



Monday 29 March 2021

- The hymns are Youtube links. To hear the hymns please hover the mouse over each link, press Ctrl and then return.
- The prayers and litanies are best read slowly a phrase at a time. They benefit from being repeated often.
- To see service transcripts from previous weeks, please visit the page, <http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/resources/index.htm>

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The Welcome

HYMN 1 I am a new creation (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

In the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit

All Amen

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All And also with you.

O Lord open our lips:

All and our mouth shall proclaim your praise:

Let us worship the Lord:

All all praise to his name.

**All Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:**

**as it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be for ever.**

Amen.

Prayers of preparation and penitence

As we start this Holy Week, we walk with Jesus in Jerusalem as he prepares himself—body, mind and spirit—for the crucifixion that led into resurrection.

During the first Holy Week, Jesus prepared to give up everything for you. We confess that we have wilfully kept ourselves from you and used our time and possessions for ourselves alone. Father, forgive us:

All Save us and help us

During the first Holy Week, Jesus prepared to meet with you. We confess that we have wilfully refused to meet with you in prayer, scripture or sacrament. Father, forgive us:

All Save us and help us

During the first Holy Week, Jesus fought against the powers of darkness. We confess that we have wilfully refused to fight against temptation. Father, forgive us:

All Save us and help us

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During the first Holy Week, Jesus cleansed the Temple. We confess that we have wilfully failed to cleanse the Temple of our hearts. Father, forgive us:

All Save us and help us

During the first Holy Week, Jesus gave us the sacrament of communion—bread and wine made holy. We confess that we have wilfully refused to look beyond outward and visible and refused to look for the inward and spiritual. Father, forgive us:

All Save us and help us

During the first Holy Week, Jesus washed the feet of His disciples. We confess that we have wilfully failed to live lives of humility and self-emptying. Father, forgive us:

All Save us and help us

God our Father, who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to bring us new life at Easter,
forgive us our sins
and make us holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

Praise and thanksgiving

**All Loving Lord, fill us with your life-giving,
joy-giving, peace-giving presence,
that we may praise you now with our lips
and all the day long with our lives,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

This Holy Monday, we thank God for our chance of new life through the Cross,
Lord of heaven and earth:

All we give you thanks and praise.

This Holy Monday, we thank the God the Father for the gift of the Scriptures,
Lord of heaven and earth:

All we give you thanks and praise.

This Holy Monday, we thank God the Son for the grace given through the sacraments,
Lord of heaven and earth:

All we give you thanks and praise.

This Holy Monday, we thank the God the Holy Spirit for the gifts of love, joy and peace,
Lord of heaven and earth:

All we give you thanks and praise.

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As Holy Monday people, we thank God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—for our salvation,

Lord of heaven and earth:

All we give you thanks and praise.

May God be gracious to us and bless us.

May his face shine on us;

so that his way may be known on earth,

his salvation among all nations.

God, our God, will bless us,

and all the ends of the earth will fear him. *Psalm 67*

All Amen

HYMN 2 I could sing of your love forever (please click on the link for the hymn)

The Ministry of the Word

The Collect

Lord, you bring us into being
and let our lives touch your heart:
may the fragrance of our worship
draw us closer to your open heart
and free us from our clinging
to the things we can control;
through Jesus Christ, the passion of God.

All Amen

First reading

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

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He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

I am the Lord, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them. *Isaiah 42:1-9*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Second reading

A reading from Letter Paul to the Hebrews

When Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation), he entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer, sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!

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For this reason he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, because a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions under the first covenant. *Hebrews 9:11-15*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

HYMN 3 He was pierced four our transgressions ([click here to hear the hymn](#))

Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All Glory to you O Lord.

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well, since it was on account of him that many of the Jews were deserting and were believing in Jesus. *John 12:1-11*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

Many people believed when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead but yet many others refused and even wanted to kill Him. The people were afraid of a rebellion. They knew Rome would come and take away their nation and their power, but it's not His time yet so He can't be killed. So I want to go back and look at John's Gospel. Jesus went to Ephraim; went from there to Samaria; then He went to Judea. Shortly

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after that He made His way to Jericho. Only then did He go to Bethany. It's important to know this because John skips several exciting stories just to tell us about Mary pouring oil over Him. Why would He do this? So let's look at how could that story be more important than some of the others?

Then Jesus six days before the Passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead. Both Matthew and Mark tell us that the supper was held at the home of a man called Simon the leper. You'll notice in verse four that Judas is Simon's son. It's possible that they had met at Judas' father's house. It's also interesting that there's another story of a woman who washes Jesus' feet with her tears and hair in Luke 7:36. It's not the same story, but it's important because we know that the woman did this to His feet because of her great love for Him. Why does Mary pour this oil out onto Jesus? I think it's because she too loves Jesus. But the point I really want you to see here is that Lazarus had been dead but Jesus raised him again. This, I believe, is the main point in telling us this story about Mary. He's getting ready to go to the grave ... but looks at Lazarus and is comforted!

