

Crosslacon Sunday Worship on 21st March 2021

5th Sunday of Lent

Welcome

Opening Prayer

**Almighty God, to you all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts,
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy Name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hymn: Lift High the Cross

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

**Come, let us follow where our Captain trod,
our King victorious, Christ the Son of God.**

**O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us unto thee.**

**Let every race and every language tell
of him who saves our souls from death and hell.**

**Set up thy throne, that earth's despair may cease
beneath the shadow of its healing peace.**

**For thy blest cross which doth for all atone
creation's praises rise before thy throne.**

William Walsham How (1823-1897)

Invitation to Confession

Our narrow view of God's will for our lives and for the world leads us to make poor choices. We come to God in sorrow for our lack of vision.

Prayer of Confession

When we put our own wants and desires before God's kingdom.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

When we put our own wants and desires before those of others.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

When we fail to seek God's wider purpose.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

May our merciful God enrich you with grace,
And nourish you with blessing;
defend you in trouble
and keep you from all evil;
May the God of compassion accept your prayers,
And absolve you from your offences,
For the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour,
Amen.

Collect

**Gracious Father,
You gave up your Son
Out of love for the world:
Lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
That we may know eternal peace
Through the shedding of our Saviour's blood
Amen**

Gospel Reading: John 12:20-33

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to:

Glory to you O Lord

Jesus teaches about his death

Some Greeks were among those who had come up to worship at the festival. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and made a request: "Sir, we want to see Jesus." Philip told Andrew, and Andrew and Philip told Jesus.

Jesus replied, "The time has come for the Human One to be glorified. I assure you that unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it can only be a single seed. But if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their lives will lose them, and those who hate their lives in this world will keep them forever.

Whoever serves me must follow me. Wherever I am, there my servant will also be. My Father will honour whoever serves me.

“Now I am deeply troubled. What should I say? ‘Father, save me from this time’? No, for this is the reason I have come to this time. 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 and said, “It’s thunder.” Others said, “An angel spoke to him.”

Jesus replied, “This voice wasn’t for my benefit but for yours. Now is the time for judgment of this world. Now this world’s ruler will be thrown out. When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to me.” (He said this to show how he was going to die.)

The is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you O Christ.

**For the word of God in Jesus,
For God’s wisdom all around us,
For God’s word and wisdom in us,
Thanks be to God.**

Reflection:

Affirmation of Faith

**Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

God of mercy, we thank you for loving us,
and understanding our needs.
We thank you for the joy of Spring,
and all the wonders of your creation.

During this week when we are looking both backwards
and forwards:
back over the last 12 months of the pandemic,
and forwards to Easter, and the next decade,
as we complete our census forms,
we pray for all who support our communities,
and we thank you for giving them courage and
dedication.

We pray for all our church leaders
especially Nicki and Becky,
and all who are being called into the ministry,
especially Deborah and Barbara.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

All-seeing God, watch over the nations of the world
in all their plans and actions, conflicts, and disasters.
We pray for all those in war zones and refugee camps,
particularly the children of Syria and Yemen,
who have never had the chance to experience safety
and peace.
We pray for all people across the world
who are still waiting for vaccines.
Guard the children, guide the leaders,
help nations to share resources fairly,
and bring everyone to harmony and peace.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God of love, be present in every heart and home,
to cherish, to challenge,
to reassure, and to comfort.
Give us patience and understanding
and the will to work together to overcome
the challenges created by modern living.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God of wholeness, we bring to you

those who are weighed down with suffering,
or imprisoned by their fears.
Ease their burdens and give them the strength
to bear what cannot be avoided
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God of life, we bring to you
those whose earthly lives have ended,
that in your mercy they may have everlasting peace.
We pray for all who are mourning loved ones,
and ask you to bless and support them.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Gracious God, you are always
so much more ready to give than we are to receive.
Open our hearts and minds,
and help us to live up to your expectations of us.

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

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Sharing the Peace

Christ's death brought peace to all the world and glory
to the name of God.

The peace of the Lord be always with you...
And also with you.

*We listen to a piece of music whilst we take the
opportunity, if watching live, to record a peace greeting
on the comments box in Facebook Live.*

Hymn: It is a thing most wonderful

**It is a thing most wonderful,
almost too wonderful to be,
that God's own Son should come from heav'n,
and die to save a child like me.**

**And yet I know that it is true:
He chose a poor and humble lot,
and wept and toiled and mourned and died
for love of those who loved Him not.**

**But even could I see Him die,
I could but see a little part
of that great love which, like a fire,
is always burning in His heart.**

**It is most wonderful to know
His love for me so free and sure;
but 'tis more wonderful to see
my love for Him so faint and poor.**

**And yet I want to love Thee, Lord;
O light the flame within my heart,
and I will love Thee more and more,
until I see Thee as Thou art.**

William Walsham How (1823-1897)

Blessing

May God,
whose hand has written the law of love on your heart,
fill you with peace from deep within
and the commitment to live in harmony.
And the blessing of God,
who loves, forgives, and calls us all,
Creator, redeemer and sustainer,
Be among you and remain with you always.
Amen

Closing Responses

From where we are to where you need us,

Jesus, now lead on.

From the familiarity of what we know
to the wonder of what you will reveal,

Jesus, now lead on.

To transform the fabric of this world
until it resembles the shape of your kingdom,

Jesus, now lead on.

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