



Wednesday 31 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 Come and see the King of Love ([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 prepare for the Passion, we walk with Jesus in Jerusalem as he prepares himself—body, mind and spirit—for the crucifixion that led into resurrection.

These prayers are inspired by the five marks of mission ([click here to read more](#))

God, through His Holy Church asks us to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.
We confess the many times we chose not to.

Father, forgive us:

All Save us and help us

God, through His Holy Church asks us to teach, baptise and nurture new believers.
We confess the many times we chose not to.

Father, forgive us:

All Save us and help us

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God, through His Holy Church asks us to respond to human need by loving service.
We confess the many times we chose not to.

Father, forgive us:

All Save us and help us

God, through His Holy Church asks us to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation
and sustain and renew the life of the earth We confess the many times we chose
not to.

Father, forgive us:

All Save us and help us

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
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 Wednesday, we thank Christ for taking our sins,
Lord of heaven:

All we give you thanks and praise.

This Holy Wednesday, we thank Christ for His Cross,
Lord of heaven:

All we give you thanks and praise.

This Holy Wednesday, we thank Christ for winning our salvation,
Lord of heaven:

All we give you thanks and praise.

This Holy Wednesday, we thank God that we can know Him,
Lord of heaven:

All we give you thanks and praise.

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This Holy Wednesday, we can be filled with the Holy Spirit,
Lord of heaven:

All we give you thanks and praise.

This Holy Wednesday, the Holy Spirit can help us become Christlike,
Lord of heaven:

All we give you thanks and praise.

This Holy Wednesday, 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 Bless the Lord, O my soul

[\(click on the link for the hymn\)](#)

The Ministry of the Word

The Collect

Lord, you let us convert you
into currency and commodity
so that you can pay the price
beyond all accounting:
may we offer our misused powers to you
knowing that you can transform them,
knowing that even this betrayal
is still a kiss;
through Jesus Christ, the passion of God.

All Amen

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First reading

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah

The Lord God has given me

the tongue of a teacher,

that I may know how to sustain

the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—

wakens my ear

to listen as those who are taught.

The Lord God has opened my ear,

and I was not rebellious,

I did not turn backwards.

I gave my back to those who struck me,

and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;

I did not hide my face

from insult and spitting.

The Lord God helps me;

therefore I have not been disgraced;

therefore I have set my face like flint,

and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?

Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

It is the Lord God who helps me;

who will declare me guilty? *Isaiah 50:4–9a*

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

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race

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that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart. *Hebrews 12:1-3*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

HYMN 3 Brother, sister let me serve you (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.

Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, 'Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me.' The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining next to him; Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, 'Lord, who is it?' Jesus answered, 'It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.' So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, 'Do quickly what you are going to do.' Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, 'Buy what we need for the festival'; or, that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. *John 13:21-32*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

Today's gospel from John is set in holy week. It comes days or weeks after the anointing of Jesus with precious ointment—a poignant scene; but Judas reacted that it was a terrible waste, the ointment could have been sold and the money given to the poor. John's comment is that Judas said this, not because he cared for the

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poor, but because Judas plays a leading role in the passion of Jesus. The problem that the Jewish authorities had, was how to get Jesus into their hands without a riot, for Jesus was very popular with the common people. It was Judas who solved their problem.

So Judas, on that Thursday night, knew where Jesus would go; there was limited space in Jerusalem and very few or no gardens where Jesus could go. Well-to-do people had their private gardens on the Mount of Olives and Judas knew that some unknown friend had given Jesus the courtesy of their garden during the Passover season, and Jesus would go there. So Judas led the Jewish authorities there.

At the time of Passover there would be a full moon, and the night would be almost as clear as the day. But with such a crowd there was always the chance of confusion. So Judas had arranged a signal, so that he might identify Jesus to the soldiers and to the Temple police. When a disciple met a Rabbi, it was the custom for him to place his hands on his master's shoulders and to kiss him. That was to be the sign.

And then tragedy engulfed Judas as Judas went back to the priests, tells them that he had sinned against innocent blood, and begged them to take their money back. When they wouldn't, he flung the 30 pieces of silver back at them, and went out and hanged himself. Is there any significance in the 30 pieces of silver? The Old Testament prophet Zechariah worked as a shepherd and when he went for his pay they gave him 30 pieces of silver, which he sarcastically calls a 'handsome price' because it was such a small amount, the price paid for a slave's accidental death. The employers meant to insult Zechariah with this amount of money and returning the insult, God tells Zechariah to 'throw it to the potter', and Zechariah tossed the money into the house of the Lord to be given to the potter. Judas in his turn was so overcome with guilt for betraying Jesus, and, fulfilling Zechariah's vivid prophecy, that he threw the thirty silver coins into the temple. 30 pieces of silver, the compensation for a dead slave that is what the Jewish Authorities considered Jesus to be worth. The Jewish leaders used the thirty pieces of silver to buy a field from a potter, again as Zechariah had predicted; it was in that field that Judas hanged himself.

