



Saint Matthew's Church
Big Lamp ~ Summerhill Street
Newcastle

Solemn (First) Evensong and Benediction for the Feast of the Holy Cross (13th September) 2026

The angel of the Lord brought the tidings to Mary:

And she conceived by the Holy Ghost.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Behold the handmaid of the Lord:

Be it unto me according to Thy Word.

Hail Mary &c

The Word was made flesh:

And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary &c

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God:

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

Pour forth Your Grace into our hearts, we beseech You O Lord, that as we have known the Incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, by the message of an angel, so by His Cross and Passion, we may be brought to the glory of His Resurrection; in and through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

O Lord, open thou our lips.

And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

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.

Praise ye the Lord.

The Lord's Name be praised.

The royal banners forward go,
The Cross shines forth in mystic glow,
Where He in flesh, our flesh Who made,
Our sentence bore, our ransom paid.

Where deep for us the spear was dyed,
Life's torrent rushing from His side,
To wash us in that precious flood,
Where mingled water flowed and blood.

Fulfilled is all that David told
In true prophetic song of old,
The universal Lord is He,
Who reigns and triumphs from the Tree.

O Tree of beauty, Tree of Light,
O Tree with royal purples dight,
Elect on whose triumphal breast
Those holy limbs should find their rest!

On whose dear arms, so widely flung,
The weight of this world's ransom hung,
The price of humankind to pay
And spoil the spoiler of his prey.

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O Cross, our one reliance, hail!
So may thy power with us prevail
To give new virtue to the saint,
And pardon to the penitent.

To Thee, eternal Three in One,
Let homage meet by all be done:
Whom by Thy Cross Thou dost restore,
Preserve and govern evermore.

(66) O BE joyful in God, all ye lands : sing praises unto the honour
of his Name, make his praise to be glorious.

2 Say unto God, O how wonderful art thou in thy works : through the
greatness of thy power shall thine enemies be found liars unto thee.

3 For all the world shall worship thee : sing of thee, and praise thy
Name.

4 O come hither, and behold the works of God : how wonderful he is
in his doing toward the children of men.

5 He turned the sea into dry land : so that they went through the water
on foot; there did we rejoice thereof.

6 He ruleth with his power for ever; his eyes behold the people : and
such as will not believe shall not be able to exalt themselves.

7 O praise our God, ye people : and make the voice of his praise to be
heard;

8 Who holdeth our soul in life : and suffereth not our feet to slip.

9 For thou, O God, hast proved us : thou also hast tried us, like as
silver is tried.

10 Thou broughtest us into the snare : and laidest trouble upon our
loins.

11 Thou sufferedst men to ride over our heads : we went through fire
and water, and thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place.

12 I will go into thine house with burnt-offerings: and will pay thee
my vows, which I promised with my lips, and spake with my mouth,
when I was in trouble.

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13 I will offer unto thee fat burnt-sacrifices, with the incense of rams : I will offer bullocks and goats.

14 O come hither, and hearken, all ye that fear God : and I will tell you what he hath done for my soul.

15 I called unto him with my mouth : and gave him praises with my tongue.

16 If I incline unto wickedness with mine heart : the Lord will not hear me.

17 But God hath heard me : and considered the voice of my prayer.

18 Praised be God, who hath not cast out my prayer : nor turned his mercy from me.

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.

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Behold, my servant shall prosper, he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. As many were astonished at him -- his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the sons of men -- so shall he startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which has not been told them they shall see, and that which they have not heard they shall understand. Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or comeliness that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

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He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the LORD to bruise him; he has put him to grief; when he makes himself an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand; he shall see the fruit of the travail of his soul and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous; and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out his soul to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Here endeth the first lesson.

We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

Because by Thy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world;

We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;

We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

As the MAGNIFICAT is sung, the Presence of God (signified by the Altar) is honoured with incense.

O Cross, *exceedingly blessed, which, alone wast counted worthy to bear the Lord, the King of Heaven.*

MY soul doth magnify the Lord : and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

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For he hath regarded : the lowliness of his hand-maiden.
For behold, from henceforth : all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me : and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him : throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm : he hath scattered the proud in
the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat : and hath exalted the
humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things : and the rich he hath sent
empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel : as he
promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.
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.

O Cross, exceedingly blessed, which, alone wast counted worthy to
bear the Lord, the King of Heaven.

A Reading from the Letter to the Church in Ephesus.

Remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called the
uncircumcision by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the
flesh by hands -- remember that you were at that time separated from
Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the
covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.
But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought
near in the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who has made us both
one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing
in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might
create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace,
and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross,
thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And he came and preached
peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for
through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

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So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Here endeth the second lesson.

LORD, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace : according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen : thy salvation;

Which thou hast prepared : before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles : and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

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.

I BELIEVE in God

the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Catholick Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins;

The Resurrection of the body,

And the Life everlasting. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

OUR Father,

which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us;

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil. Amen.

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the King.

And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people.

And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us.

And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

Almighty God, Who in the Passion of Thy blessed Son hast made an instrument of painful death to be for us the means of life and peace: grant us so to glory in the Cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer for His sake, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the same Holy Ghost, God, throughout all ages, world without end.

Amen.

O GOD, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

[Amen.](#)

LIGHTEN our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

[Amen.](#)

The Lord be with you.

[And with thy spirit.](#)

Let us bless the Lord.

[Thanks be to God.](#)

May the souls of the departed, through the mercy and love of God, rest in peace.

[Amen.](#)

The Altar is prepared for Benediction during the hymn that precedes the Liturgy. A bell rings and the Sacrament is brought to the Altar.

