



## The Chapel of The Transfiguration

# Sung Eucharist

## Fifth Sunday in Lent (*Passiontide begins*)

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026  
7.30 am



Passion Sunday marks a turn in our Lenten journey with Jesus from wilderness paths to the Jerusalem suburbs, as the readings and music of Passiontide set us firmly on the road to the cross. John's unique story of the raising of Lazarus presents another miracle in intense detail, with close attention to the senses (including smell), emotions (including Jesus' tears) and reactions of those present (notably Thomas and Martha). It is a startling and dramatic story about faith in the face of death that helps to prepare the community (both then and now) for the ultimately triumphant events of the crucifixion and resurrection to come.

### Music before the Service

Berceuse

*Louis Vierne (1834–1927)*



## 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 Servers and Clergy enter and move to the Sanctuary*

Processional Hymn  
*during which the Altar is censed*



**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:**

Words: George Kitchin (1827–1912)

Tune: Crucifer

Sir Sydney Nicholson (1875–1947)

Descant: Harold Darke (1888–1976)

*All remain standing. The Celebrant continues*

## The Greeting

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

**Amen.**

“Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?  
Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow.”

Lamentations 1.12

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**God's mercy endures for ever.**

*The Celebrant 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 Celebrant invites all to confess their sins*

## Prayers of Penitence

Christ himself carried up our sins in his body to the tree,  
so that, free from sins,  
we might live for righteousness;  
by his wounds we have been healed.

Let us confess our sins.

*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*

Holy God,  
Holy and Strong,  
Holy and Immortal,  
Have mercy on us.

Music: David Ogden (b.1966)

*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.**

## The Collect for the Day

The Lord be with you

**And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray

*Silence is kept*

Most merciful God,  
who by the death and resurrection of thy Son Jesus Christ  
hast delivered and saved the world:

Grant that by faith in him who suffered upon the Cross  
we may triumph in the power of his victory;

through the same Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord,  
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 Ezekiel 37.1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when

I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Remain seated*

Psalm 130

Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord;

Lord, hear my voice; •

let your ears consider well the voice of

my supplication.

**If you, Lord, were to mark what is done amiss, •**

**O Lord, who could stand?**

But there is forgiveness with you, •

so that you shall be feared.

**I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; •**

**in his word is my hope.**

My soul waits for the Lord,

more than the night watch for the morning, •

more than the night watch for the morning.

**O Israel, wait for the Lord, •**

**for with the Lord there is mercy;**

With him is plenteous redemption •

and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

**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.**

*Remain seated*

The New Testament Reading

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans 8.6–11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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:* Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory.

*All repeat:*



*Choir:* The Lord is a great God,  
O that today you would listen to his voice.  
Harden not your hearts.  
**Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

The Lord be with you  
**And with thy spirit**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to  
St. John, 11<sup>th</sup> Chapter, beginning at the 1<sup>st</sup> verse

**Glory be to thee, O Lord**

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus,

“Lord, he whom you love is ill.” But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them.” After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

*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,  
By 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*

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our Prayer**

## 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.

**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*



**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.**

*All upper voices* **I cannot tell how he could love  
A child so weak and full of sin;  
His love must be most wonderful,  
If he could die my love to win.**

*All lower voices* **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

*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 you thanks because, for our salvation, he was obedient even to death on the cross. The tree of shame was made the tree of glory; and where life was lost, there life has been restored.

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

*All sing*

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

*All kneel or sit*

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, St. Thomas 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.  
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

*All sing*

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



**There is a green hill far away,  
Without a city wall,  
Where the dear Lord was crucified  
Who died to save us all.**

**We may not know, we cannot tell  
What pains he had to bear,  
But we believe it was for us  
He hung and suffered there.**

**He died that we might be forgiven,  
He died to make us good;  
That we might go at last to heaven,  
Saved by his precious blood.**

**There was no other good enough  
To pay the price of sin;  
He only could unlock the gate  
Of heaven, and let us in.**

**O dearly, dearly has he loved,  
And we must love him too,  
And trust in his redeeming blood,  
And try his works to do.**

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818–95)

Tune: Horsley  
William Horsley (1774–1858)

*The Choir sings*

Anthem

Hear my prayer, O Lord,  
And let my cry come unto thee.

Words: Psalm 102. v1

Music: Henry Purcell (1659–95)

*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.**

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”

Hebrews 13.16

**Holy and blessed God,  
you have fed us with the body and blood  
of your Son and filled us with your Holy Spirit:  
may we honour you with renewed lives,  
not only with our lips but in lives  
dedicated to the service of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

*Remain kneeling or seated*

# The Dismissal

## The Blessing

May the Father,  
who so loved the world that he gave his only Son,  
bring you by faith to his eternal life.

**Amen.**

May Christ,  
who accepted the cup of sacrifice in obedience to the  
Father's will, keep you steadfast  
as you walk with him the way of his cross.

**Amen.**

May the Spirit,  
who strengthens us to suffer with Christ  
that we may share his glory,  
set your minds on life and peace.

**Amen.**

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*



**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 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

Fugue in d Op. 65 No. 6

*Felix Mendelssohn (1809–47)*



## Notices

### Sunday Fellowship

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

### Later today

**6.00pm**

### Choral Evensong

Fifth Sunday of Lent

*(Passiontide begins)*

The Chapel Choir will sing Evensong at the Cathedral of Christ the Living Saviour, Colombo 7.

All are welcome to attend.

### Holy Week and Easter

All our Services during Holy Week and Easter are posted on the Notice board. Should you wish to receive this in a digital format please speak to the Chaplain after this Service.



Material from Common Worship is included in this service and is copyright © The Archbishops' Council. The text for the day is by Rev'd. Anna Jones, Chaplain, Queen's College, Cambridge. The Mass Setting is by John Merbecke. Hymns are taken from the College Hymnal. The Bible passages are read from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible (Anglicised edition).