

*The Benefice of St Mary the Virgin,
Higham Ferrers with St John the Baptist,
Chelveston-cum-Caldecott*

Lent 2021



Third Sunday in Lent

7th March 2021

*‘Destroy this temple
and in three days I will raise it up’*

Welcome to this Online Service



Jesus says to us ‘Come to me – follow me’ and following Jesus, as those first disciples discovered, means walking the way of Jesus, ultimately of course, the way of the cross.

On the third Sunday in Lent, we hear an anticipation of the ending that becomes a beginning as Jesus again speaks of his death and resurrection – this time linking his body to that of the Temple in Jerusalem. In the cleansing of the Temple, Jesus prefigures his self-emptying on the cross and promises that in three days what seems utter destruction will become new life. Not surprisingly, no-one believes him at the time, well who would think it would be possible? What is even less likely than the whole Temple in Jerusalem to be rebuilt within three days? That a man should die on the cross and be raised to new life on the third day!

*Many thanks to all assisting with this Service today,
especially Joy & John York and Keith & Jo Green*

The Gathering

The Greeting - Michelle

We meet in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Call to Worship - Brenda

○ Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall declare your praise
○ Lord, open our eyes
that we may behold your presence
○ Lord, open our ears
that we may hear your call
○ Lord, open our hearts
that we may respond to your love
○ Lord, open our lives
**that we may rejoice in your
creation.**



We sing together

Hymn

**Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise:
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.**

**O loving wisdom of our God!
When all was sin and shame,
a second Adam to the fight
and to the rescue came.**

**O wisest love! that flesh and blood,
which did in Adam fail,
should strive afresh against the foe,
should strive and should prevail;**

**And that a higher gift than grace
should flesh and blood refine,
God's presence and his very self,
and essence all-divine.**

**O generous love! that he, who smote
in Man for man the foe,
the double agony in Man
for man should undergo;**

**And in the garden secretly,
and on the cross on high,
should teach his brethren, and inspire
to suffer and to die.**

**Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise:
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.**

Words: John Henry Newman (1801-1890)

Music: GERONTIUS John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876)

Prayers of Confession – Paul



Compassion and forgiveness
belong to the Lord our God,
though we have rebelled against him.
Let us then renounce our wilfulness and ask his mercy
by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love:
fill us with your Spirit.

Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith:
fill us with your Spirit.

Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust:
fill us with your Spirit.

Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Absolution – Michelle



Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Kyrie

Gregorian Chant

Kyrie eleison

Christe eleison

Kyrie eleison

Lord, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

The Collect - Linda

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy
but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Liturgy of The Word

First Reading – 1 Corinthians 1:18-25- read by Lesley

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

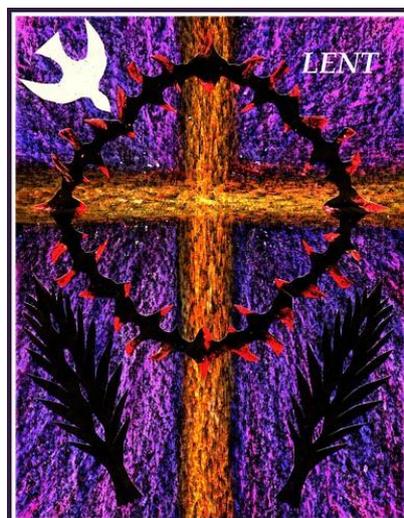
The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

'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 scribe? 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 our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand 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. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Gospel Acclamation – all join in singing:

***Praise to you, O Christ, our Saviour,
Word of the Father, calling us to life;
Son of God who leads us to freedom:
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!***

You are the Word who calls us out of darkness;
You are the Word who leads us into light;
You are the Word who brings us through the desert:
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

***Praise to you, O Christ, our Saviour,
Word of the Father, calling us to life;
Son of God who leads us to freedom:
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!***

You are the one whom prophets hoped
and longed for;
you are the one who speaks to us today;
you are the one who leads us to our future:
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

***Praise to you, O Christ, our Saviour,
Word of the Father, calling us to life;
Son of God who leads us to freedom:
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!***

You are the Word who calls us to be servants;
you are the Word whose only law is love;
you are the Word-made-flesh who lives among us:

glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

***Praise to you, O Christ, our Saviour,
Word of the Father, calling us to life;
Son of God who leads us to freedom:
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!***

Words & Music: Bernadette Farrell (b.1957)

Gospel – John 2:13-22 – *read by Paul*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Motet

Sung by members of the Choir of Peterborough Cathedral

*Wash my thoroughly from my wickedness
and cleanse me from all my sin.*

Words from Psalm 51:2

Music: George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Reflection – Michelle



Hymn

**Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.**

**Take my voice, and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee.**

**Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.**

**Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart: it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.**

**Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure-store;
take myself, and I will be**

ever, only, all for thee.

