



The Chapel of
The Transfiguration

Sung Eucharist

Holy Cross Day

Sunday 14th September 2025

7.30 am



The Cross, once an instrument of shame and death, is revealed as the very sign of life and hope. As the bronze serpent was lifted in the wilderness for healing, so the Son of Man is lifted up, that all who turn to him may live. Here the love of God is laid bare, not in condemnation, but in mercy offered for the whole world. To behold the Cross, then, is to behold the measureless depths of divine love, and to find in it our healing, our peace, and our salvation.

Music before the Service

Chorale Prelude on 'Rockingham'

(When I survey the wondrous cross)

C. H. H. Parry (1848–1918)



Order of Service

*The congregation is asked to join in all text printed in **bold**.*

If you are unable to stand at any point during the service, please feel free to remain seated.

The service is sung by

The Chapel Choir of S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia

Please remain silent before the service

The Gathering

Remain seated as the choir enters and takes their place

All stand as the altar party enters

Processional Hymn
during which the altar is censed



**It is a thing most wonderful,
Almost too wonderful to be,
That God's own Son should come from heaven,
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.**

**I sometimes think about the cross,
And shut my eyes, and try to see
The cruel nails and crown of thorns,
And Jesus crucified for me.**

**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.**

Words: William W. How (1823–97)

Tune: Herongate
English Traditional Melody

All remain standing. The celebrant continues

The Greeting

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

“Jesus said, ‘When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself.’

John 12. 32

Blessed be God.

Blessed be God’s reign for ever. Amen.

The lay assistant continues

Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God,
**to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
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.**

The lay assistant invites all to confess their sins

Prayers of Penitence

God shows his love for us in that,
while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Let us then show our love for him
by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

All kneel and silence is kept

Most merciful God,
**Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned in thought,
word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

The choir sings

Kyrie Eleison	Lord, have mercy
Christe Eleison	Christ, have mercy
Kyrie Eleison	Lord, have mercy

The celebrant pronounces the Absolution

May the God of love bring you back to himself,
forgive you your sins, and assure you of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

All stand to sing

Gloria

Glory be to God on high,
**and in earth peace, good will towards men,
We praise thee we bless thee,
we worship thee, we glorify thee.
We give thanks to thee for thy great
glory, O Lord God, heavenly King,
God the Father Almighty.**

**O Lord, the only begotten Son,
Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb
of God, Son of the Father that
takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us. Thou that
takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us. Thou that
takest away the sin of the world,
receive our prayer. Thou that
sittest at the right hand of God the
Father, have mercy upon us.**

**For thou only art holy, thou only
art the Lord: thou only, O Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, art most high
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

The lay assistant continues

The Collect for the Day

The Lord be with you
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray

Silence is kept

Almighty God,
who in the passion of thy blessed Son
didst make an instrument of most painful death
to be unto us the means of life and peace:
Grant us so to glory in the Cross of Christ,
that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for his sake;
who liveth and reigneth with thee,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,
world without end.

Amen.

All sit

The Liturgy of the Word

The Old Testament Reading

A reading from the Book of Numbers Chapter 21

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.' Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, 'Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.' So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Numbers 21. 4–9

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Remain seated

Responsorial Psalm

Praise the Lord, you that fear him; •
O seed of Jacob, glorify him;
stand in awe of him, O seed of Israel.

**For he has not despised nor abhorred the
suffering of the poor;
neither has he hidden his face from them; •
but when they cried to him he heard them.**

From you comes my praise in the great congregation; •
I will perform my vows
in the presence of those that fear you.

**The poor shall eat and be satisfied; •
those who seek the Lord shall praise him;
their hearts shall live for ever.**

All the ends of the earth
shall remember and turn to the Lord, •
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

**For the kingdom is the Lord's •
and he rules over the nations.**

**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.

Psalm 22. 23–28

Remain seated

The New Testament Reading

A reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians Chapter 1

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Corinthians 1.18-24

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

All stand to sing

Gradual Hymn



**In the cross of Christ I glory,
Towering o'er the wrecks of time:
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.**

**When the woes of life o'ertake me,
hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me;
Lo! it glows with peace and joy.**

**When the sun of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming
Adds more lustre to the day.**

**Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.**

Words: Sir J. Bowring (1792–1872)

Tune: Wychbold
W. G. Whinfield (1865–1919)

Remain standing and face the Gospel

The Gospel Reading

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

All repeat:



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

The Lord be with you
And with thy spirit

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
St. John, 3rd Chapter, beginning at the 13th verse
Glory be to thee, O Lord

No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

St. John 3. 13–17

At the end,

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
Praise be to thee, O Christ

Remain standing until invited to be seated

Sermon
given by
Ven. Samuel Ponniah
Chaplain

All stand to sing

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in one God,
**the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
And of all things visible and invisible;**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God, Begotten
of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
Through whom all things were made:
Who for us men, and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the
Virgin Mary, and was made man,
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate,
He suffered and was buried,
and the third day he rose again
according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father.
And he shall come again with glory to judge
both the quick and the dead:
Whose Kingdom shall have no end.**

**And we believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
Who proceedeth from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son together
is worshiped and glorified,
who spake by the Prophets.**

**And we believe One Holy Catholic
and Apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one Baptism
for the remission of sins.**

**And we look for the Resurrection of the dead,
And the life of the world to come.**

Amen.

