Father, who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to bring us new life at Easter, forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

Praise and thanksgiving

All Loving Lord, fill us with your life-giving, joy-giving, peace-giving presence, that we may praise you now with our lips and all the day long with our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

This Holy Tuesday, we thank God for his gift of forgiveness through the Cross.

Lord of heaven:

All we give you thanks and praise.

This Holy Tuesday, we thank Christ for taking our sins and making us a new creation.

Lord of heaven:

All we give you thanks and praise.

This Holy Tuesday, we thank the Holy Spirit for inspiring us to seek God.

Lord of heaven:

All we give you thanks and praise.

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This Holy Tuesday, we thank God for meeting our material needs.

Lord of heaven:

All we give you thanks and praise.

This Holy Tuesday, we thank God for those who have loved us and prayed for us.

Lord of heaven:

All we give you thanks and praise.

This Holy Tuesday, we thank God for our beautiful and inspiring world.

Lord of heaven:

All we give you thanks and praise.

This Holy Tuesday, we thank God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—for our salvation,

Lord in heaven:

All we give you thanks and praise.

May God be gracious to us and bless us.

May his face shine on us;

so that his way may be known on earth,

his salvation among all nations.

God, our God, will bless us,

and all the ends of the earth will fear him. *Psalm 67*

All Amen

HYMN 2 Veni sancta spiritus

(please click on the link for the hymn)

The Ministry of the Word

The Collect

Lord, you make a gift of death
to bring us to new life:
free us from our need
to fix and own your name
so we may look for the day
when you are lifted high
and all are drawn
into the arms of love;
through Jesus Christ, the passion of God.

All Amen

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First reading

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah

Listen to me, O coastlands,

pay attention, you peoples from far away!

The Lord called me before I was born,

while I was in my mother's womb he named me.

He made my mouth like a sharp sword,

in the shadow of his hand he hid me;

he made me a polished arrow,

in his quiver he hid me away.

And he said to me, 'You are my servant,

Israel, in whom I will be glorified.'

But I said, 'I have laboured in vain,

I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;

yet surely my cause is with the Lord,

and my reward with my God.'

And now the Lord says,

who formed me in the womb to be his servant,

to bring Jacob back to him,

and that Israel might be gathered to him,

for I am honoured in the sight of the Lord,

and my God has become my strength—

he says,

'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant

to raise up the tribes of Jacob

and to restore the survivors of Israel;

I will give you as a light to the nations,

that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'

Thus says the Lord,

the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,

to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,

the slave of rulers,

'Kings shall see and stand up,

princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,

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because of the Lord, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.' *Isaiah 49:1-7*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Second reading

A reading from First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.'

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.' *1 Cor 1:18-31*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

HYMN 3 Only by grace can we enter

[\(click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All Glory to you O Lord.

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Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—"Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler 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 indicate the kind of death he was to die. The crowd answered him, 'We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains for ever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?' Jesus said to them, 'The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.'

After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them. *John 12:20-36*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

In today's Gospel, we read that 'some Greeks' said to Philip, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus'. These days, there is so much to see (television, YouTube, Netflix, TikTok, and so much more) that seeing has become passive. It is something we do to amuse ourselves, something we let other people see to amuse them. We post images to let others see how lucky we are, we look at their images of interesting things that happened. We might see the news or documentaries, things that are real of themselves but still not the whole story. What we see might make us sad or uncomfortable momentarily, motivate us to give money to charity or make us feel superior

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but we are not involved. What we see is worldly, superficial, a façade, what someone else wants us to see. We watch but do not participate.

Jesus tells us in this passage what seeing Him really means. It means dying to this world and living in Him, following Jesus and serving Him, doing His will. St Paul explains this in the epistle, when he talks about God making foolish the wisdom of the world. Let's just think about that for a minute. The wisdom of this world is bound up in wealth and power—but where does that get us? It gets us to misuse of wealth and power, to hedge funds and starving children, to conflict and ethnic cleansing, to gangs and domestic violence. So when Paul tells us that we are not wise or influential in worldly terms, he is stating fact. Most of us are **ordinary**. Ordinary intelligence, ordinary talents, but special in the love and service of God. The love of God and the power of the cross are the great levellers, both uplifting and humbling.

Now, most of us like money and the comforts it brings. Most of us have sneaky likings for entertaining TV and will gossip about the antics of the Kardashians or who was fired from *The Apprentice*. Most of us play games on our phones and post images on Facebook for our friends to see. However, Lent gives us the opportunity to examine ourselves and straighten out our priorities, to sort out what is important and what is not, and to discipline ourselves in spiritual habits that will (we hope and pray) last our lifetime. It helps us see Jesus.

To see Jesus is to participate in his passion, death and resurrection. To experience with him the triumph of Palm Sunday, the betrayal of Maundy Thursday, the despair of Good Friday and the joy and grace of Easter. We can't do that if we are driven by earthly things, if we glorify wealth and power. They are not important in God's eyes, as He has turned everything round.

We do not know if the Greeks in the Gospel ever saw Jesus, but we do know that many people would have seen Jesus as spectators (the cheering crowds on Palm Sunday, for example). But we do know that the lasting impression was made on those who came into His presence, who experienced His love. They were the ones who were changed.

We, too, want to be changed, to rise above our reliance on earthly things, and boast of Christ crucified. It's hard, and it will take our lifetime and beyond, but what a privilege—we will see Jesus. Amen.

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Creed

We profess of Christian faith into which we were baptised:

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
the source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

All We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

All This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers of intercession

These prayers are inspired by Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, which he probably said near the beginning of his ministry. Matthew's Gospel records them in chapters 5–7.

Jesus taught that his disciples how to pray (*Matthew 6:5–13*). Teach us how to pray.
Lord in your mercy

All Hear our prayer

Jesus taught that we are we will see God if we are pure in heart (*Matthew 5:8*).
Make us pure so that we can see you as you really are.

Lord in your mercy

All Hear our prayer

Jesus taught that he came to fulfil the law (*Matthew 5:17*). We ask that God will empower us to live lives that are worthy of the Gospel and forgive us when we do not.

Lord in your mercy

All Hear our prayer

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Jesus taught that we should not store up treasures on earth (*Matthew 6:19*). We pray for the world and our relationships with it.

Lord in your mercy

All Hear our prayer

Jesus taught that we should be salt and light (*Matthew 5:13*). We pray for our Christian witness and for those who see us.

Lord in your mercy

All Hear our prayer

Jesus taught that we should love our enemies and pray for those who despise us (*Matthew 5:44*). We pray for our enemies and those who do wrong.

Lord in your mercy

All Hear our prayer

We gather together all these prayers using the words that Jesus himself taught us:

**All 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.**

The Peace

The Lord Jesus Christ said to his Apostles,
'My peace I leave you, my peace I give you.'

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you.

HYMN 4 Take my life and let it be

[\(click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

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The conclusion and dismissal

All **Eternal God,
giver of love and life,
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us
into all the world
to preach the gospel of the Kingdom.
Confirm us in his mission,
and help us to live the good news we proclaim,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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 the blessing of God the Almighty,
Father Son and Holy Spirit,
be with us and remain with us always.

All **Amen**

HYMN 5 In Christ alone

[\(please click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

All **In the name of Christ. Amen**