The Head that once crowned with thorns
Is crowned with glory now;
A royal diadem adorns
The mighty Victor's brow.

The highest place that Heaven affords
Is His, is His by right,
The King of kings and Lord of lords
And Heaven's eternal light.

The joy of all who dwell above,
The joy all below,
To whom He manifests His love
And grants His Name to know.

To them the Cross, with all its shame,
With all its Grace is given:
Their name an everlasting name,
Their name the joy of Heaven.

They suffer with their Lord below,
They reign with Him above,
Their profit and their joy to know
The Mystery of His Love.

The Cross He bore is life and health,
Though shame and death to Him;
His people's hope, His people's wealth,
Their everlasting theme.

Words: Thomas Kelly 1769 - 1854
Music: S Magnus
Jeremiah Clarke 1673 - 1707

The Presence of Christ in the Sacrament is honoured with incense as the following hymn is sung:

O salutaris Hostia,
Quae caeli pandis ostium:
Bella premunt hostilia,
Da robur, fer auxilium.

*O saving Victim, opening wide
The gate of Heaven to man below, Our
foes press hard on every side, Thine aid
supply, Thy strength bestow.*

Uni trinoque Domino
Sit sempiterna gloria,
Qui vitam sine termino
Nobis donet in patria.
Amen.

*All praise and thanks to Thee ascend
For evermore, blest One in Three,
And grant us life that shall not end,
In our true native land with Thee.
Amen.*

A Period of silence follows.

Visita, quæsumus, Dómine,
habitatiónem istam, et omnes
insídias inimíci ab ea longe
repélle: Angeli tui sancti hábitent
in ea, qui nos in pace custódiant;
et benedíctio tua sit super nos
semper. Per Dóminum nostrum
Jesum Christum.

Amen.

*Visit, we beseech Thee, O Lord,
this dwelling and drive far from it
all assaults of the enemy; let Your
holy angels dwell herein that we
may be kept in peace and Your
blessing always rest upon us,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

Benedictus Deus.
Benedictum Nomen Sanctum eius
Benedictus Iesus Christus,
verus Deus et verus homo
Benedictum Nomen Iesu
Benedictus Iesus
in sanctissimo altaris Sacramento
Benedictus Sanctus Spiritus,
Paraclitus
Benedictus Deus in Angelis suis,
et in Sanctis suis

*Blessed be God.
Blessed be His holy Name.
Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God
and true man.
Blessed be the Name of Jesus.
Blessed be Jesus in the most holy
Sacrament of the Altar.
Blessed be the Holy Ghost,
the Paraclete.
Blessed be God
in His angels and in His saints.*

Sit	Benedicatus	laudatusque	<i>Blessed, praised, hallowed and</i>
sanctificatusque	et adoratus	Jesus	<i>adored be Jesus Christ on His</i>
Christus in cathedram gloriae	Suae.		<i>throne of glory.</i>
Et in sanctissimo altaris	Sacramento		<i>And in the most holy Sacrament</i>
			<i>of the Altar.</i>

The Presence of Christ is then honoured with incense again during the following hymn:

Tantum ergo Sacramentum	<i>Therefore, we before Him bending,</i>
Veneremur cernui:	<i>This great Sacrament revere;</i>
Et antiquum documentum	<i>Types and shadows have their ending,</i>
Novo cedat ritui:	<i>For the newer rite is here;</i>
Præstet fides supplementum	<i>Faith our outward sense befriending</i>
Sensuum defectui.	<i>Makes the inward vision clear.</i>
Genitori, Genitoque	<i>Glory let us give and blessing,</i>
ahojLaus et Jubilatio,	<i>To the Father and the Son,</i>
Salus, honor, virtus quoque	<i>Honour, might and praise addressing</i>
Sit et benedictio:	<i>While eternal ages run;</i>
Procedenti ab utroque	<i>Ever to His love confessing,</i>
Compar sit laudatio.	<i>Who from Both with Both is One.</i>
Amen.	<i>Amen.</i>

Panem do caelo praestitisti eis

*Thou gavest them Bread
from Heaven.
Containing in Itself all sweetness.*

Omne delectamentum
in se habentem.

Oremus:

Deus, qui nobis sub Sacramento
mirabili Passionis, mortisque et
Resurrectionis gloriosae tuae
memoriam reliquisti; tribue, ita
nos Corporis et Sanguinis tui sacra
mysteria venerari, ut redemptionis
tuae fructum in nobis iugiter
sentiamus: Qui vivis et regnas in
saecula saeculorum.

Amen.

Let us pray:

*O God, Who under a wonderful
Sacrament hast left unto us a
memorial of Thy wonderful
Passion and Death and glorious
Resurrection; grant us so to
venerate the Sacred Mysteries of
Thy Body and Blood that evermore
perceive within ourselves the fruit
of Your Redemption: Who lives
and reigns for ever and ever.*

Amen.

*The priest goes to the Altar and gives Benediction, during which a bell
rings three times.*

As the Sacrament is returned to the Tabernacle, all sing:

Adoremus in aeternum
sanctissimum Sacramentum.

*Let us adore for ever
the most holy Sacrament.*

Laudate Dominum omnes gentes :
laudate eum omnes populi.
Quoniam confirmata est super nos
misericordia ejus : et veritas
Domini manet in aeternum.
Gloria Patri et Filio : et Spiritui
Sancto;
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et
semper : et in saecula saeculorum.
Amen.

*O praise the Lord all ye nations,
praise Him all ye peoples. Let us
adore for ever the most holy
Sacrament.*

*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. Let us adore for ever the
most holy Sacrament.*

Adoremus &c

Adoremus &c