



HYMN: ICH 226*

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.

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.

And yet I know that 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.

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) based on Romans 5:8

Tune: HERONGATE English traditional melody (Essex) coll. And arr. R. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

OPENING RESPONSES:

O Lord, open thou our lips
and our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

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 Spirit;
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.

PSALM: 143

Hear my prayer, O Lord, and consider my desire:

hearken unto me for thy truth and righteousness' sake.

And enter not into judgement with thy servant:

for in thy sight shall no man living be justified.

For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath smitten my life down to the ground:

he hath laid me in the darkness, as the men that have been long dead.

Therefore is my spirit vexed within me:

and my heart within me is desolate.

Yet do I remember the time past; I muse upon all thy works:

yea, I exercise myself in the works of thy hands.

I stretch forth my hands unto thee:

my soul gaspeth unto thee as a thirsty land.

Hear me, O Lord, and that soon, for my spirit waxeth faint:

hide not thy face from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit.

O let me hear thy loving-kindness betimes in the morning, for in thee is my trust:

shew thou me the way that I should walk in, for I lift up my soul unto thee.

Deliver me, O Lord, from mine enemies:

for I flee unto thee to hide me.

Teach me to do the thing that pleaseth thee, for thou art my God:
let thy loving Spirit lead me forth into the land of righteousness.
Quicken me, O Lord, for thy Name's sake:
and for thy righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble.
And of thy goodness slay mine enemies:
and destroy all them that vex my soul; for I am thy servant.

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.

FIRST LESSON: Lamentations 3:19-33

The thought of my affliction and my homelessness
is wormwood and gall!

My soul continually thinks of it
and is bowed down within me.

But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

'The LORD is my portion,' says my soul,
'therefore I will hope in him.'

The LORD is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul that seeks him.

It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD.

It is good for one to bear
the yoke in youth,
to sit alone in silence
when the Lord has imposed it,
to put one's mouth to the dust
(there may yet be hope),
to give one's cheek to the smiter,
and be filled with insults.

For the Lord will not
reject for ever.

Although he causes grief, he will have compassion
according to the abundance of his steadfast love;
for he does not willingly afflict
or grieve anyone.

THE CANTICLE MAGNIFICAT:

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

For he hath regarded:
the lowliness of his handmaiden.

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.

SECOND READING: Matthew 20:17-34

While Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside by themselves, and said to them on the way, 'See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified; and on the third day he will be raised.'

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favour of him. And he said to her, 'What do you want?' She said to him, 'Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.' But Jesus answered, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?' They said to him, 'We are able.' He said to them, 'You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.'

When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to him and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

As they were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. There were two blind men sitting by the roadside. When they heard that Jesus was passing by, they shouted, 'Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!' The crowd sternly ordered them to be quiet; but they shouted even more loudly, 'Have mercy on us, Lord, Son of David!' Jesus stood still and called them, saying, 'What do you want me to do for you?' They said to him, 'Lord, let our eyes be opened.' Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes. Immediately they regained their sight and followed him.

THE CANTICLE NUNC DIMITTIS:

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.

THE APOSTLES' CREED:

**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 Spirit,
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 Spirit,
the holy catholic 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, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be 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. Amen.**

○ Lord, show thy mercy upon us
and grant us thy salvation.

○ Lord, save the Queen
and mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness
and make thy chosen people joyful.

○ Lord, save thy people
and bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, ○ Lord,
because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, ○ God.

○ God, make clean our hearts within us
and take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

COLLECT OF THE DAY:

We beseech thee, Almighty god, look upon the hearty desires of thy humble servants, and stretch forth the right hand of thy Majesty, to be our defence against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

LENTEN COLLECT:

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent; Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PEACE:

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.**

COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST ALL PERILS:

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.**

PRAYERS

Loving Lord Jesus, when you took up your cross for our sakes and carried it to Golgotha, you did it in the sight of multitudes, and yet alone. Help us to be ready to deny ourselves and to carry our cross as those crucified with you, but never alone, for you live in us. In the darkest hours reassure us that the life we live in the body we live by faith in you, the Son of God; for you love us and gave yourself for us, who praise your holy name.

Christ, born in a stable, give courage to the homeless. Christ, who fled to Egypt, comfort the refugee. Christ, who fasted in the desert, have mercy on the hungry. Christ, who hung in torture on the cross, pity those in pain. Christ, who died to save us, forgive our sin, our greed, our selfishness, our unconcern. Save us today, and use us in your loving purpose.

Lord, we pray for all whose homes have been darkened by Coronavirus, and also for those whose faith has been shaken; for those who stand bewildered and fearful in the midst our certainty; for the afflicted, the bereaved and the vulnerable. We commend to your grace all who are seeking to help and heal the suffering, and to comfort and calm the bereaved. From you alone can come the word that will lift us above our darkness; answer, O Lord, the questions in our minds, and assure us that, though illness is not of your will, you are present with us in our suffering and sorrow, and can enable us to find purpose, hope and peace again.

We thank you, O Lord, for bringing us safely to the end of another day; for protecting us from accident and illness; and for providing us with all our daily needs. We thank you for the gift of sleep, and we ask that you will use it tonight to refresh us in mind, body and spirit, and to prepare us for all that tomorrow holds in store. Finally, we commend to you all those who this night will enjoy little or no sleep- those who work while we rest; those responsible for our health and security; and those who are kept awake through the long hours of darkness by pain, anxiety, or sorrow. O Lord, in blessing us, bless them also, and may your peace guard their hearts and minds, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Holy Spirit, promised Counsellor, we pray at this time of stress and anxiety for those who are called to the ministry of nurse, doctor, or hospital administrator, and also for those who, without special training, bear heavy burdens at home in caring for the ill and elderly. We remember those who have to manage somehow on their own, and ask your blessing on all the ordinary folk who are good neighbours and friends in need. Draw us closer in bonds of loving care and Christian compassion, and help us to see and respond to need around us. In the bearing, and alleviating, of human pain may the Father's will be done, the Father's love be known, and the Father's grace be mighty to help; through Jesus Christ, his Son, our Lord.

A PRAYER OF ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

THE GRACE

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

HYMN: ICH 72*

**Sun of my soul, thou Saviour dear,
it is not night if thou be near;
O may no earth-born cloud arise
to hide thee from thy servant's eyes.**

**When the soft dews of kindly sleep
my wearied eyelids gently steep,
be my last thought, how sweet to rest
for ever on my Saviour's breast.**

**Watch by the sick; enrich the poor
with blessings from thy boundless store;
be every mourner's sleep tonight,
like infant's slumbers, pure and light.**

**Come near and bless us when we wake,
ere through the world our way we take;
till in the ocean of thy love
we lose ourselves in heaven above.**

Words: John Keble (1792-1866)

Tune: ABENDS H.S. Oakley (1830-1903) written for the (Irish) Church Hymnal (1874)

THE BLESSING

May the peace of God which passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

THE CLOSING RESPONSES

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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Belfast Cathedral Closure

We regret that, due to current restrictions as a result of the Covid-19 virus, Belfast Cathedral is closed to services, tourism, events and as a public gathering venue.

However, please continue to watch the cathedral website (www.belfastcathedral.org) or our Facebook Page "Belfast Cathedral" for up to date news and online prayer resources.

Daily prayers relating to the Covid-19 outbreak from the Corrymeela Community can be found on the following webpage:

https://www.corrymeela.org/news/180/prayers-for-community-in-a?fbclid=IwAR3ILx4ZCuZEm-cFkOs3vX-5m_67QSzusrVgxRHHL2n9DOquegAhIRdWdo