But why did he do it? Why did Judas betray Jesus?

None of the other apostles realised what was going on in Judas' heart and mind except Jesus. Unlike the other disciples that called Jesus 'Lord,' Judas never uses this title for Jesus in the Gospels and instead called him 'Rabbi,' which acknowledged Jesus as nothing more than a teacher. While other disciples at times made great professions of faith and loyalty, Judas never did so and appears to have remained silent.

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The Jews never ceased to believe that they were God's Chosen People and the idea of holding worldly power and domination. It may be that Judas saw in Jesus his dream fulfilled, with his powers of speech and action, the leader of a band of freedom fighters.

The parallels today are with terror organisations but they weren't so barbaric but it's strange how the English language has adopted the word zealous in our vocabulary as someone who is, 'To be filled with eagerness and ardent interest in the pursuit of something.' But not at the expense of human life and not at any cost!

It was that dream that Judas attached himself to Jesus; and it was that dream that collapsed. Judas, like most people at the time, believed the Messiah was going to overthrow Roman occupation and take a position of power ruling over the nation of Israel. Judas may have followed Jesus hoping to benefit from association with Him as the new reigning political power. No doubt he expected to be among the ruling elite after the revolution but by the time of Judas' betrayal, Jesus had made it clear that He planned to die, not start a rebellion against Rome. So Judas must have assumed—just as the Pharisees did—that since Jesus would not overthrow the Romans, He must not be the Messiah they were expecting.

There were two crucial moments in the life of Judas. One came immediately after the people wished to take Jesus and to make him king (John 6:15). In that moment Judas saw the death of his dream. And then the Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday, it must be the moment when Jesus could raise the standard of revolt and storm as warrior king into Jerusalem. Instead of that it was the moment when Jesus began the last mile to the Cross riding on a donkey and NOT on the warrior's stallion. Again Judas saw his dream being crucified; and this time he took action. He had not the slightest doubt that Jesus could make that dream come true ... if He wanted to. He saw that Jesus was strangely and inexplicably slow to act, and Judas decided to force His hand, and to compel Him to act.

If that is so, the last thing in Judas' mind was any desire that Jesus should be crucified. The only thing in his mind was to create a situation in which Jesus would be compelled to unleash His power. And, if that is so, there is real drama set out in what happened in the garden at the time of the arrest.

When Judas kissed Jesus, maybe there was a blaze of excitement on his face and a flame of expectation in his eyes. Perhaps that is why Judas betrayed Jesus as it would certainly explain:

- Why Judas then vanishes from the scene?
- Why is it that he did not appear in court to give evidence against Jesus?

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- What more effective evidence could there have been than evidence from one of Jesus' closest supporters?
- Why did he commit suicide?

The reason may well be that Judas saw how tragically wrong his carefully thought-out plan had gone wrong, and that he had killed the man he had loved. The tragedy for Judas was that he refused to accept Jesus Christ as He was, and sought to make Jesus Christ into what he wanted Him to be. When we feel like condemning Judas Iscariot because he betrayed Jesus let us remember that Jesus once said: 'He that is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone'. Amen

A Statement of Christian Belief

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 the version of the Lord's prayer in [Matthew's Gospel](#)

We ask You to forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. To that end, we ask that You will give us the courage to forgive others; give us the strength to

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heal the effects of our past actions; and the grace to forgive ourselves. We pray especially for ...

Lord in your mercy

All Hear our prayer

We pray that Your Kingdom will come on earth, as it is in Heaven. To that end, we ask that You will inspire and help us to make the world a better place.

Lord in your mercy

All Hear our prayer

We ask that You will give us today our daily bread. To that end, we ask You to deal with our greed and sloth, and the way our attitudes harm us and our relationships. We pray especially for ...

Lord in your mercy

All Hear our prayer

We ask that You protect us from all times of trial and rescue us from the evil one. To that end, teach us how to grow in genuine discipleship.

We pray especially for ...

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.**

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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 Come and see the Ling of love [\(click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

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 Firmly I believe and truly [\(please click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

All In the name of Christ. Amen

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