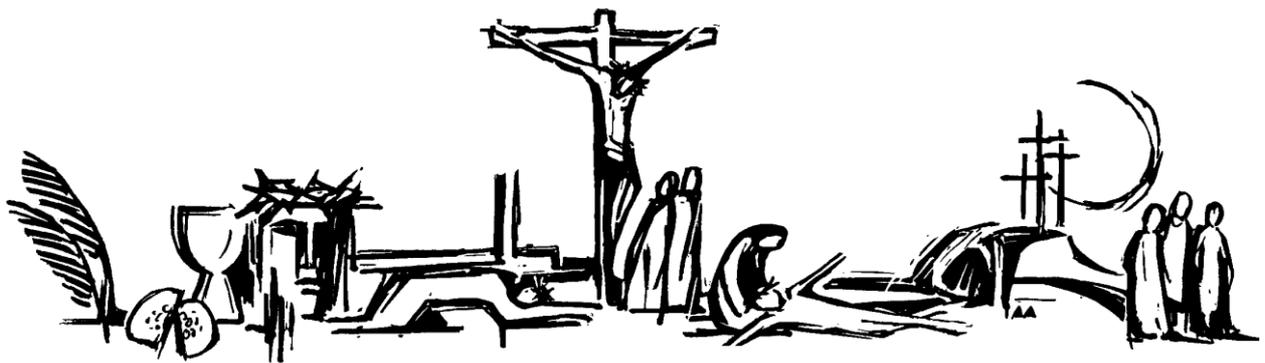


ST AIDAN'S CHURCH  LEEDS

Palm Sunday Holy Week and Easter



**Resources for Prayer and Worship
2021**

Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields.

Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

‘Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in
the highest heaven!’

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

*On Palm Sunday we take part in a **Procession**, singing hymns like ‘Ride on, ride on in majesty’ and ‘All glory, laud and honour, to thee Redeemer King’.*

*We also read the **Passion Gospel**, sharing the different characters between the members of the congregation. This year, you can find the Passion Gospel written in Mark chapter 14, verse 1 to the end of chapter 15.*

*Part of the **Eucharistic Prayers** uses these words:*

For as the time of his passion and resurrection draws near,
the whole world is called to acknowledge Jesus’ hidden majesty.
The power of the life-giving cross
reveals the judgement that has come upon the world,
and the triumph of Christ crucified.
He is the victim who dies no more,
the Lamb once slain, who lives for ever,
our advocate in heaven to plead our cause.

So, friends, people of God, St Aidan’s folk, let us go forth, praising Jesus our Messiah.

Monday of Holy Week - Readings: Isaiah 42.1-9; John 12.1-12

Tuesday of Holy Week - Readings: Isaiah 49.1-7; John 12.20-36

Wednesday of Holy Week - Readings: Isaiah 50.4-9a; John 13.21-32

Collect: True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us the faith to know you and love you, that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory.



Maundy Thursday

On Maundy Thursday we celebrate several themes: the Christian's call to glad and humble service of others as we recall Christ's washing of his friends' feet; the Last Supper Jesus shared with his friends and his command to us 'Do this in remembrance of me!'; and Jesus' agony in the Garden Gethsemane 'Can you not watch with me for an hour' and 'Not my will, Father, but your will be done.'



The following hymn has a great text to aid us to enter the spirit of Maundy Thursday. I'll video myself singing it, so if you have internet access to the website, you can sing along. The tune is called Sagina, the same we use for the well-known hymn 'And can it be'.

