

**A Liturgy for
Sunday Morning
in The Season of Lent
during Lockdown**



Lent may originally have followed Epiphany, just as Jesus' sojourn in the wilderness followed immediately on his baptism, but it soon became firmly attached to Easter, as the principal occasion for baptism and for the reconciliation of those who had been excluded from the Church's fellowship for apostasy or serious faults. This history explains the characteristic notes of Lent – self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study, and preparation for Easter, to which almsgiving has traditionally been added.

*Now is the healing time decreed
for sins of heart and word and deed,
when we in humble fear record
the wrong that we have done the Lord.*

(Latin, before 12th century)

As the candidates for baptism were instructed in Christian faith, and as penitents prepared themselves, through fasting and penance, to be readmitted to communion, the whole Christian community was invited to join them in the process of study and repentance, the extension of which over forty days would remind them of the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, being tested by Satan.

As Holy Week approaches, the atmosphere of the season darkens; the readings begin to anticipate the story of Christ's suffering and death, and the reading of the Passion Narrative gave to the Fifth Sunday its name of Passion Sunday.

Welcome to our Service this morning...

We meet this morning in many places

In the name of the Father,

and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Prayer of Preparation

The Journey into life is a choice which we make. It is a choosing to follow the Christ along passages of emptiness and pathways of fullness, through valleys of our fear and along roadways of our faith, gathering around us the love of God for our safe travelling, the courage of this Jesus and the truth that the Holy Spirit will never leave us. We also claim the wonder and grace of each other.

All Thanks be to God. We will travel on the journey into life.

Prayers of Penitence

O Jesus Christ, we almost fear to invite you to show your face among us. What if we see its pain and its dignity? What if we know who we are in ways which are more than we can bear? And yet, in shaking faith, we do pray that we will find you here today, in all your awesome truth, in all your authentic life.

Confession

Dear God whose grace still hangs before all history, if we have come to find you with our weapons as well as our lanterns and torches, pretending to be searching for you even as we set out to betray the love for which you stand

All Forgive us, Jesus Christ.

If we would rather warm ourselves before the fires of approval instead of owning friendship with you, telling ourselves that we will wait for another day to be brave,

All Forgive us, Jesus Christ.

If we sometimes carefully avoid being defiled, rather than stand beside those who are rejected as unclean or unwanted by others, as though that is true holiness.

All Forgive us, Jesus Christ.

When our own lives become too challenging, and we are tempted to say 'Away with him' rather than defending your life.

All Forgive us, Jesus Christ. For we are still your weak and failing disciples and in need of your costly love.

Absolution

The word to us in Jesus Christ is that not one of those who is given into the hands of God is lost. Even the faithless, even the fearful, even the weak are carried into the love of God as they stand in humble confession before the cross which holds the transforming life of God.

You are indeed forgiven.

All Thanks be to you, O Christ. Amen

The Collect

Readings

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith (Nicene Creed)

Let us declare our faith in the words of the creed.

All We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary

and was made man.

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.**

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

At the end:

**All Merciful Father accept these prayers,
for the sake of your Son our
Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

The Celebration

Let us lift up our hearts.

All We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us offer praise and thanksgiving to the Lord our God

All It is right to offer thanksgiving and praise for eye has not seen, nor ear heard, or tongue told of a glory like yours, Lord God, for you are the potter and we the clay, and you fashioned us in your image. In Jesus you glorify your chosen people and inaugurate your church to be his body in the world. In his death the pot was broken once and for all, but in his resurrection, you refashioned a new pot from the same clay to feed your people for ever. Amen

Matthew 26: 26-30

The Institution of the Lord's Supper

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.' When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

All Word of life, though heaven and earth will pass away, your words will never pass away. Open the window of your heaven that we may glimpse the hope of your glory and your world may be transfigured by the light of your truth, until that

day when heaven finally comes to earth, and we and you are one.

As our Saviour taught us so we pray...

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,**
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who 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.

Blessing

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;
and the blessing ...

Sending Out

Let us go in peace to love and serve the lord

All **In the name of Christ Amen**

The liturgy used in this Service is taken from:

Liturgies for Daily Life. Dorothy McRae-McMahon. SPCK 2004
Iona Abbey Worship Book, The Iona Community. Wild Goose.
2009

NRSV

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the for the Church
of England (2000)

Joining with the Angels' Song. Samuel Wells and Abigail
Kocher. Canterbury Press. 2016



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