

# ST HILDA'S ASHFORD



**GOOD FRIDAY 29 MARCH 2024**

**THE CROSS OF CHRIST**

**A DEVOTION FOR CONGREGATION AND CHOIR**

## THE GATHERING

*All stand; the minister enters in silence.*

*A large, plain cross is carried in silence to a prominent central location*

This is the wood of the cross,  
on which hung the Saviour of the world.

**All Come, let us adore him.**

On the cross, Jesus offered himself to the Father for the  
whole world.

At the foot of his cross, we join our prayers with his.

We glory in your cross, O Lord,  
and praise and glorify your holy resurrection:

**All for by virtue of the cross,  
joy has come to the whole world.**

God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face to shine upon us,

**All that your way may be known upon earth,  
your saving power among all nations.**

We glory in your cross, O Lord  
and praise and glorify your holy resurrection:

**All for by virtue of the cross,  
joy has come to the whole world,**

Almighty Father,  
look with mercy on this your family  
for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed  
and given up into the hands of sinners  
and to suffer death upon the cross;  
who is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

O Saviour of the world,  
who by your cross and precious blood have redeemed us,  
**All save us and help us, we humbly pray**

**Hymn:**

**There is a green hill far away,  
Without a cry 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 heav'n and let us in.**

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

*[Mrs. C. F. Alexander, 1818–1895]*

1 **THE CROSS IS FORETOLD:** Isaiah 53 vv 3-8

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

*After the reading*

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM:** *Is it nothing to you*

[*Music: FA Gore Ouseley (1825-1889)*]

**Hymn:**

**Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle,  
Sing the last, the dread affray;  
O'er the cross, the victor's trophy,  
Sound the high triumphal lay,  
How, the pains of death enduring,  
Earth's redeemer won the day.**

**When at length the appointed fulness  
Of the sacred time was come,  
He was sent, the world's creator,  
From the Father's heavenly home,  
And was found in human fashion,  
Offspring of the virgin's womb.**

**Now the thirty years are ended  
Which on earth he willed to see,  
Willingly he meets his passion,  
Born to set his people free;  
On the cross the Lamb is lifted,  
There the sacrifice to be.**

**There the nails and spear he suffers,  
Vinegar and gall and reed;  
From his sacred body piercèd  
Blood and water both proceed:  
Precious flood, which all creation  
From the stain of sin hath freed.**

[*French traditional carol*

*Pange lingua gloriosi praelium certaminis*

*Vanantius Honorius Clementianus Fortunatus (c.530-609)*

*Translated by John M Neale (1818-1866) and others ]*

## 2 JESUS IS BETRAYED: Mark 14 vv 32-50

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I pray.' He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.' And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, 'Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.' He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, 'Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.' And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them, 'Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.'

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, 'The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.' So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, 'Rabbi!' and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them, 'Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a

bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled.' All of them deserted him and fled.

*After the reading*

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM:** *Lord for thy tender mercy's sake*

*[Words: from Lydney's Prayers 1568*

*Music: John Hilton, the elder (1560-1608)]*

**Hymn:**

**Be thou my guardian and my guide,  
And hear me when I call;  
Let not my slippery footsteps slide,  
And hold me lest I fall.**

**The world, the flesh, and Satan dwell  
Around the path I tread;  
O, save me from the snares of hell,  
thou quickener of the dead.**

**And if I tempted am to sin,  
And outward things are strong,  
Do thou, O Lord, keep watch within,  
And save my soul from wrong.**

**Still let me ever watch and pray,  
And feel that I am frail;  
That if the tempter cross my way,  
Yet he may not prevail.**

*[Isaac Williams (1802-1865)]*

### 3 JESUS IS TRIED BEFORE THE JEWISH HIGH PRIEST:

Matthew 26 vv 57-68

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said, 'This fellow said, "I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days."' The high priest stood up and said, 'Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?' But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, 'I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.' Jesus said to him, 'You have said so. But I tell you,

From now on you will see the Son of Man  
seated at the right hand of Power  
and coming on the clouds of heaven.'

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, 'He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?' They answered, 'He deserves death.' Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying, 'Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?'

*After the reading*

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**



**CHOIR ANTHEM: *O Lord who dares to smite thee***

*[Music: J S Bach (1685-1750)  
Chorale from St Matthew's Passion]*

**Hymn:**

**My God, I love thee; not because  
I hope for heaven thereby,  
Nor yet because who love thee not  
Are lost eternally.**

**Thou, O my Jesus, thou didst me  
Upon the cross embrace;  
For me didst bear the nails and spear,  
And manifold disgrace.**

**And griefs and torments numberless,  
And sweat of agony;  
Yea, death itself; and all for me  
Who was thine enemy.**

**Then why, O blessèd Jesu Christ  
Should I not love thee well?  
Not for the hope of winning heaven,  
Nor of escaping hell.**

**Not from the hope of gaining aught,  
Not seeking a reward,  
But as thyself hast lovèd me,  
O ever-loving Lord!**

**E'en so I love thee, and will love,  
And in thy praise will sing,  
Solely because thou art my God,  
And my eternal King.**

*[No me mueve, mi Dios, para querieste O Deus, ego amo te  
tr Edward Caswall (1814-1878)]*

#### **4 JESUS IS TRIED BEFORE PILATE: Matthew 27 vv 11-31**

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus said, 'You say so.' But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, 'Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?' But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?' For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him, 'Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.' Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' And they said, 'Barabbas.' Pilate said to them, 'Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?' All of them said, 'Let him be crucified!' Then he asked, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Let him be crucified!'