Words: Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879)

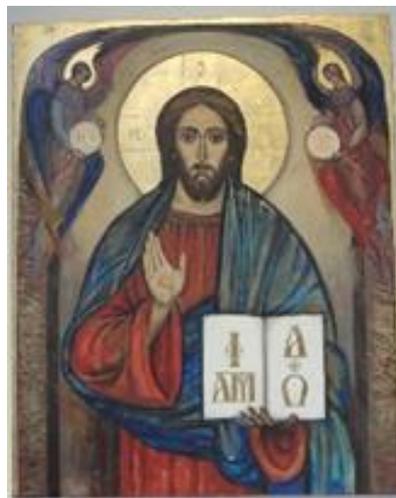
Music: NOTTINGHAM Wenzel Müller (1747-1835)

Prayers - led by Joy & John Yorke

Trusting in the power and promises of God,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, you come to your Temple
to restore its purity and purpose;
come now to your Church
and lead us in the way of all truth.
Help us to work for your Kingdom
here on earth.

Lord of new life,
in your mercy hear us.



Lord, you challenged those in power and authority
and raised up the lowly and oppressed;
come now to your world
and show us how to live aright.
Give us courage to challenge injustice
and help us work for peace.

Lord of new life,
in your mercy hear us.

Lord, your weakness is stronger than our strength,
your foolishness wiser than our wisdom;
protect and inspire us in these challenging times,
and help us to see new possibilities,
and imagine new ways of living
that all the earth may flourish.

Lord of new life,
in your mercy hear us.



Lord, you come to us with tender love and compassion,
and bind up the broken-hearted;
be with all who suffer and struggle,
and help us to love one another as you have loved us.

Lord of new life,
in your mercy hear us.

Lord, you promise that nothing can destroy us
or separate us from your love;
death is followed by new life -
your gift to us through your resurrection.
Comfort all who mourn with the certainty

that those they love are now safe with you.

Lord of new life,
in your mercy hear us.



Lord our God,
hear our prayers
and sustain us in our weakness;
take our lives, all that we are,
and use us in your service;
show us your mercy and compassion
and remake us in your image;
so that in all things that we may grow in faith,
trust in your promises
and proclaim Christ in all the world.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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 Peace - Michelle

Serve the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your mind, with all your strength.

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

We offer each other peace.



Final Prayer - Linda

Eternal God,
give us insight
to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection we are promised
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Hymn

**I will sing the wondrous story
of the Christ who died for me,
how he left the realms of glory
for the cross of Calvary.**

**Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story
of the Christ who died for me -
sing it with his saints in glory,
gathered by the crystal sea.**

**I was lost but Jesus found me,
found the sheep that went astray,
raised me up and gently led me
back into the narrow way.**

**Days of darkness still may meet me,
sorrow's path I oft may tread;
but his presence still is with me,
by his guiding hand I'm led.**

**He will keep me till the river
rolls its waters at my feet:
then he'll bear me safely over,
made by grace for glory meet.
Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story**

**of the Christ who died for me -
sing it with his saints in glory,
gathered by the crystal sea.**

words: Francis Harold Rowley (1854-1952)

music: HYFRYDOL Rowland Huw Prichard (1811-1887)



Blessing - Michelle

May Christ,
who by his dying destroyed death for ever,
who loved us and gave himself for us;
may he send us out to glory in his cross,
and live no longer for ourselves but for him,
who died and was raised to life for us.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Final Responsory - Brenda

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
O my God, in you I trust.

You are the God of my salvation;
To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

In you I hope all the day long.
O my God, in you I trust.

Remember, Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.
**To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
O my God, in you I trust.**



Music at the end: *Canon in D, Pachelbel with Seek ye First the Kingdom of God.*

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