

## **Passion Sunday**

**We have come together in the name of Christ  
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,  
to hear and receive God's holy word,  
to pray for the needs of the world,  
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins,  
that, by the power of the Holy Spirit  
we may give ourselves to the service of God.  
Amen.**

### **O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing**

Charles Wesley's hymn written in May 1739 to celebrate the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of his conversion

#### **Saying Sorry**

Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with *all* your heart and with *all* your soul and with *all* your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'"

(Matthew 22 verses 37 – 38 – my italics)

Let us return to the Lord and say to him, as the prodigal son did:

**Father, we have sinned against heaven and against you.**

**We are not worthy to be called your children.**

**We turn to you again.**

**Have mercy on us,**

**bring us back to yourself**

**as those who once were dead**

**but now have life through Christ our Lord.**

**AMEN**

#### **Receiving Forgiveness**

May God who loved the world so much  
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour,  
forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

#### **Collect for Passion Sunday**

Most merciful God,  
who by the death and resurrection of your Son,

Jesus Christ, delivered and saved the world:  
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross  
we may triumph in the power of his victory;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

## **Sung Creed**

### **Philippians 3:5-16 (NIV)**

<sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

<sup>7</sup> But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ

<sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.

<sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. <sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

### **Privilege and Compassion**

Rachel Burchell reports...

### **John 12:1-11 (NIV)**

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honour. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. <sup>3</sup> Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

<sup>4</sup> But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, <sup>5</sup> “Why wasn’t this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year’s wages.” <sup>6</sup> He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

<sup>7</sup> “Leave her alone,” Jesus replied. “It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup> You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.”

<sup>9</sup> Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>10</sup> So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, <sup>11</sup> for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him.

### **Passion Sunday Reflection by Jill Wright (AWA)**

#### **‘The Passion Translation’ of part of Philippians 3:**

9. **My passion** is to be consumed with him and not cling to my own “righteousness” based on keeping the written Law....

12. I admit that I haven’t yet acquired the absolute fulness that I’m pursuing, but **I run with passion into his abundance** so that I may reach the purpose for which Christ Jesus laid hold of me to make me his own. I don’t depend on my own strength to accomplish this....

15. So let all who are fully mature have this same **passion**, and if anyone is not yet gripped by these desires, God will reveal it to them. And let us all advance together to reach this victory-prize, **following one path with one passion**.

**All I once held dear**

**To be in Your Presence**

**I will offer up my life**

(based on Mary’s action in John 12)

**Our Prayers**

led by Derrick

**The Lord’s Prayer**

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 glory are yours  
now and forever.  
Amen.**

**When I survey the wondrous cross**

### **The Sending Out**

We believe that by his dying  
Christ destroyed death for ever.

**AMEN**

We have been crucified with Christ  
and live by faith in the Son of God,  
who loved us and gave himself for us.

**AMEN**

May he send us out to glory in his cross,  
and live no longer for ourselves  
but for him,  
who died and was raised to life for us.

**AMEN**

### **Closing Blessing**

Now may the peace of God, which passes understanding, keep your 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 among you and remain with you, now and always. **Amen.**