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, 'I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.' Then the people as a whole answered, 'His blood be on us and on our children!'

So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

*After the reading*

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,

**All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM:** *Ah Holy Jesu*

*[Music Johann Cruger (1598-1662)]*

**Hymn:**

**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.

They rise and needs will have  
My dear Lord made away;  
A murderer they save,  
The Prince of Life they slay.  
Yet cheerful he  
To suffering goes  
That he his foes  
From thence might free.

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 (1624-1684) Music © 1924 John Ireland Trust]*

**5 JESUS IS CRUCIFIED: Matthew 27 vv 33-44**

And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.'

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, 'You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.' In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, "I am God's Son."' The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

*After the reading*

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,

**All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

**Choir Anthem:** *Jesu Word of God Incarnate (Ave Verum Corpus)*

*[Words Latin 14th Century*

*Music: WA Mozart (1756-1791)]*

**Hymn:**

**O sacred head, sore wounded,  
Defiled and put to scorn;  
O kingly head, surrounded  
With mocking crown of thorn;  
What sorrow mars thy grandeur?  
Can death thy bloom deflower?  
O countenance whose splendour  
The hosts of heaven adore!**

**I pray thee, Jesus, own me,  
Me, Shepherd good, for thine;  
Who to thy fold hast won me,  
And fed with truth divine.**

**Me guilty, me refuse not,  
Incline thy face to me,  
This comfort that I lose not,  
On earth to comfort thee**

*[Passion Chorale Music: HL Hassler (1564-1612)*

*O Haupt vol Blut und Wunden Paulus Gerhardt (1607-1676)*

*Attributed after Arnuf von Loewen (1200-1250)*

*Translated Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930)]*

## 6 JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS: Mark 15 vv 33-39

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.' And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.' Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

*After the reading*

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,

**All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

**Choir Anthem:** *O Saviour of the world*

*[Words: Collect for the Visitation of the Sick  
Music: John Goss (1800-1880)]*

Hymn:

O dearest Lord, thy sacred head  
With thorns was pierced for me;  
O pour thy blessing on my head  
That I may think for thee.

O dearest Lord, thy sacred hands  
With nails were pierced for me;  
O shed thy blessing on my hands  
That they may work for thee.

O dearest Lord, thy sacred feet  
With nails were pierced for me;  
O pour thy blessing on my feet  
That they may follow thee.

O dearest Lord, thy sacred heart  
With spear was pierced for me;  
O pour thy Spirit in my heart  
That I may live for thee.

*[Music: Vincent Novello (1781-1861)  
Henry Ernest Hardy (Father Andrew) (1869-1964)  
c.Mowbray/Cassell plc]*

*Remain standing*

Let us pray

*Silence is kept*

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,  
who at this evening hour lay in the tomb  
and so hallowed the grave  
to be a bed of hope for all who put their trust in you:  
give us such sorrow for our sins,  
which were the cause of your passion,  
that when our bodies lie in the dust,  
our souls may live with you for ever. **Amen**



*Sit*

**7 CHRIST TRIUMPHANT:** Philippians 2 vv 5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

*After the reading*

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

**Hymn:**

**Praise to the Holiest in the height,  
And in the depth be praise;  
In all his words most wonderful,  
Most sure in all his ways.**

**O loving wisdom of our God!  
When all was sin and shame,  
A second Adam to the fight  
And to the rescue came.**

**O wisest love! that flesh and blood,  
Which did in Adam fail,  
Should strive afresh against the foe,  
Should strive and should prevail;**

**And that a higher gift than grace  
Should flesh and blood refine,  
God's presence and his very self,  
And essence all divine.**

**O generous love! that he, who smote  
In Man for man the foe,  
The double agony in Man  
For man should undergo;**

**And in the garden secretly,  
And on the cross on high,  
Should teach his brethren, and inspire  
To suffer and to die.**

**Praise to the Holiest in the height,  
And in the depth be praise;  
In all his words most wonderful,  
Most sure in all his ways.**

*[Words: Cardinal J. H. Newman Music: J B Dykes (1823-1876)]*

## THE CONCLUSION

*Remain standing*

O Lord Jesus Christ  
Son of the living God,  
set your passion, cross and death  
between your judgment 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 everlasting life and glory;  
for, with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
you are alive and reign,  
God now and for ever.

**All Amen**

May the Father,  
who so loved the world that he gave his only Son,  
bring you by faith to his eternal life

**All Amen**

May Christ,  
who accepted the cup of sacrifice  
in obedience to the Father's will,  
keep you steadfast as you walk with him the way of his  
cross

**All Amen**

May the Spirit,  
who strengthens us to suffer with Christ  
that we may share his glory,  
set your minds on life and peace.

**All Amen**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always

**All Amen**

**Hymn: 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;  
The very things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to 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?**

**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.**

*[Music adapted by Edward Miller (1731-1807)  
Isaac Watts (1674-1748)]*

*Remain standing*

*The Choir leaves in silence.*

*The Minister remains to lead us in an hour of reflection and  
devotion on The Crowds Who Followed Jesus.*

*In the third hour we will end with the liturgy of Good Friday.*