



Saint Matthew's Church
Big Lamp ~ Summerhill Street
Newcastle

Text of the Mass for Holy Wednesday (1st April) 2026

As the priest enters the church, the following is sung:

1. There is a green hill far away,
Without a city wall,
Where the dear Lord was crucified
Who died to save us all.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. There was none other good enough
To pay the price of sin;
He only could unlock the gate
Of Heaven, and let us in.

5. O, dearly, dearly has He loved,
And we must love Him too,
And trust in His redeeming Blood,
And try His works to do.

Words: Mrs CF Alexander 1818 - 95

Music: Horsley

W Horsley 1774 - 1858

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

God shows His love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Let us then show our love for Him by confessing our sins in penitence and faith:

Wash us thoroughly from our wickedness and cleanse us from our sins:
Kyrie eleison ... [Kyrie eleison..](#)

Create in us a clean heart, O Lord, and renew a right spirit within us:
Christe eleison ... [Christe eleison.](#)

Cast us not away from Your Presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from us: Kyrie eleison ... [Kyrie eleison.](#)

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon *you*,
pardon and deliver *you* from all *your* sins,
confirm and strengthen *you* in all goodness,
and keep *you* in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
[Amen.](#)

*During the **Introit**, the Altar, the symbol of God's Presence, may be honoured with incense.*

Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on a Cross: therefore, to the glory of God the Father, Jesus Christ is Lord. Being found in human form, He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death: even death on a Cross. Therefore God also highly exalted Him: and gave Him the Name that is above every name. That at the Name of Jesus every knee should bend: in Heaven and earth and under the earth.

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And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord: to the glory of God the Father. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Defend me, Lord &c

Let us pray:

Lord God, Your Son our Saviour gave His Body to be whipped and turned His face for men to spit upon. Give Your servants grace to accept suffering for His sake, confident of the glory that shall be revealed through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who is alive and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God, throughout all ages, world without end.

Amen.

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him that is weary. Morning by morning he wakens, he wakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I turned not backward. I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I hid not my face from shame and spitting. For the Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been confounded; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me. Behold, the Lord GOD helps me; who will declare me guilty? Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

For your sake have I suffered reproach; ♦ shame has covered my face.

I have become a stranger to my kindred, ♦ an alien to my mother's children.

Zeal for your house has eaten me up; ♦ the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

Reproach has broken my heart; I am full of heaviness. ♦ I looked for some to have pity, but there was no one, neither found I any to comfort me.

They gave me gall to eat, ♦ and when I was thirsty, they gave me vinegar to drink.

I will praise the name of God with a song; ♦ I will proclaim his greatness with thanksgiving.

The humble shall see and be glad; ♦ you who seek God, your heart shall live.

For the Lord listens to the needy, ♦ and his own who are imprisoned he does not despise.

The Gospel book is carried to the Lectern:

Praise to You, O Christ, King of eternal glory. Hail to You, our King: You alone have compassion on our sins. Praise to You, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Christ's Presence in the words of the Gospel may be honoured with incense.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What will you give me if I deliver him to you?" And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him. Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?"

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He said, "Go into the city to a certain one, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover. When it was evening, he sat at table with the twelve disciples; and as they were eating, he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." And they were very sorrowful, and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me, will betray me. The Son of man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born." Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Is it I, Master?" He said to him, "You have said so."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

[Praise be to Thee, O Christ.](#)

A homily may follow.

In these days when Christ prayed and entreated His Father in the anguish of His Passion, let us pray to the Lord, not trusting in our own good deeds, but in His power to save:

Loving Lord, come to the help of Your servants when they are weary and ground down, that their zeal for Your House may be renewed: Lord, in Your mercy ... [hear our prayer.](#)

Loving Lord, Whose Son offered His back to those who struck Him and His cheeks to those who tore at His beard, turn the hearts of those who oppress and persecute others to the law of love: Lord, in Your mercy ... [hear our prayer.](#)

Loving Lord, Whose friends abandoned Him in the night of His Passion, answer our prayers for the lonely who have become strangers to their family and friends: Lord, in Your mercy ... [hear our prayer.](#)

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Loving Lord, hear the cries of the needy and those in chains of anxiety and grief, suffering and condemnation, that they may feel the power of Your compassion and consolation: Lord, in Your mercy ... [hear our prayer](#).

Loving Lord, Your Son's time is near; receive into Your Kingdom all who have followed Him through the gate of death: Lord, in Your mercy ... [hear our prayer](#).

In union with our Lady, Saint Matthew, Saint Philip, Saint Augustine and all the saints, we ask that Your compassion for us shall fill us with hope and a new purpose in life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
[Amen](#).