**Great God, your love has called us here,
As we, by love, for love were made.
Your living likeness still we bear
Though marred, dishonoured, disobeyed.
We come, with all our heart and mind
Your call to hear, your love to find.**

**We come with self-inflicted pains
Of broken trust and chosen wrong,
Half-free, half-bound by inner chains,
By social forces swept along,
By powers and systems close confined,
Yet seeking hope for humankind.**

**Great God, in Christ you call our name
And then receive us as your own,
Not through some merit, right or claim,
But by your gracious love alone.
We strain to glimpse your mercy seat
And find you kneeling at our feet.**

**Then take the towel, and break the bread,
And humble us, and call us friends.
Suffer and serve till all are fed,
And show how grandly love intends
To work till all creation sings,
To fill all worlds, to crown all things.**

**Great God, in Christ you set us free
Your life to live, your joy to share.
Give us the Spirit's liberty
To turn from guilt and dull despair
And offer all that faith can do,
While love is making all things new.**

Words Brian Wren b 1936

*Tune SAGINA
T Campbell 1825-76*

Readings: Exodus 12.1-14; I Corinthians 11.23-26; John 13.1-17, 31b-35

Collect: God our Father, you have invited us to share in the supper which your Son gave to his Church to proclaim his death until he comes: may he nourish us by his presence, and unite us in his love; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*You might want also to pray these **Prayers of Intercessions:***

Father, on this, the night he was betrayed, your Son Jesus Christ washed his disciples' feet. We commit ourselves to follow his example of love and service. Lord, hear us and humble us.

On this night, he prayed for his disciples to be one. We pray for the unity of your Church. Lord, hear us and unite us.

On this night, he prayed for those who were to believe through his disciples' message. We pray for the mission of your Church. Lord, hear us and renew our zeal.

On this night, he commanded his disciples to love, but suffered rejection himself. We pray for the rejected and unloved. Lord, hear us and fill us with your love.

On this night, he reminded his disciples that if the world hated them it hated him first. We pray for those who are persecuted for their faith. Lord, hear us and give us your peace.

On this night, he accepted the cup of death and looked forward to the new wine of the kingdom. We remember those who have died in the peace of Christ. Lord, hear us and welcome all your children into paradise.

Part of the **Eucharistic Prayer** on Maundy Thursday uses these words:

For on this night he girded himself with a towel
and, taking the form of a servant, washed the feet of his disciples.
He gave us a new commandment
that we should love one another as he has loved us.
Knowing that his hour had come, in his great love he gave this supper to
his disciples to be a memorial of his passion,
that we might proclaim his death until he comes again,
and feast with him in his kingdom.

*For these three days of the Triduum – Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday - **the church is normally stripped of all ornaments.** From now until Easter all glorias, doxologies and responsories are omitted from the offices. No Bells are rung until the First Mass of Easter.*

*Traditionally after our Evening Mass, we keep a **Watch of Prayer** before Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament in the Resurrection Chapel, remembering Christ's words to the disciples: '**Watch and pray.**' Why not spend some time this evening in front of a candle, reading the story of Jesus in the Garden Gethsemane in your bible in the Gospel of Matthew chapter 14, verses 32-42.*

*And then pray and be still before the Lord. And when you come to the end of your prayer time, use the following words from the **Office of Compline, or Night Prayer:***

Psalm 116

- 1 I love the Lord, for he has heard the voice of my supplication;
because he inclined his ear to me on the day I called to him.
- 2 The snares of death encompassed me; the pains of hell took hold of
me; by grief and sorrow was I held.
- 3 Then I called upon the name of the Lord: 'O Lord, I beg you, deliver
my soul.'
- 4 Gracious is the Lord and righteous; our God is full of compassion.
- 5 The Lord watches over the simple; I was brought very low and he
saved me.

- 6 Turn again to your rest, O my soul, for the Lord has been gracious to you.
- 7 For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears and my feet from falling.
- 8 I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.
- 9 I believed that I should perish for I was sorely troubled; and I said in my alarm, 'Everyone is a liar.'
- 10 How shall I repay the Lord for all the benefits he has given to me?
- 11 I will lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord.
- 12 I will fulfil my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.
- 13 Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants.
- 14 O Lord, I am your servant, your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.
- 15 I will offer to you a sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the name of the Lord.
- 16 I will fulfil my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people,
- 17 In the courts of the house of the Lord, in the midst of you,
O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord.

The Nunc Dimittis

- 1 Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:
your word has been fulfilled.
- 2 My own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;
- 3 A light to reveal you to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.

Grant us light, O Lord, that the darkness of our hearts being overcome, we may receive the true light, even Christ our Saviour.