Now Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him, he's no stranger to this family; it wasn't long ago Jesus was here and Martha served while Mary sat at His feet. When it says 'but Lazarus' it draws special attention to the fact that Lazarus is there too. He was dead and in the tomb, but Jesus the life-giver made him alive! Now he's sitting with Jesus and enjoying fellowship with Him. Then Mary takes a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anoints the feet of Jesus, and wipes his feet with her hair: and the house is filled with the odour of the ointment. Mary now has a genuine love for Him that she shows with the perfume. She poured the oil on His head and it ran down to His feet. She got down on her knees and wipes the oil from His feet with her hair. In other words, she covered His entire body with this expensive oil, but it's not appreciated by all: Judas Iscariot, asks why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief and would help himself.

The cost of the ointment is estimated to be about a year's wages. Whatever it's worth, it's enough to cause the disciples to see it as a waste when it's spilled all over Jesus, and it might even seem like they have a worthy cause. But then John reveals the true motivation: Judas wants to look pious and he's greedy. It's astounding that in spite of all that Jesus has done, Judas has no faith in His ability and thinks money is the answer to the problem. It's more amazing that Jesus let

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him so close into their circle and that He never told anyone else what He surely knew. Judas had a place and it would be discovered in due time.

But look at Jesus' response: Then said Jesus, 'Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this. For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always'. Mary has this oil for this purpose. It's predestined perfume. The remark about always having the poor is written in Deuteronomy 15:11, but here the emphasis is not on them; Jesus wouldn't be around with the disciples in the same way for much longer. He had already been predicting His death, but none of them understood what He meant. Even now they don't seem to get it, but this is His point: the oil serves a special purpose in preparing for His death which is to come very shortly.

Now, picture yourself as a disciple after the death of Christ. Could this story not have been a source of comfort to you? Lazarus had been dead, but now he's alive. Jesus had predicted His death (He had even prepared for it at Simon's house); He will also live! And if He lives then so will we! And many Jewish people realised that he was there: and they came not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might see Lazarus also, whom he had raised from the dead. Again, it's stressed that Lazarus had been dead. When the people see Lazarus walking round they would believe in Christ. But the chief priests consulted that they might put Lazarus also to death; you see Lazarus makes their problem worse, so they make secret plans to kill an innocent man. If they can give the people a dead Jesus and a dead Lazarus then the people will stop believing, they hope.

Let's close with some observations:

This passage shows us a little about worship It is the result of grace and new life. Mary gave something valuable and didn't think it was a loss to pour out the oil, as it was directed at Christ specifically. This passage also shows us a little about fellowship the one who had been given new life was there eating with Christ. Think of how often eating is compared to loving fellowship in the New Testament and in our own community. This passage shows us a little about hypocrisy Judas and those priests were so hypocritical, but they were known by God and used by Him. In the end they were revealed so everyone would know.

Finally this passage shows us a little about hope, when Jesus was on the cross His enemies said it was a real shame that He could save others but not Himself. But you know what? Jesus did save Himself! He was raised from the dead. Lazarus was just a little taste of what Jesus was going to do. He was ready for the grave and He knew He would overcome it. Now, if Christ rose, so shall we! What comfort and hope! Amen.

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A Statement of Christian Belief

We profess of Christian faith into which we were baptised:

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
the source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

All We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

All This is our faith.

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

Prayers of intercession

These prayers are inspired by 'the High-Priestly prayer' which Jesus prayed on the first Maundy Thursday. John's Gospel records them in chapters 13–17.

This Holy Monday, we remember Jesus interceding for the world. He prayed, 'I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father' (*John 14:31*). We pray for the whole world to believe in God.

Lord in your mercy

All Hear our prayer

This Holy Monday, we remember Jesus interceding for his disciples. He prayed, 'By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another' (*John 13:35*). We pray for the unity of the Church.

Lord in your mercy

All Hear our prayer

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This Holy Monday, we remember Jesus interceding for those uncertain how to find God. He prayed, 'No one comes to the Father except through me; if you know me, you will know my Father also' (*John 14:6*). We pray for those seeking meaning in their lives.

Lord in your mercy

All Hear our prayer

This Holy Monday, we remember Jesus interceding for those in need. He prayed 'Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid' (*John 14:27*). We pray for the people we know.

Lord in your mercy

All Hear our prayer

This Holy Monday, we remember Jesus interceding for those who want to grow in faith. He prayed 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you' (*John 15:12*). We pray for the people we love.

Lord in your mercy

All Hear our prayer

We gather together all these prayers using the words that Jesus himself taught us:

**All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

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The Peace

The Lord Jesus Christ said to his Apostles,
'My peace I leave you, my peace I give you.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you.

HYMN 4 How deep the Father's love for us ([click on this link to hear the hymn](#))

The conclusion and dismissal

**All Eternal God,
giver of love and life,
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us
into all the world
to preach the gospel of the Kingdom.
Confirm us in his mission,
and help us to live the good news we proclaim,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

O Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of the living God,
set your passion, cross and death
between your judgement and our souls,
now and in the hour of our death.

Grant mercy and grace to the living,
rest to the departed,
to your Church peace and concord
and to us sinners forgiveness;

and the blessing of God the Almighty,
Father Son and Holy Spirit,
be with us and remain with us always.

All Amen

HYMN 5 Amazing grace! ([please click on this link to hear the hymn](#))

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

All In the name of Christ. Amen

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