

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PASSION SUNDAY

Before: i) Valediction: Drop, drop, slow tears
ii) Prelude on "Love Unknown"

Arthur Wills
Francis Jackson

Introit: Drop, drop, slow tears

Orlando Gibbons

Call to Worship

Hymn: 380 There is a green hill far away

Horsley

- 1 There is a green hill far away,
 outside a city wall,
 where the dear Lord was crucified,
 Who died to save us all.
- 2 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.
- 3 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.
- 4 There was no other good enough
 to pay the price of sin ;
 He only could unlock the gate
 of heaven, and let us in.
- 5 Oh, dearly, dearly has He loved,
 and we must love Him too,
 and trust in His redeeming blood,
 and try His works to do.

***We bring to God our prayers and
The Lord's Prayer***

**Our Father,
Which art in heaven
Hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is in
heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors,
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory,
forever.
Amen**

We hear the Word of God

New Testament: **Matthew 27:11-31**

¹¹ Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You have said so." ¹² But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he made no answer. ¹³ Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?" ¹⁴ But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge; so that the governor wondered greatly.

¹⁵ Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. ¹⁶ And they had then a notorious prisoner, called Barab'bas. ¹⁷ So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Barab'bas or Jesus who is called Christ?" ¹⁸ For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. ¹⁹ Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much over him today in a dream." ²⁰ Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the people to ask for Barab'bas and destroy Jesus. ²¹ The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barab'bas." ²² Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified." ²³ And he said, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified."

²⁴ So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." ²⁵ And all the people

answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" ²⁶ Then he released for them Barab'bas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified. ²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the praetorium, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. ²⁸ And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe upon him, ²⁹ and plaiting a crown of thorns they put it on his head, and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ³⁰ And they spat upon him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹ And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe, and put his own clothes on him, and led him away to crucify him.

Children's Time

We respond to God's Word with our Offering
(Children invited to help with the Offering)

Offertory:

Chorale Prelude on "Herzlich tut mich verlangen" (first setting) Brahms

Prayer

Children leave for Crèche and Sunday Club

Hymn: 87 Lord, from the depths to Thee I cried

Martyrdom

- 1 Lord, from the depths to Thee I cried.
 My voice, Lord, do Thou hear :
 unto my supplication's voice
 give an attentive ear.

- 2 Lord, who shall stand, if Thou, O Lord,
 should'st mark iniquity ?
 But yet with Thee forgiveness is,
 that feared Thou mayest be.

- 3 I wait for God, my soul doth wait,
 my hope is in His word.
 More than they that for morning watch,
 my soul waits for the Lord ;

- 4 I say, much more than they that watch
the morning light to see.
Let Israel hope in God the Lord,
for with Him mercies be ;
- 5 And plenteous redemption
is ever found with Him.
And from all their iniquities
He Israel shall redeem.

We bring to God our Prayers of Confession

We hear the Word of God

New Testament: **Matthew 27:32-54**

³² As they went out, they came upon a man of Cyre'ne, Simon by name; this man they compelled to carry his cross. ³³ And when they came to a place called Gol'gotha (which means the place of a skull), ³⁴ they offered him wine to drink, mingled with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵ And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots; ³⁶ then they sat down and kept watch over him there. ³⁷ And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus the King of the Jews." ³⁸ Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. ³⁹ And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." ⁴¹ So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, ⁴² "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³ He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him; for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" ⁴⁴ And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, la'ma sabach-tha'ni?" that is, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" ⁴⁷ And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "This man is calling Eli'jah." ⁴⁸ And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with

vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹ But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Eli'jah will come to save him." ⁵⁰ And Jesus cried again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

⁵¹ And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom; and the earth shook, and the rocks were split; ⁵² the tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, ⁵³ and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴ When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe, and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

Anthem: Praise to Thee, Lord Jesus

Heinrich Schütz

Praise to Thee, Lord Jesus, who in bitter pain,
On the Cross did suffer, and for our sake was slain.
Thou reign'st with God the Father in Eternity,
Lead us, erring sinners unto heav'n and Thee.
Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Intimations

Hymn: 399 My song is love unknown

Love Unknown

1 My song is love unknown,
my Saviour's love to me,
love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I, that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh and die ?

2 He came from his blest throne,
salvation to bestow :
but people scorned,
and none the longed-for Christ would know.
But O my Friend, my Friend indeed,
who at my need His life did spend !

*Men
only* 3 Sometimes they strew His way,
and His sweet praises sing ;
resounding all the day hosannas to their King.
Then 'Crucify !' is all their breath,
and for His death they thirst and cry.

Women 4
only

Why, what hath my Lord done ?
What makes this rage and spite ?
He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries ! yet they at these
themselves displease, and 'gainst Him rise.

5 They rise, and needs will have
my dear Lord done away ;
a murderer they save, the Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful He to suffering goes,
that He his foes from thence might free.

6 In life, no house, no home
my Lord on earth might have ;
in death, no friendly tomb but what a stranger gave.
What may I say ? Heaven was His home
but mine the tomb wherein He lay.

7 Here might I stay and sing :
no story so divine ;
never was love, dear King, never was grief like Thine !
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.

Sermon

Washing your hands

We bring to God our prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Hymn: 382 O Sacred Head sore wounded

Passion Chorale

1 O Sacred Head ! sore wounded,
with grief and shame bowed down !
O Kingly Head, surrounded
with thorns, Thine only crown !
How pale art Thou with anguish,
with sore abuse and scorn !
How does that face now languish,
which once was bright as morn !

2 O Lord of life and glory,
what bliss till now was Thine !
I read the wondrous story ;
I joy to call Thee mine.

Thy grief and bitter Passion
were all for sinners' gain ;
mine, mine was the transgression,
but Thine the deadly pain.

3 What language shall I borrow
to praise Thee, heavenly Friend,
for this, Thy dying sorrow,
Thy pity without end ?
O make me Thine for ever,
and, should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never
outlive my love to Thee.

4 Be near me, Lord, when dying ;
O show Thy cross to me ;
and, my last need supplying,
come, Lord, and set me free ;
these eyes, new faith receiving,
from Thee shall never move
for they who die believing
die safely through Thy love.

Benediction and Choral Amen

Choral Amen (fourfold)

John Stainer

Afterwards: Fantasia in c, BWV 537(i)

J S Bach