The Collect

Almighty God, as we stand at the foot of the cross of your Son, help us to see and know your love for us, so that in humility, love and joy we may place at his feet all that we have and all that we are; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Good Friday

On Good Friday we commemorate the crucifixion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*At St Aidan's normally we might join in walking the **Stations of the Cross**; we might attend the **Service of Prayer and Penitence**; we might meet with the priest one-to-one for prayer, confession or anointing; we join the Churches Together **Walk of Witness**; we attend the **Liturgy of the Passion**.*



Stations of the Cross

1st Station: Jesus is condemned to death.

2nd Station: Jesus accepts the cross.

3rd Station: Jesus falls the first time.

4th Station: Jesus meets His mother.

5th Station: Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry His cross.

6th Station: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.

7th Station: Jesus falls the second time.

8th Station: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

9th Station: Jesus falls a third time.

10th Station: Jesus is stripped of His clothes.

11th Station: Jesus is crucified.

12th Station: Jesus dies on the cross.

13th Station: The body of Jesus is taken down from the cross.

14th Station: Jesus is laid in the tomb.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you: because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Service of Prayer and Penitence

Our God is a God of love and forgiveness. Prayers of Penitence are part of our regular offering of the Mass. But Good Friday is a particularly good time to take stock and reflect on our lives, to come before our heavenly Father in sorrow for our sins, for the wrongs we have done and the good we have left undone, for the times when we have fallen short of the glory to which we are called.

Start by praying these words from Psalm 51:

Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness;
according to the abundance of your compassion blot out my offences.
Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.
Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Read Psalm 130 and Luke 15.11-32

Spend some time in reflection on your life in the recent days, weeks and months, then pray this prayer of confession:

Almighty God, long-suffering and of great goodness:
I confess to you, I confess with my whole heart my neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments, my wrong doing, thinking, and speaking; the hurts I have done to others, and the good I have left undone. O God, forgive me, for I have sinned against you; and raise me to newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then make an act of contrition, telling God you are sorry for your sin and resolve to do better:

My God, for love of you I desire to hate and forsake all sins by which I have ever displeased you; and I resolve by the help of your grace to commit them no more; and to avoid all opportunities of sin. Help me to do this, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our God is faithful and just and restores every sinner who turns to Him in faith and trust. Use these words to assure yourself of God's forgiveness.

God is slow to anger and full of compassion.
He forgives all who humbly repent and trust in his Son as Saviour and Lord. There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Amen.

The Good Friday Liturgy

Readings: Isaiah 52.13 to end of chapter 53; Hebrews 10.16-25;
John 18.1 to end of chapter 19

Collect: Almighty Father, look with mercy on this your family for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed and given up into the hands of sinners and to suffer death upon the cross; who is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Part of the Good Friday Liturgy is **The Proclamation of the Cross**

Stand, kneel or sit in front of a cross, or hold a cross in your hands and say:

This is the wood of the cross,
on which hung the Saviour of the world.
I have come to worship.

Give thanks for Jesus and his gift of life and forgiveness for you and all creation.

You might want to meditate on **The Reproaches:**

*O my people, what have I done to you?
How have I offended you? Answer me!*

I led you out of Egypt, from slavery to freedom,
but you led your Saviour to the cross.

*O my people, what have I done to you?
How have I offended you? Answer me!
Holy is God! Holy and strong! Holy immortal One, have mercy on us.*

For forty years I led you safely through the desert. I fed you with manna from heaven, and brought you to a land of plenty: but you led your Saviour to the cross. *Holy is God*

What more could I have done for you? I planted you as my fairest vine, but you yielded only bitterness: When I was thirsty you gave me vinegar to drink, and you pierced your Saviour's side with a lance. *Holy is God*

I opened the sea before you, but you opened my side with a spear. I led you on your way in a pillar of cloud, but you led me to Pilate's court.
O my people

I bore you up with manna in the desert, but you struck me down and scourged me. I gave you saving water from the rock, but you gave me gall and vinegar to drink. *O my people*

I gave you a royal sceptre, but you gave me a crown of thorns. I raised you to the height of majesty, but you have raised me high on a cross.

