A SERVICE OF THE WORD  
FOR USE ON THE TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

Preparation

May the grace, healing and forgiveness  
 of the Lord be with you this Holy Week

and also with you.

O Saviour of the world,  
who by your cross and precious blood has redeemed us:  
save us and help us, we humbly pray.

*The presiding minister introduces the service with these or other suitable words*

We gather together this evening to continue our journey with the Lord through this Holy Week of our salvation. The Tuesday in Holy Week is often associated with that scene in the Gospels where a woman anoints Jesus with precious perfume, as though preparing him for his death and burial. This is a reminder to us, in this week of all weeks, that the great love of Jesus, in giving all for us, calls forth our love and devotion, and our offering of all that is of value to us, not least our hearts and lives.

*Silence*

Opening Hymn

Penitence

O God, you know my foolishness  
and my sins are not hidden from you.  
Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

Let not the flood overwhelm me  
nor the depths swallow me up:  
let not the pit shut its mouth upon me.  
Christ, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Hear me, O Lord, as your loving-kindness is good;  
turn to me, as your compassion is great.  
Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy[[1]](#footnote-1)

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us,  
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us,  
Jesus, Redeemer of the world, grant us peace.

The Collect of the Day

O God,  
who by the passion of your blessed Son  
made an instrument of shameful death  
to be for us the means of life:  
Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ  
that we may gladly suffer pain and loss  
for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ:  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God now and for ever. **Amen**

The Proclaiming and Receiving of the Word

*Psalm* 71:1-14

In you, O Lord, do I take refuge  
let me never be put to shame.

In your righteousness deliver me and set me free:  
incline your ear to me and save me.  
Be for me a stronghold to which I may ever resort:  
send out to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.  
Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked:  
from the grasp of the evildoer and the oppressor.

In you, O Lord, do I take refuge  
let me never be put to shame.

For you are my hope, O Lord God;  
my confidence, even from my youth.  
Upon you have I leaned from my birth,   
when you drew me from my mother’s womb:  
my praise shall be always of you.

In you, O Lord, do I take refuge  
let me never be put to shame.

I have become a portent to many:  
but you are my refuge and my strength.  
Let my mouth be full of your praise:  
and your glory all the day long.  
Do not cast me away in the time of old age:  
forsake me not when my strength fails.

In you, O Lord, do I take refuge  
let me never be out to shame.

For my enemies are talking against me:  
and those who lie in wait for my life take counsel together.  
They say ‘God has forsaken him; pursue him and take him:  
because there is none to deliver him’.

In you, O Lord, do I take refuge  
let me never be put to shame.

O God, be not far from me:  
come quickly to help me, O my God.  
Let those who are against me be put to shame and disgrace:  
let those who seek to do me evil be covered with scorn and reproach,  
But as for me, I will hope continually:  
and will praise you more and more.#

In you, O Lord, do I take refuge  
let me never be put to shame.

Bible Reading

*Canticle* The Song of Isaiah

Surely God is my salvation:  
I will trust and will not be afraid.  
For the Lord God is my strength and my might;  
he has become my salvation.  
With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation:  
and you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;  
make known his deeds among the nations:  
proclaim that his name is exalted.  
Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously:  
let this be known in all the earth.  
Shout aloud and sing for joy, O Royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

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.

Sermon

The Response

*(hymn, reflective solo or instru*m*ental music)*

Scriptural Affirmation of Faith  
 1 Peter 2:21b-25

Christ suffered for us, leaving us an example,  
that we should follow in his steps.  
He committed no sin, no guile was found on his lips,  
when he was reviled, he did not revile in turn.  
when he suffered, he did not threaten,  
but he trusted himself to God, who judges justly.  
Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the tree,  
that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.  
By his wounds we have been healed, for we were straying like sheep,  
but have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of our souls.

The Prayers  
(see p.)

The Lord’s Prayer

Closing Hymn

Blessing

Christ draw you to himself  
and grant that you find in his cross  
a sure ground for faith,  
a firm support for hope,  
and the assurance of sins forgiven;

And the blessing…..

1. *Times and Seasons* p.260 (B1) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)