



**St Peter
Le Poer**



Gracechurch

An hour at the cross

Friday 2nd April 2021

Good Friday

led by Revd Philip Sudell at 12noon in person and streamed live on the St Peter's [YouTube channel here](#)



We sing the praise of him who died,
of him who died upon the cross;
the sinner's hope let men deride,
for this we count the world but loss.

Inscribed upon the cross we see
in shining letters, 'God is love';
he bears our sins upon the tree;
he brings us mercy from above.

The cross! It takes our guilt away:
it holds the fainting spirit up;
it cheers with hope the gloomy day,
and sweetens every bitter cup.

It makes the coward spirit brave,
and nerves the feeble arm for fight;
it takes its terror from the grave,
and gilds the bed of death with light:

The balm of life, the cure of woe,
the measure and the pledge of love,
the sinner's refuge here below,
the angels' theme in heaven above.

Thomas Kelly (1769-1855)

Welcome

Opening prayer

A moment of silence is kept. The minister says the opening prayer set for the day.

Eternal God, in the cross of Jesus we see the cost of our sin and the depth of your love: in humble hope and fear may we place at his feet all that we have and all that we are, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 53

Who has believed what we have heard?

And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

² For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

³ He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.

⁴ Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way,

and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

⁸ By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people.

⁹ They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the Lord shall prosper.

¹¹ Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 22:1-11

My God, my God,

why have you forsaken me?

¹ My God, my God, why have you forsaken me, • and are so far from my salvation, from the words of my distress?

² O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; • and by night also, but I find no rest.

My God, my God,

why have you forsaken me?

³ Yet you are the Holy One, • enthroned upon the praises of Israel.

⁴ Our forebears trusted in you; • they trusted, and you delivered them.

⁵ They cried out to you and were delivered; • they put their trust in you and were not confounded.

My God, my God,

why have you forsaken me?

⁶ But as for me, I am a worm and no man, • scorned by all and despised by the people.

⁷ All who see me laugh me to scorn; • they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,

My God, my God,

why have you forsaken me?

⁸ 'He trusted in the Lord; let him deliver him; • let him deliver him, if he delights in him.'

⁹ But it is you that took me out of the womb • and laid me safe upon my mother's breast.

My God, my God,

why have you forsaken me?

¹⁰ On you was I cast ever since I was born; • you are my God even from my mother's womb.

¹¹ Be not far from me, for trouble is near at hand • and there is none to help.

My God, my God,

why have you forsaken me?

Passion Gospel – Part 1

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

John 19:4-18

⁴ Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there, 'Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him.' ⁵ When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, 'Here is the man!'

⁶ As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, 'Crucify! Crucify!'

But Pilate answered, 'You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him.'⁷ The Jewish leaders insisted, 'We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.'

⁸ When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid,⁹ and he went back inside the palace. 'Where do you come from?' he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer.¹⁰ 'Do you refuse to speak to me?' Pilate said. 'Don't you realise I have power either to free you or to crucify you?'

¹¹ Jesus answered, 'You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.'

¹² From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, 'If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.'

¹³ When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge's seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha).

¹⁴ It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon.

'Here is your king,' Pilate said to the Jews.

¹⁵ But they shouted, 'Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!'

'Shall I crucify your king?' Pilate asked.

'We have no king but Caesar,' the chief priests answered.

¹⁶ Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

So the soldiers took charge of Jesus.

¹⁷ Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha).¹⁸ There they crucified him, and with him two others – one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

Reflection

"Here is the man"

Anthem

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Silence

There is a green hill far away,

without a city wall,
where the dear Lord was crucified,
who died to save us all.

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.

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.

There was no other good enough
to pay the price of sin;
he only could unlock the gate
of heaven, and let us in.

O dearly, dearly has he loved,
and we must love him too,
and trust in his redeeming blood,
and try his works to do.

Cecil Frances Alexander (née Humphreys) (1818-1895)

Passion Gospel – Part 2

John 19:19-24

¹⁹ Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: jesus of nazareth, the king of the jews. ²⁰ Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. ²¹ The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, ‘Do not write “The King of the Jews”, but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.’

²² Pilate answered, ‘What I have written, I have written.’

²³ When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.

²⁴ ‘Let’s not tear it,’ they said to one another. ‘Let’s decide by lot who will get it.’

This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said,

‘They divided my clothes among them
and cast lots for my garment.’

So this is what the soldiers did.

Reflection

“It is written”

Anthem

For God so loved the world – Stainer

God so loved the world that he gave his
only begotten Son, that whosoever
believeth in him should not perish, but
have everlasting life.

For God sent not his Son into the world
to condemn the world, but that the world
through him might be saved.