*O my people, what have I done to you?
How have I offended you? Answer me!*

It may be a day for silence, but here is one of the most moving hymns for today, to help us enter our Lord's Passion:

**When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.**

**See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**His dying crimson, like a robe,
Spreads o'er His body on the tree;
Then I am dead to all the globe,
And all the globe is dead to me.**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.**

Easter Day – Resurrection Day

Alleluia, Christ is risen. We celebrate Easter Day, the day our Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead, burst from the tomb and walked among his friends again. The grave could not hold him. Where, O death, is your sting? Where, O grave, your victory? Death is swallowed up in victory, the victory given to us in Jesus Christ. For alleluia, Christ is risen. He is risen indeed, alleluia!

You may want to pray the following opening prayer from our Easter Day service booklet:

Alleluia! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed, alleluia!

Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end,
Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to him, and all ages; to him be glory
and power, through every age and for ever. Amen.

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts
and minds. Alleluia.

*At the beginning our Easter Day Mass we are invited to a **Baptism Renewal**.
Imagine me leading the questions. And then say the words in **bold print** boldly,
with love for the risen Lord Jesus, knowing that you'll be saying them together in
spirit with all the St Aidan's folk - for we are the Body of Christ.*

In baptism God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.
To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life.
In him we renew our baptism.

Will you acknowledge that God is Lord of every time and place?
With God's help, we will.

Will you seek to walk with God every day of your pilgrimage?
With the guidance of Christ, we will.

Will you let your life be shaped and strengthened by God's love and
power?
In the power of the Spirit, we will.

Then pray in thanksgiving:

Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all who have been baptised in your name. Keep us faithful to our baptism, and so make us ready for that day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Readings: Acts 10.34-43; Mark 16.1-8

Collect: God of glory, by raising your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

*Before your read the Gospel for Easter Day, why not sing the **Caribbean Alleluia**. I'll put a recording on the website for you to sing along to, if you like.*

Hal le, hal le, hal - le - lu - jah! Hal le, hal le, hal - le lu jah!

9
Hal le, hal le, hal - le - lu jah! Hal le - lu jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!

O God to whom shall we go? You alone have the words of life. Let your words be our prayer and the song we sing: Hallelujah, hallelujah. *Refrain*

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord. When I call them they follow me. I will lead them to rest by the restful streams: Hallelujah, hallelujah. *Refrain*

I am the light of the world, says the Lord. Walk in the light of life. All who follow my words shall have life indeed: Hallelujah, hallelujah. *Refrain*

Today of all days we should be saying an **Affirmation of Faith**. This one is based on the Scriptures, on words from 1 Corinthians 15.3-5.

Let us declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Christ died for our sins
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he was buried; he was raised to life on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures;
afterwards he appeared to his followers,
and to all the apostles:
this we have received,
and this we believe. Amen.**

The following are words from the Eucharistic Prayer:

For by the mystery of his passion
Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
has conquered the powers of death and hell
and restored in men and women the image of your glory.
He has placed them once more in paradise
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.
And so, in the joy of this Passover,
earth and heaven resound with gladness,
while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation
sing for ever the hymn of your glory.

*Finally, why don't you consider creating yourselves a joyful **Easter Garden**?
Improvise with some cardboard and stones, some twigs and flowers, some tissue
and cloths ... and take a photograph to share with us all.*

Say this prayer, invoking God's blessing
Lord, by your blessing, may we who have prepared and now enjoy this
garden in celebration of Christ's victory be strengthened in faith, know
the power of his presence, and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory. Amen.

And, of course, I cannot finish this booklet without an Easter blessing. And though I cannot say it to you face to face, I will pray and pray and pray it upon you and all whom you love and pray for:

Alleluia, Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed, alleluia!

God the Father,
by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,
strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the + Father, the + Son, and the + Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

He is not here. He is risen.
My friends, people of God, live in the peace of Christ, alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

God bless you, my friends, stay safe. I long for the day when we can celebrate again together. In the meantime, I send you all my love and prayers.

