

St Martin's Church, North Nibley
21st March 2021
A Service of the Word for the Fifth Sunday of Lent

Gathering as the People of God

Welcome in the name of Christ!
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you!

The priest introduces the service.

***Hymn* : When I survey the wondrous cross**

1 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.

2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the Cross of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

3 See from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingling down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an offering far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

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Preparing for the Word

We worship with Christians near and far, living and departed, old and young.
God's word is for all of us.
May it be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

You may like to open a Bible and place a candle lit near it.

News and Notices

Opening Prayer

Lord, speak to us
that we may hear your word.
Move among us
that we may behold your glory.
Receive our prayers
that we may learn to trust you. Amen.

The Collect, the prayer for the day:

Gracious Father,
you gave up your Son
out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Proclaiming the Word of the Lord

Jeremiah 31:31-34

31 The Lord says, "The time is coming when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. **32** It will not be like the old covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and led them out of Egypt. Although I was like a husband to them, they did not keep that covenant. **33** The new covenant that I will make with the people of Israel will be this: I will put my law within them and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. **34** None of them will have to teach a neighbour to know the Lord, because all will know me, from the least to the greatest. I will forgive their sins and I will no longer remember their wrongs. I, the Lord, have spoken."

Hymn : O sacred head

1 O sacred Head surrounded
By crown of piercing thorn!
O bleeding Head, so wounded,
So shamed and put to scorn!
Death's pallid hue comes o'er thee,
The glow of life decays,
Yet angel-hosts adore thee
And tremble as they gaze.

2 Thy comeliness and vigour
is withered up and gone,
and in thy wasted figure
I see death drawing on.
O agony and dying!
O love to sinners free!
Jesu, all grace supplying,
Turn thou thy face on me.

3 In this thy bitter passion,
Good Shepherd, think of me
With thy most sweet compassion,
Unworthy though I be:
Beneath thy cross abiding
For ever would I rest,
In thy dear love confiding,
And with thy presence blest.

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Gospel Reading

John 12:20-33

20 Some Greeks were among those who had gone to Jerusalem to worship during the festival. **21** They went to Philip (he was from Bethsaida in Galilee) and said, "Sir, we want to see Jesus."

22 Philip went and told Andrew, and the two of them went and told Jesus. **23** Jesus answered them, "The hour has now come for the Son of Man to receive great glory. **24** I am telling you the truth: a grain of wheat remains no more than a single grain unless it is dropped into the ground and dies. If it does die, then it produces many grains. **25** Those who love their own life will lose it; those who hate their own life in this world will keep it for life eternal. **26** Whoever wants to serve me must follow me, so that my servant will be with me where I am. And my Father will honor anyone who serves me.

27 "Now my heart is troubled—and what shall I say? Shall I say, 'Father, do not let this hour come upon me'? But that is why I came—so that I might go through this hour of suffering. **28** Father, bring glory to your name!"

Then a voice spoke from heaven, "I have brought glory to it, and I will do so again."

29 The crowd standing there heard the voice, and some of them said it was thunder, while others said, "An angel spoke to him!"

30 But Jesus said to them, "It was not for my sake that this voice spoke, but for yours.

31 Now is the time for this world to be judged; now the ruler of this world will be overthrown. **32** When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to me." (**33** In saying this he indicated the kind of death he was going to suffer.)

Sermon

Anthem: William Byrd: Ave Verum Corpus

Ave verum corpus natum de Maria virgine. Vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro homine. Cuius latus perforatum, unde fluxit sanguine: Esto nobis praegustatum in mortis examine. O dulcis, O pie, O Jesu Fili Mariae, miserere mei. Amen.

Hail the true body, born of the Virgin Mary: You that truly suffered and were sacrificed on the cross for the sake of mankind, from whose pierced flank flowed water and blood: Be a foretaste for us in the trial of death. O sweet, O merciful Jesus, Son of Mary: Have mercy on me. Amen. (Motet for Corpus Christi)

Creed [Priest] Let us declare our faith in God.

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Praying for Ourselves: for Forgiveness:

Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore to us the joy of your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The priest declares God's forgiveness

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Praying for Others : our Intercessions

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Hymn: Now the green blade riseth

1. Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,
Wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

2. In the grave they laid him, Love by hatred slain,
Thinking that never he would wake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

3. Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
He that for three days in the grave had lain;
from the dead, my risen Lord is seen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

4. When our hearts are wintry, grieving or in pain,
Thy touch can call us back to life again;
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

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Our service draws to a conclusion

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us
that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters
we do also for you:
give us the will to be the servant of others
as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for us,
but are alive and reign, now and for ever. Amen

The Blessing

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