

Holy Trinity Eltham

Holy Wednesday 2021

The Psalms of Holy Week

This week's sermons find their starting point and theme in the Psalms set for use at each day's liturgy. We frequently skim over the Psalms, but they contain a magnificent wealth of prayerful poetry that embraces with often stark honesty the gamut of human emotion. We're invited to take the Response to each Psalm as a meditation point which might filter into our minds and hearts as we move from one day to the next. This year therefore, the Psalm rather than the Holy Week Song - used in recent years - will offer a musical and textual theme for each day's liturgy, and for this reason the Psalm is also printed for you to take away and reflect on. When this is only a portion, you might like to look up the whole Psalm and read it together with the poem.

The Psalms do not foretell Jesus, but when we read them through Christian eyes, we discover many powerful echoes which deepen our insight into the Christ-event.

All this arises from some evocative poetry by Malcolm Guite, His most recent book *David's Crown* is a series of poetic meditations on each of the 150 Psalms. The poem relating to each Psalm in Holy Week will be printed in these liturgy sheets as an additional resource for our prayer and meditation from palms to empty tomb.

Greeting

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

All Amen.

Priest The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Penitential Rite

Priest Lord Jesus, illuminate the darkness in our hearts:
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Priest Lord Jesus, open our eyes to your saving love:
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Priest Lord Jesus,
unstop our ears to hear your living word:
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

The priest pronounces the absolution.

Collect

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 50.4-9a

Psalm

70

R As for me, I am poor and needy;
Lord, make haste to help me.

- 1 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;
O Lord, make haste to help me.
- 2 Let those who seek my life
be ashamed and altogether dismayed;
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune
draw back and be disgraced. **R**
- 3 Let those who say to me 'Aha!'
and gloat over me turn back,
because they are ashamed.
- 4 Let all who seek you rejoice
and be glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say for ever,
'Great is the Lord!' **R**
- 5 But as for me, I am poor and needy;
come to me speedily, O God.
- 6 You are my helper and my deliverer;
O Lord, do not tarry. **R**

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.
Hail to you, our King!
You alone have had compassion on our sins.
Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Gospel

John 12.20-36

Priest The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Priest ✠ Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

At the conclusion

Priest This is the gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Intercessions

Reader Lord, hear us.

All Lord, graciously hear us.

Greeting of Peace & Preparation of the Altar

*After the altar is prepared, the priest introduces
the Prayer over the Gifts.*

Priest Pray, my brothers and sisters, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

All **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

Eucharistic Prayer

Priest The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Priest Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

The Preface follows, leading into

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

After the Institution Narrative

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

All **Dying you destroyed our death,
Rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Lord's Prayer

Fraction

Priest We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

Agnus Dei

All **Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
grant us peace.**

Invitation

Priest This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.

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

Holy Communion

Before he receives, the priest will hold up the Blessed Sacrament and say

The Body of Christ.

The Blood of Christ.

All who intend to receive respond

Amen.

Please remain in your seat until a steward invites you to move to receive the Blessed Sacrament, which will be administered in one kind.

If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please carry this sheet as a signal to the priest of that desire.

Music during Holy Communion

Cantata 127 Die Seele ruht in Jesu Händen

J.S. Bach

*'My soul is at rest in Jesu's hands. I am poor and needy:
O God be swift to save me.'*

Post-Communion Prayer

Blessing and Dismissal

Psalm 70: LXX *Deus in adiutorium*

Pour out for me the life-blood of your heart
For my own life is ebbing to a close.
Make haste to help me, come and heal my hurt,

Come down, O Lord, and rescue me from those
Who seek to sow confusion in my soul,
From those who patronise the faithful, those

Who humour our religion, but whose whole
Approach to life dismisses faith and prayer.
Yet you continue holy. You will heal

The deep wounds in our culture: its despair,
Its idols and addictions, its rejection
Of your gospel. In your mercy spare

This weary world, descending to dejection,
And come as our redeemer, quickly come
And raise us with you in your resurrection.

*From David's Crown - Sounding the Psalms
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