Silence

O sacred head surrounded

By crown of piercing thorn
O royal head so wounded
Reviled and put to scorn
Death's shadows rise before you
The glow of life decays
Yet angel hosts adore you
And tremble as they gaze

Your youthfulness and vigour
Are spent your strength is gone
And in your tortured figure
I see death drawing on
What agony of dying
What love to sinners free
My Lord all grace supplying
O turn your face on me

Your sinless soul's oppression
Was all for sinners' gain
Mine mine was the transgression
But yours the deadly pain
I bow my head my Saviour
For I deserve your place
O grant to me your favour
And heal me by your grace

What language shall I borrow
To thank you dearest Friend
For this your dying sorrow
Your mercy without end
Lord make me yours for ever
Your servant let me be
And may I never never
Betray your love for me

Passion Gospel – Part 3

John 19:25-37

²⁵ Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing near by, he said to her, 'Woman, here is your son,' ²⁷ and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

²⁸ Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, 'I am thirsty.' ²⁹ A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. ³⁰ When he had received the drink, Jesus said, 'It is finished.' With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

³¹ Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down.

³² The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. ³³ But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴ Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. ³⁵ The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe.

³⁶ These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: 'Not one of his bones will be broken,' ³⁷ and, as another scripture says, 'They will look on the one they have pierced.'

Reflection

"It is finished"

Anthem

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

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

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.

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.

Samuel Crossman (1623-1683)

Silence

See Him in Jerusalem

Walking where the crowds are
Once these streets had sung to Him
Now they cry for murder
Such a frail and lonely Man
Holding up the heavy cross
See Him walking in Jerusalem
On the road to save us

See Him there upon the hill
Hear the scorn and laughter
Silent as a lamb He waits
Praying to the Father
See the King who made the sun
And the moon and shining stars
Let the soldiers hold and nail Him down
So that He could save them

See Him there upon the cross
Now no longer breathing
Dust that formed the watching crowds
Takes the blood of Jesus
Feel the earth is shaking now
See the veil is split in two
And He stood before the wrath of God
Shielding sinners with His blood

See the empty tomb today
Death could not contain Him
Once the Servant of the world
Now in vict'ry reigning
Lift your voices to the One
Who is seated on the throne
See Him in the New Jerusalem
Praise the One who saved us
Praise the One who saved us!

Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, Tiarne Kleyn
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Passion Gospel – Part 4

John 19:38-42

³⁸ Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. ³⁹ He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about thirty-five kilograms. ⁴⁰ Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs.

⁴¹ At the place where Jesus was crucified,

there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴² Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was near by, they laid Jesus there.

This is the Passion of the Lord.

Reflection

"Into the light"

Prayers

God sent his Son into the world,
not to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved
through him. Therefore we pray to our
heavenly Father for people everywhere
according to their needs.

Let us pray for the Church of God
throughout the world:
for unity in faith, in witness and in service,
for bishops and other ministers,
and those whom they serve,
for Sarah and Robert, our bishops,
and the people of this diocese,
for all Christians in this place,
for those who are mocked and
persecuted for their faith,
that God will confirm his Church in faith,
increase it in love, and preserve it in
peace.

Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us pray for the nations of the world
and their leaders: for Elizabeth our Queen
and the Parliaments of this land, for those
who administer the law and all who serve
in public office, for all who strive for
justice and reconciliation, that by God's
help the world may live in peace and
freedom.

Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us pray for those who do not believe the gospel of Christ: for those who have not heard the message of salvation, for all who have lost faith, for the contemptuous and scornful, for those who are enemies of Christ and persecute those who follow him, for all who deny the faith of Christ crucified, that God will open their hearts to the truth and lead them to faith and obedience.

Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Merciful God, creator of all the people of the earth, have compassion on all who do not know you, and by the preaching of your gospel with grace and power, gather them into the one fold of the one Shepherd; Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Let us pray for all those who suffer: for those who are deprived and oppressed, for all who are sick, for those in darkness, in doubt and in despair, in loneliness and in fear, for prisoners, captives and refugees, for the victims of false accusations and violence, for all at the point of death and those who watch beside them, that God in his mercy will sustain them with the knowledge of his love.

Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

**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.**

Final Prayer

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 your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

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.

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 through his blood.

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

His dying crimson, like a robe,
spreads o'er his body on the tree;
then am I dead to all the globe,
and all the globe is dead to me.

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

We leave in silence...

Sunday 4th April – Easter Day

Holy Communion at 9am.

This will be streamed later as usual
streamed to St Peter's YouTube at 11am

Family Celebration at 10.30am.

Live to Grace Church YouTube

Q&A re future of St Peter's and Grace Church

Time: Thurs 8th April at 8pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84031571075?pwd=eTRlZzYyODRlVUJbDVVWURlcmZkdz09>

Meeting ID: 840 3157 1075

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Dial in: +44 203 481 5237

✠ St Peter Le Poer

Gracechurch

EASTER SERVICES

GOOD FRIDAY - 2ND APRIL
Families Together | 10am
An Hour at the Cross | 12 noon

EASTER DAY - 4TH APRIL
Holy Communion | 9am
Family Celebration | 10.30am

ALSO STREAMED ONLINE
www.saintpeterlepoer.org.uk - www.gracech.org.uk

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND