

# Sunday Morning Worship

21<sup>st</sup> March 2021

*The Fifth Sunday of Lent*



*“With my whole heart I seek you; do not let me stray from your commandments. I treasure your word in my heart.”*

*Psalm 119: 10-11*

## *Opening Prayer*

Almighty and eternal God,  
You have revealed Yourself  
as Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
and live and reign  
in the perfect unity of love.  
Hold us firm in this faith,  
that we may know You  
in all Your ways  
and evermore rejoice  
in Your eternal glory,  
who are three Persons in one God,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

Opening Worship – Hymn No. 224 – How Deep the Father’s Love For Us

How deep the Father’s love for us,  
How vast beyond all measure,  
That He should give His only Son  
To make a wretch His treasure!  
How great the pain of searing loss:  
The Father turns His face away,  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One  
Bring many sons to glory!

Behold the man upon a cross,  
My sin upon His shoulders;  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
Call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held Him there  
Until it was accomplished;  
His dying breath has brought me life –  
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,  
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,  
His death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from His reward?  
I cannot give an answer;  
But this I know with all my heart –  
His wounds have paid my ransom.

Confession

Please join in with the response to ‘Father God,’ **We ask for your forgiveness**

*The gospel calls us to turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ. As we offer ourselves to him in penitence and faith, we renew our confidence and trust in his mercy.*

God our Father,  
we come to you in sorrow for our sins.  
For turning away from you,

and ignoring your will for our lives;

Father God -

**We ask for Your forgiveness.**

For behaving just as we wish,

without thinking of you;

Father God -

**We ask for Your forgiveness.**

For failing you by what we do,

and think and say;

Father God -

**We ask for Your forgiveness.**

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you

by temptations in the world about us;

Father God -

**We ask for Your forgiveness.**

For living as if we were ashamed

to belong to your Son;

Father God -

**We ask for Your forgiveness. Amen.**

**Absolution**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,

have mercy on you,

pardon and deliver you from all your sins,

confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,

and keep you in eternal life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Collect of the Day**

Most merciful God,

who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ

delivered and saved the world:

Grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross,

we may triumph in the power of his victory;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you hate nothing that you have made  
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:  
Create and make in us new and contrite hearts  
that we, worthily lamenting our sins  
and acknowledging our wretchedness,  
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,  
perfect remission and forgiveness;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Kids Slot*  
*Psalm 119: 9-16*

*Affirmation of Faith*

We join together to say:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. **Amen.****

*Bible Reading*  
*Sermon*

*Prayers and Intercessions*

*In our prayers and intercessions this morning, the response to 'Lord, as You give Yourself for us' will be 'let us give ourselves to You.'*

Lord, as You give Yourself for us,  
**let us give ourselves to You.**

Lord Jesus Christ, You were lifted up on the Cross for us and for our salvation;

strengthen us as we face each day,  
help us to triumph over evil and to do good,  
to give ourselves to You as You give Yourself for us,  
and to live and work to Your praise and glory. **Amen.**

Lord of the Church, may we bring others to know You,  
in knowing You to love You,  
and in loving You to serve You,  
whom to serve is perfect freedom.  
Guide and strengthen the mission and outreach of Your people.  
We pray for missionary societies and charities reaching out to and caring for the most  
vulnerable in our world.  
We pray especially for ...  
Lord, as You give Yourself for us,  
**let us give ourselves to You.**

We pray for leaders of nations, for rulers of people,  
that they make work with compassion and humility,  
dedicated to truth and justice.  
We pray for nations of the world facing poverty, famine and violence.  
We pray for all those who seek after freedom and  
for all those seeking to overcome injustice, persecution and oppression.  
Lord, as You give Yourself for us,  
**let us give ourselves to You.**

We give thanks for the ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ;  
for the great gift of redemption, offered to each one of us.  
We pray for all troubled souls, those anxious about their health, or their future.  
We remember all that are being persecuted for their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and  
Saviour.  
Lord, give comfort to the bereaved and courage to those facing tough times.  
We pray for Your strength and grace for all who are suffering today.  
We take a moment to name them before You now ....  
Lord, as You give Yourself for us,  
**let us give ourselves to You.**

Gracious and loving Father,  
help us to use this season of Lent to draw closer to You,  
understanding more of Your nature and Your love for us.  
May it deepen our faith,  
strengthen our commitment,  
and confirm our sense of calling.

May we learn what it means to follow Christ  
and what it means to love and serve You.  
May we recognise the true cost and true rewards of discipleship.  
May we understand more fully  
why You have placed us where we are,  
what You would have us do,  
who You would have us be,  
how You would have us live,  
and where You would have us go.  
Lord, as You give Yourself for us,  
**let us give ourselves to You.**

Gracious God,  
prepare us through this time of worship,  
this day, and this season,  
to understand and celebrate more fully  
all You have done for us in Christ.  
And so may we love You more truly  
and love You more faithfully,  
to the glory of Your name. ***Amen.***

***The Lord's Prayer***

Let's say together:

**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.**

***Closing Worship – Hymn No. 240 – Sweet the Moments Rich in Blessing***

Sweet the moments, rich in blessing,

which before the cross I spend,  
life and health and peace possessing,  
from the sinners' dying Friend.

Here I find my hope of heaven,  
while upon the Lamb I gaze;  
loving much, and much forgiven,  
let my heart o'erflow in praise.  
For thy sorrow we adore thee,  
for the pain that wrought our peace,  
gracious Saviour, we implore thee,  
in our souls thy love increase.

Lord, in ceaseless contemplation,  
fix our hearts and eyes on thee,  
till we taste thy full salvation,  
and thine unveiled glory see.

### ***Closing Prayers and Blessing***

In darkness and in light,  
in trouble and in joy,  
help us, heavenly Father,  
to trust your love,  
to serve your purpose,  
and to praise your name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Now may the Lord of peace himself  
give you peace at all times and in every way.  
The Lord be with you all;  
And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**