All kneel or sit

Prayers of Intercession

during which the following response is used

By the Saviour's cross and passion,

Lord, save us and help us.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

All stand

Greeting of Peace

Christ is our peace.
He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.
We meet in his name and share his peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Preparation of the Table

Offertory Hymn

*during which the bread, wine and water are placed on the altar,
and a collection is taken for the work of the chapel*



**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 am I 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.**

Words: Isaac Watts (1674–1748)

Tune: Rockingham
Edward Miller (1735–1807)
Descant: George Guest (1924–2002)

Remain standing. The celebrant invites all to say,

**All things come from you
and for your own do we give you,
Creator and Lord of the universe,
ever adored by the holy Angels.
Accept these gifts of bread and wine
and these offerings which we present at your
holy table and with them the dedication of our
lives for your service, through Jesus Christ our
Lord.
Amen.**

Remain standing. The celebrant continues

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
And with thy spirit

Lift up your hearts
We lift them up unto the Lord

Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God
It is meet and right so to do

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.

And now we give thee thanks because for our sins he was lifted high upon the cross, that he might draw the whole world to himself; and, by his suffering and death, became the source of eternal salvation for all who put their trust in him.

Therefore with Angels, and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name, evermore praising thee, and saying:

The choir sings

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee,
O Lord most high.

The people may sit, kneel or remain standing

Holy indeed are you Almighty Father eternal Sovereign, who in all your gifts and works manifests your holiness to all humanity. Holy is your Only Begotten Son Jesus Christ, through whom you did order the universe. And Holy is your ever blessed Spirit who reveals all things, even the deep things of you O God. Just as you yourself are holy, so also you created us in your own image that we might live in holy fellowship.

And when we disobeyed your commandments, you did not abandon us but you guided us as a merciful Father; you revealed yourself to us through the Sages, the Law and the Prophets, and through your redeeming acts in history, and when the time was ripe, you came among us through your Son Jesus, whom you sent into the world to share our human nature in order that the Lord Jesus might revive your own image in us.

**Generous God, Jesus loves us
and sacrificed himself for us
and heralded the new life
in breaking bread with companions.**

On the very night that he was betrayed to suffer death upon the cross for us, the Lord Jesus took bread and when he had given thanks to you Almighty Father, he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying:

Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same manner after supper, he took the cup also, and after giving thanks, he gave it to them saying:

Drink, all of you from this,
for this is my blood of the new covenant
which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Christ is the Bread of Life

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,
until you come in glory**

And so Father, we present this bread and cup in communion with your whole church, in fellowship with (Blessed Mary, and) and all the saints, and in union with all creation we celebrate your Son's death and victory; giving thanks for all that Christ has done for us; for preparing us for all that lies ahead, we receive the benefits of Christ's life, death, resurrection and session in glory, and we eagerly await the heavenly banquet after Christ's coming again.

And we entreat you most merciful God to hear us and send your All Holy Spirit on us and on these your gifts, that they being blessed and hallowed by that life giving power, may be for us the Body and Blood of your most dearly loved Son, to the end that we receiving the same may be sanctified and filled with your grace and heavenly blessing.

**Accept this our sacrifice of praise and
thanksgiving; make us one body in Jesus Christ our
Lord, by whom and with whom and in whom in the
unity of the Holy Spirit all honour and glory be to
you Almighty Father, world without end.**

All sing: **Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

The bread which we break
is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?

**We being many are one bread,
one body for we all partake of the one bread.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we now pray

All sing

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.**

The celebrant continues

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

The gifts of God for the people of God

The choir sings

Benedictus

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Deep Silence

The choir sings

Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world
Have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world
Have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world
Grant us thy peace.

Giving of Communion

The celebrant invites the people to receive the Holy Communion, saying

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lord.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

All sit. If you receive communion in your own church, you are welcome to do so here.

Remain seated or kneeling to sing

Communion Hymn



**O cross of Christ, immortal tree
on which our Saviour died,
the world is sheltered by your arms
that bore the crucified.**

**From bitter death and barren wood
the tree of life is made;
its branches bear unfailing fruit
and leaves that never fade.**

**O faithful cross, you stand unmoved
while ages run their course:
foundation of the universe,
creation's binding force.**

**Give glory to the risen Christ
and to his cross give praise,
the sign of God's unfathomed love,
the hope of all our days.**

Words: Community of Stanbrok Abbey

Tune: Caithness
William Cowper (1731–1800)

All kneel or remain seated

Prayers after Communion

The celebrant says,

Give thanks to the Lord for God is gracious.

God's mercy endures forever.

“May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”

Galatians 6.14

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the Body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through Christ we offer you ourselves
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live
and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

Remain kneeling or seated

The Dismissal

The Blessing

Christ, who humbled himself in obedience,
and died upon the cross for our salvation,
strengthen you to follow him and to proclaim him
as Lord and King;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Go in peace to serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Recessional Hymn

during which the servers and clergy depart

The musical notation consists of four staves. The first two staves are labeled 'Refrain' and the last two are labeled 'Verses'. The music is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The Refrain consists of two lines of music, and the Verses consist of two lines of music.

**Lift high the cross the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name**

**Come, brethren, 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 men 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:**

***Lift high the cross the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name***

Words: George Kitchin (1827–1912)

Tune: Crucifer

Sir Sydney Nicholson (1875–1947)

Descant: Harold Darke (1888–1976)

Remain standing as the choir moves out, then sit.

*You are invited to be seated for the playing of the organ voluntary
or you may leave quietly at this point.*

Music after the Service

Fantasia in c BWV 562

J. S. Bach (1685–1750)



Notices

Sunday Fellowship

You are all invited to a time of fellowship on the chapel steps.

The Servers and Choristers Meeting

The meeting of the servers and choristers will take place soon after this service.



Material from Common Worship is included in this service and is copyright © The Archbishops' Council. The text for the day is written by Jo Neary, pioneer priest in the Beaminster Area, U.K. The Mass Setting is by Harold Darke in E. Hymns are taken from the College Hymnal. The Bible passages are read from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible (Anglicised edition).