**United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross**

A person holding a tattoo

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Wednesday in Holy Week

2020

**The Gathering of God’s People**

**The Greeting**

Christ your light shall rise in the darkness and your healing shall spring up like the dawn.

The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with you all

**And also with you.**

**Opening Prayer**

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God, so may your mercy come down upon us to cleanse our hearts and set us free to sing your praise, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Opening Response**

Christ suffered and died for us.

**O come, let us worship**

**Hymn 218**

And can it be that I should gain

an interest in the Saviour’s blood?

Died he for me, who caused his pain;

for me, who him to death pursued?

Amazing love! how can it be

that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

He left his Father’s throne above –

so free, so infinite his grace –

emptied himself of all but love,

and bled for Adam’s helpless race.

‘Tis mercy all, immense and free;

for, O my God, it found out me!

Long my imprisoned spirit lay

fast bound in sin and nature’s night:

thine eye diffused a quickening ray –

I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;

my chains fell off, my heart was free.

I rose, went forth, and followed thee.

No condemnation now I dread;

Jesus, and all in him, is mine!

Alive in him, my living head,

and clothed in righteousness divine,

bold I approach the eternal throne,

and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

*Charles Wesley (1707-88)*

**Confession**

Lord Jesus Christ, we confess we have failed you as did your disciples.  We ask for your mercy and your help.

Our selfishness betrays you:

Lord forgive.

**Christ have mercy**

We fail to share the pain of your suffering

Lord forgive.

**Christ have mercy**

We run away from those who abuse you:

Lord forgive.

**Christ have mercy**

We are afraid of being known to belong to you:

Lord forgive.

**Christ have mercy**

**Absolution**

May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from your sins, and restore us in his service to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**The Collect of the Wednesday in Holy Week**

Lord God, whose blessed Son our Saviour gave his back to the smiters, and did not hide his face from shame: Give us grace to endure the sufferings of this present time, with sure confidence in the glory that shall be revealed; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Proclaiming God’s Word**

**Gospel Acclamation**

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory. Christ humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and given him the name that is above every name. *Philippians 2.8,9*

**Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory**

**The Reading**

*John 13.21-32*

**Bible Responsory**

O Lord, do not forsake me; be not far from me, O my God.

**O Lord, do not forsake me; be not far from me, O my God.**

Make haste to help me, O Lord of my salvation.

**Be not far from me, O my God.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**O Lord, do not forsake me; be not far from me, O my God.**

**Hymn 548**

Drop, drop, slow tears,

and bathe those beauteous feet,

which brought from heaven

the news and Prince of Peace.

Cease not, wet eyes,

his mercies to entreat;

to cry for vengeance

sin doth never cease.

In your deep floods

drown all my faults and fears;

not let his eye

see sin, but through my tears.

*Phineas Fletcher (1582-1650)*

**Receiving God’s Word**

**Thanksgiving for the Cross of Christ**

Blessed are you, Lord our God:

through your Son Jesus Christ you have known our pain and show us your mercy.

Surely he has borne our griefs;he has carried our sorrows.

**Surely he has borne our griefs; he has carried our sorrows.**

He was despised, he was rejected; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

**Surely he has borne our griefs; he has carried our sorrows.**

He was pierced for our sins, bruised for no fault but ours.

**Surely he has borne our griefs; he has carried our sorrows.**

His punishment has bought our peace, and by his wounds we are healed.

**Surely he has borne our griefs; he has carried our sorrows.**

We had all strayed like sheep, but the Lord has laid on him the guilt of us all.

**Surely he has borne our griefs; he has carried our sorrows.**

So, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we praise you forever, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**The Prayers**

Let us pray to the Father, who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son to give us life.

Simon from Cyrene was forced to carry the cross for your Son.  Give us grace to lift heavy loads off those we meet and to put ourselves with those condemned to die.

Lord, hear us

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Your Son watched the soldiers gamble to share his clothes.  Look with forgiveness on those who make a profit from their victims, and on those whose hearts may be hardened by their work.

Lord, hear us

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

The thief looked for a part in the coming of your kingdom, and received your Son's words of hope and comfort.  Give hope and reconciliation, healing and peace to all who look death in the face today.

Lord, hear us

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

In Mary and John your Son created a new family at the cross.  Fill our relationships, and those of new families today, with mutual care and responsibility, and give us a secure hope for the future.

Lord, hear us

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

The centurion was astonished to see your glory in the crucified Messiah.  Open the eyes of those who are not yet your people to see in your Son the meaning of life and death.

Lord, hear us

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Nicodemus came to take your Son's body away.  Give gentleness, hope and faith to all who minister to the dying and bereaved, and courage to those whose faith is secret.

Lord, hear us

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Simon and Nicodemus, Mary and John became part of your Church in Jerusalem.  May your Church today be filled with such different people, united by the cross, and celebrating our unity in your Son with all your saints in glory.

Lord of the Church,

**Hear our prayer,**

**and make us one in heart and mind**

**to serve you in Christ our Lord.  Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom,

and teach us to pray

*Our Father…*

**A General Collect**

May our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who for us was scourged, loaded with his cross, and crucified, bless us and keep us for evermore.

**Amen.**

**Hymn 244**

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.

Oh! 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  (Fanny) Alexander (1818 - 1895)

Based on Mark 15.22-24

**Going Out – Staying In - as God’s People**

**Praise**

God forbid that we should glory:

**save in the cross of Christ our Lord**

Galatians 6.14

**The Dismissal**

 Let us go in the name of Christ

**Thanks be to God**

**Art on Cover**

*Magdalene Anointing Jesus’ Feet* ~ Frank Wesley (1923-2002)

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