Once we were afar off, but now in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near by the shedding of Christ's Blood.
The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
[And with thy spirit](#).

As the bread and wine are brought to the Altar and prepared for the Mass, the following is sung:

[Who thinks he has a case against me? Let him approach me. The Lord is coming to my help, who dare condemn me?](#)

[Let us here who represent Cherubim guards around God's throne, As they cry out their thrice holy hymn, Praising the life-giving Trinity, Lay aside all earthly care. Borne by the power of angels' wings To His people now comes the King of kings. Miserere, miserere, miserere nobis.](#)

1. 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.

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

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

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

5. O generous love! That He Who smote
In man for man the foe,
The double agony in Man
For man should undergo.

6. And in the garden secretly,
And on the Cross on high,
Should teach His brethren, and inspire
To suffer and to die.

7. 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: S John Henry Newman 1801 - 90
Music: Gerontius
JB Dykes 1823 - 76

The preparation of the Altar continues; incense may be used to honour the place where Christ will become present. At the end:

Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty. All that is in Heaven and earth is Thine:

All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own do we give Thee.

God of mercy and compassion, Whose Word calls us home to faith and love, receive our Sacrifice this day and strengthen us in Your service, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The priest begins the great prayer of thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Lift up your hearts;

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

It is meet and right so to do.

It is indeed right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For as the time of his passion and resurrection draws near
the whole world is called to acknowledge his hidden majesty.

The power of the life-giving cross
reveals the judgement that has come upon the world
and the triumph of Christ crucified.

He is the victim who dies no more,
the Lamb once slain, who lives for ever,
our advocate in heaven to plead our cause,
exalting us there to join with angels and archangels,
for ever praising you and *saying*:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord most high.

+ Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his Apostles
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

The priest holds up the consecrated Host for the people to see.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

The priest holds up the chalice of consecrated wine for the people to see.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Lord, by Your Cross and Resurrection, You have set us free; You are
the Saviour of the world.

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Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.
Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with [*N and*] all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
By Whom and with Whom and in Whom,
Amen,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
Amen,
all honour and glory are Yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Let us ask God to forgive us our sins and bring us to forgive those who
sin against us:
Our Father,
Who art in Heaven,
hallowed by 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.

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us Thy peace.

The priest holds up the consecrated elements and invites people to receive Holy Communion:

+ Behold the Lamb of God; behold Him, Who takes away the sin of the world; happy are they who are called to His Supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive You; but only say the Word and my soul will be healed.

I know I shall not be put to shame: the Lord comes to my help, my Vindicator is here at hand.

Holy Communion follows.

1. Drop, drop, slow tears,
And bathe those beauteous feet,
Which brought from Heaven
The news and Prince of peace.

2. Cast not, wet eyes,
His mercies to entreat;
To cry for vengeance
Sin doth never cease.

3. In Your deep floods
Drown all my faults and fears;
Nor let His eye
See sin, but through my tears.

Words: Phineas Fletcher 1582 - 1650

Music: Song 46

First Strain of Song 46

Orland Gibbons 1583 - 1625

After Holy Communion:

The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for the many.

Let us pray:

God of glory, may our worship this day fix the eyes of our faith on Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfecter of our new humanity, Who is seated at the right hand of Your throne, now and for ever.

Amen.

Notices may follow.

Christ crucified draw you to Himself to find in Him a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope and the assurance of sins forgiven; and the + blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The Mass is ended. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the Name of Christ. Amen.

Salve, Regina, Mater misericordiæ, vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra, salve. Ad te clamamus exsules filii Hevæ, Ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes in hac lacrimarum valle. Eia, ergo, advocata nostra, illos tuos misericordes oculos ad nos converte; Et Jesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui, nobis post hoc exilium ostende. O clemens, O pia, O dulcis Virgo Maria.

[O, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, Hail our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, Poor banished children of Eve; To thee do we send up our sighs, Mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, Thine eyes of mercy toward us; And after this our exile, Show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.]

1. It is a thing most wonderful,
Almost too wonderful to be,
That God's own Son should come from Heaven,
And die to save a child like me.

2. And yet I know that it is true:
He chose a poor and humble lot,
And wept and toiled and mourned and died
For love of those who loved Him not.

3. But even could I see Him die,
I could but see a little part
Of that great love, which like a fire,
Is always burning in His Heart.

4. It is most wonderful to know
His love for me so free and sure;
But 'tis more wonderful to see
My love for Him so faint and poor.

5. And yet I want to love Thee, Lord;
O light the flame within my heart,
And I will love Thee more and more,
Until I see Thee as Thou art.

Words: W Walsham How 1823 - 97

Music: Herongate

Essex Folk Song arr by Ralph Vaughan Williams

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