

## **Morning Worship Online – 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021**

*The Fifth Sunday of Lent – Passion Sunday*

*Words of Welcome – Gareth*

### *I. The Introduction*

Brothers and sisters, chosen by God to be made holy by the Spirit,  
obedient to Jesus and sprinkled with his blood:  
grace and peace be with you.  
**And also with you.**

We have come together as the family of God in our Father's presence, to offer him praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive his word, to bring before him the needs of the world and to seek his grace, that, through his Son, Jesus Christ, we may give ourselves to his service.

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. Believing in him, let us turn to him in humility that we may know the freedom his forgiveness brings.

*Silence*

Let us confess our sins to the Father and seek his pardon and peace.

**Almighty and merciful God,  
we have sinned against you  
in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with all our heart;  
and we have not loved others as Christ loves us.  
We are truly sorry.  
In your mercy, forgive us.  
Help us to amend our lives;  
that we may delight in your will  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy on you and set you free from sin,  
strengthen you in goodness and keep you in eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Each day is a gift from God,  
**each moment is that opportunity to reach out  
in service to all creation.**

Each day is a reminder of the new covenant:  
**not written on stone tablets easily broken,  
but inscribed on our hearts filled with joy and hope.**

Each day we draw closer to God:  
**who has forgotten more than we ever learn;  
who has forgiven us more than we ever acknowledge.**

~ written by Thom Shuman, and posted on his  
**Lectionary Liturgies** blog.

## 2. *The Ministry of the Word*

*Hymn – My song is love, unknown (Choir of St John’s Church, Maindee)*

*Reading – John 12:20-33 (NIV)*

### **Jesus Predicts His Death**

<sup>20</sup> Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. <sup>21</sup> They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup> Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup> Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. <sup>25</sup> Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep

it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup> Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me.

<sup>27</sup> “Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify your name!”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup> The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

<sup>30</sup> Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine. <sup>31</sup> Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup> He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Sermon – Adam*

*The Apostles’ Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### 3. *Prayers – Gareth*

Rejoicing in the new covenant which God has made with his people through Christ, let us turn to him in prayer, for he is our God and we are his people.

We pray for all Christians:

that we may try to discover what the Lord wants of us  
and have nothing to do with the works of darkness.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for Christian preachers:

that they may proclaim that the kingdom of God is close at hand,  
announcing the need to repent and believe the Good News.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who administer justice in our society:

that they may do so with wisdom, insight and humility.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are enemies of the cross of Christ:

that they may be transformed and have their hearts and minds raised to  
heaven and submit to the power of God.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are experiencing failure, disappointment or rejection:

that they may set their hearts on the perfection that comes through faith in  
Christ.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for our own community of faith created in Jesus Christ:

that we may find the fullness of life that God intends for us.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Father, listen to the prayers of your people,  
which we have made in humility and love  
and in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
who died on the cross and rose again,  
and who is Lord for ever and ever. **Amen.**

We conclude our prayers by praying with confidence to the Father,  
as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

*Collect for 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent*

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,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### *4. Conclusion*

Go now, to serve Christ and follow him.  
Let your old life fall like a grain of wheat into the earth  
so that you may bear much fruit  
as you allow God to reshape your heart  
and live in obedience to the law written within you.  
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Farewell Words – Gareth*

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with us all, evermore. Amen.**

*Final Hymn – Meekness and Majesty (BandLab Team)*