

Hymns, Readings, and Collect

Opening Hymn: The royal banners forward go

The royal banners forward go,
the cross shines forth in mystic glow,
where he in flesh, our flesh who made,
our sentence bore, our ransom paid.

Fulfilled is all that David told
in true prophetic song of old,
the universal Lord is he,
who reigns and triumphs from the tree.

O tree of beauty, tree of light,
O tree with royal purple dight,
elect on whose triumphal breast
those holy limbs should find their rest!

On whose dear arms so widely flung,
the weight of this world's ransom hung,
the price of humankind to pay
and spoil the spoiler of his prey.

O cross, our one reliance, hail!
So may the power with us prevail
to give new virtue to the saint,
and pardon to the penitent.

To thee, eternal Three in One,
let homage meet by all be done:
whom by the cross thou dost restore,
preserve and govern evermore. Amen.

Gonfalon Royal 79iii NEH

The Welcome, Notices, Confession, and Kyrie

The Collect

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
through the same 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.

The New Testament Reading

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.'

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

This is the word of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 1: 18-25

Thanks be to God.

Gradual: Lent Prose

Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.

O thou chief Corner-stone, Right Hand of the Father:
Way of Salvation, Gate of Life Celestial:
cleanse thou our sinful souls from all defilement.

God, we implore thee, in thy glory seated:
bow down and hearken to thy weeping children:
Pity and pardon all our grievous trespasses.

Sins oft committed now we lay before thee:
with true contrition, now no more we veil them:
grant us, Redeemer, loving absolution.

Mode v 507 NEH

Hymns, Readings, and Collect

The Gospel

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

St John 2: 13–22

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Creed:

Let us declare our faith in the living God.

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Prayers of Intercession *and* The Peace

Offertory Hymn: We sing the praise

We sing the praise of him who died,
of him who died upon the cross;
the sinner's hope let men deride,
for this we count the world but loss.

Inscribed upon the cross we see
in shining letters, 'God is love;'
he bears our sins upon the Tree;
he brings us mercy from above.

The Cross! it takes our guilt away:
it holds the fainting spirit up;
it cheers with hope the gloomy day,
and sweetens ev'ry bitter cup.

It makes the coward spirit brave,
and nerves the feeble arm for fight;
it takes its terror from the grave,
and gilds the bed of death with light:

The balm of life, the cure of woe,
the measure and the pledge of love,
the sinner's refuge here below,
the angels' theme in heaven above.

Bow Brickhill 94 NEH

Anthem: **Beati quorum via**

Beati quorum via integra est: qui ambulant in lege Domini.

Blessed are they whose way is blameless: who walk in the law of the Lord.

*Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924)
Psalm 119: 1*

Hymns, Readings, and Collect

Communion Hymn: How deep the Father's love for us

How deep the Father's love for us,
how vast beyond all measure,
that he should give his only Son
to make a wretch his treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss;
the Father turns his face away,
as wounds which mar the chosen One
bring many souls to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,
my sin upon his shoulders;
ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held him there
until it was accomplished;
his dying breath has brought me life -
I know that 'it is finished.'

I will not boast in anything,
no gifts, no power, no wisdom;
but I will boast in Jesus Christ,
his death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from his reward?
I cannot give an answer;
but this I know with all my heart,
his wounds have paid my ransom.

How deep the Father's love 114 AM

Dismissal: Lift high the cross

*Lift high the Cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

Follow the path on which our Captain trod,
our King victorious, Christ the Son of God:
Each new-born soldier of the Crucified
Bears on his brow the seal of him who died:
Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
the hosts of God in conquering ranks combine:

From farthest regions let them homage bring,
and on his cross adore their Saviour King:
O Lord, once lifted on the glorious Tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us unto thee:
Set up thy throne, that earth's despair may cease
beneath the shadow of its healing peace:

Crucifer 72 AMNS