



The Cross of Christ

A meditation for Passiontide in
Gospel readings and music

Congregation, please stand to join in the singing of the hymns

Bidding prayer

Hymn 95 When I survey

Reading: Isaiah 53 vv.3-8

Choir: Drop, drop slow tears – Gibbons

*Drop, drop slow tears, And bathe those beauteous feet
Which brought from heaven the news and Prince of peace:
Cease not, wet eyes, His mercies to entreat;
To cry for vengeance Sin doth never cease;
In your deep floods drown all my faults and fears;
Nor let his eye see sin, But through my tears.*

Fletcher

Reading: St Mark 14 vv.32-42

Choir: Surely he hath borne our griefs – Handel (Messiah)

*Surely he hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows:
He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities:
The chastisement of our peace was upon him.*

Isaiah liii

Reading: St Mark 14 vv.43-50

Choir: Thou knowest, Lord – Purcell

*Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts,
shut not thy merciful ears to our prayers,
but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty.
O holy and most merciful Saviour, Thou most worthy judge eternal,
Suffer us not at our last hour, for any pains of death to fall from thee.
Amen.*

From the Burial Service

Hymn 90 v.1 only O sacred head

Reading: St Matthew 26 vv. 57-68

Choir: To mock your reign – music by Tallis

*To mock your reign, O dearest Lord, they made a crown of thorns:
Set you with taunts along the road from which no man returns.
They could not know, as we do now, how glorious is that crown:
That thorns would flower upon your brow, your sorrows heal our own.*

*In mock acclaim, O gracious Lord, they snatched a purple cloak,
Your passion turned, for all they cared, into a soldier's joke.
They could not know, as we do now, that, though we merit blame,
You will your robe of mercy throw around our naked shame.*

*A sceptred reed, O patient Lord, they thrust into your hand,
And acted out their grim charade to its appointed end.
They could not know, as we do now, though empires rise and fall,
Your kingdom shall not cease to grow till love embraces all.*

E Pratt Green

Reading: St Mark 15 vv.1-20

Hymn: 86 My song is love unknown

Reading: St Luke 23 vv.26, 32-43

Choir: He trusted in God – Handel (Messiah)

*He trusted in God that he would deliver him
Let him deliver him, if he delight in him.*

Psalm xxii

Reading: St Mark 15 vv.33-39

Choir: Ave verum corpus – Mozart

*Ave verum corpus natum de Maria Virgine:
Vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro homine:
Cuius latus perforatum unda fluxit et sanguine:
Esto nobis praegustatum in mortis examine.*

Jesu, Lamb of God, Redeemer, born the Virgin Mary's Son,
Who upon the the cross a victim hast man's salvation won,
From whose side, which man had pierced, flowed the water and the blood,
By thy sacred body broken be in life and death our food.

14th century hymn.

Reading: Philippians 2 vv.5-11

Choir: Closing Chorale from St John Passion - JS Bach

*Ah! Lord, when my last hour is come, bid angels bear my spirit home
To Abraham's bosom going;
My flesh, laid in the quiet tomb, shall sleep until the day of doom,
Nor pain nor sorrow knowing.
Then, waking from that dark abode, mine eyes shall see thee face to face
In boundless joy, O Son of God, my Saviour and my throne of Grace.
Lord Jesus Christ, give ear to me, give ear to me, Who bring unending praise to Thee.*

Prayers

Hymn 439 Praise to the holiest