

# Thursday 22nd April 2021

## Giving as Sacrifice

### ¶ PREPARATION

O Lord, open our lips

**and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

We lift our voices to boast of our Lord Jesus Christ

**through whom comes the salvation of the world.**

Recalling his sacrifice in love,

**let us meet him in this place.**

Blessed are you, Sovereign God, overflowing in love.

Your Son gave us a new commandment

that we should love one another as he love us.

In the path of suffering, his perfect sacrifice reveals to us  
the purest expression of grace and love.

On a hill of darkness he carried that judgement for the world:

greater love has no one than this,

to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Blessed are you, Sovereign God, redeemer of the world.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

*This opening prayer may be said;*

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;

let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept.*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,  
so may the light of your presence, O God,  
ste our hearts on fire with love for you;  
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

### ¶ THE WORD OF GOD

Psalmody: Psalm 40.1-11

**Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God.**

- 1 I waited patiently for the Lord;  
he inclined to me and heard my cry.
- 2 He brought me out of the roaring pit,  
out of the mire and clay;  
he set my feet upon a rock and made my footing sure.
- 3 He has put a new song in my mouth,  
a song of praise to our God;  
many shall see and fear  
and put their trust in the Lord.
- 4 Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,  
who does not turn to the proud that follow a lie.
- 5 Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God.  
How great your designs for us!  
There is none that can be compared with you.
- 6 If I were to proclaim them and tell of them  
they would be more than I am able to express.
- 7 Sacrifice and offering you do not desire  
but my ears you have opened;
- 8 Burnt offering and sacrifice for sin you have not required;  
then said I: 'Lo, I come.
- 9 'In the scroll of the book it is written of me

- that I should do your will, O my God;  
I delight to do it: your law is within my heart.’
- 10 I have declared your righteousness in the great congregation;  
behold, I did not restrain my lips,  
and that, O Lord, you know.
- 11 Your righteousness I have not hidden in my heart;  
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;  
I have not concealed your loving-kindness and truth  
from the great congregation.

**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.**

**Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God.**

### Canticle: A Song of Christ the Servant

**Let us return to the Shepherd and Guardian of our souls.**

- 1 Christ suffered for you leaving you an example:  
that you should follow in his steps.
- 2 Christ committed no sin, no guile was found on his lips:  
when he was reviled, he did not revile in turn.
- 3 When he suffered, he did not threaten:  
but he trusted in God who judges justly.
- 4 Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the tree:  
that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.
- 5 By his wounds you have been healed,  
for you were straying like sheep:  
but have now returned  
to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

**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.**

**Let us return to the Shepherd and Guardian of our souls.**

### Scripture Reading

When the hour came, Jesus took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, ‘I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.’ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, ‘Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.’ Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.’

*Luke 22.14-23*

### Responsory

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,  
**so that everyone who believes in him  
may not perish but have eternal life.**  
God sent his Son into the world  
that the world might be saved through him.  
**God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.**  
No one takes his life from him,  
the Son lays down his life of his own accord.

**God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him  
may not perish but have eternal life.**

*from John 3.16; 10.18*

## Gospel Canticle

**God's love for us is revealed  
in that, while we were yet sinners,  
Christ died for us.**

- 1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,  
who has come to his people and set them free.
- 2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,  
born of the house of his servant David.
- 3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old  
to save us from our enemies,  
from the hands of all that hate us,
- 4 To show mercy to our ancestors,  
and to remember his holy covenant.
- 5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
- 6 Free to worship him without fear,  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.
- 7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
- 8 To give his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of all their sins.
- 9 In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

- 10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

*Luke 1.68-79*

**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.**

**God's love for us is revealed  
in that, while we were yet sinners,  
Christ died for us.**

## PRAYERS

*Intercessions are offered, and may conclude;*

Eternal God,  
in the cross of Jesus  
we see the cost of our sin  
and the depth of your love:  
in humble hope and fear  
may we place at his feet  
all that we have and all that we are,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Kneeling at the foot of the cross  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray  
**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## **¶ THE CONCLUSION**

Guide us in your ways, O Lord,  
and may our sacrifice of praise  
be worthy in your sight,  
to the glory of your Son,  
our Saviour and Redeemer.  
**Amen.**

The God of love, who gave his only Son,  
bless us and keep us.  
**Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**