

A Short Act of Worship, Sunday 21 March 2021

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with us all.

This is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son.
He is the sacrifice for our sins, that we might live through him.
If God loves us so much, we ought to love one another.
If we love one another God lives in us.

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.
Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy spirit from me.

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.

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

God's Word:

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

(John 12: 20-26)

Take a few moments of silence to think about these words.

*Now is eternal life, if risen with Christ we stand,
In him to life reborn, and holden in his hand;
No more we fear death's ancient dread, in Christ arisen from the dead.*

*Man long in bondage lay, brooding o'er life's brief span;
Was it, O God, for nought, for nought, thou madest man?
Thou art our hope, our vital breath; shall hope undying in death?*

*And God, the living God, stooped down to man's estate;
By death destroying death, Christ opened wide life's gate.
He lives, who died; he reigns on high; who lives in him shall never die.*

*Unfathomed love divine, reign thou within my heart;
From thee nor depth nor height, nor life nor death can part;
My life is hid in God with thee, now and through all eternity.*

Our prayers

With confidence and trust let us pray to the Father.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel to the ends of the earth.

For peace in the world ... that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow among nations and peoples.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer ... for refugees, prisoners, and all in danger; that they may be relieved and protected.

For those whom we have injured or offended
and for grace to amend our lives and to further the reign of God.

In communion with all those who have walked in the way of holiness.

God our Father, in your love and goodness you have taught us to come close to you in penitence prayer and generosity; accept our Lenten discipline, and when we fall by our weakness, raise us up by your unfailing mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A pause for silence prayer

Our Father in heaven, (or) Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be your name ... hallowed be thy name ...

Merciful Lord, you know our struggle to serve you:
when sin spoils our lives and overshadows our hearts, come to our aid
and turn us back to you again; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, Amen

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

God, who from the death of sin raised us to new life in Christ,
keep us from falling and set us in the presence of his glory;
And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always. Amen.