**MONDAY**

On this day Jesus returned from Bethany to Jerusalem, cursing a barren fig tree on the way. He turned over the tables in the temple and drove the traders out declaring that his Father’s House should be a house of prayer for all nations.

*Say together*

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ

cleared the temple of those who desecrated the holy place.

Cleanse our hearts from greed and selfishness,

that we may become the temple of the Living God,[[1]](#footnote-1)

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

*Psalm 36:5-9 (read responsively)*

Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens,  
**your faithfulness to the skies**.  
6Your righteousness is like the highest mountains,  
    **your justice like the great deep.**  
    You, Lord, preserve both people and animals.  
7**How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!**  
    People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.  
**8They feast in the abundance of your house;**  
    you give them drink from your river of delights.  
9**For with you is the fountain of life;**  
    in your light we see light

*Read Mark 11:12-19*

*Silence*

*Say together the Lord’s Prayer*

*Prayer (read by one person)*

Almighty God

You loved the world so much that you sent your Son

Not to condemn the world

But that through him the world might be saved.

We who are quicker to judge than to bless

Fall silent at the extravagance of your grace

As we are confronted again with the depth of human wickedness

And the greater depth of your divine compassion.

May we not remain unmoved as Christ’s arms are stretched out

And his body lifted up on the cross.

May we confess our part in the sin of the world,

Repent of it,

Know the reality of your forgiveness

And be transformed. Amen.

*Say together*

True and humble King, hailed by the crowd as Messiah

Grant us the faith to know you and love you,

That we may be found beside you on the way of the cross,

Which is the path of glory. Amen

*Benediction said by one person*

Go in peace. And may the grace of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with us all. Amen

**TUESDAY**

On this day Jesus again entered the city. He told many stories, answered the questions of religious leaders, foretold the destruction of Jerusalem and described the last judgement.

*Say together*

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ

taught the people the way of righteousness and judgement.

Grant us a ready mind and willing spirit

to learn from him all that you would teach us,[[2]](#footnote-2)

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

*Psalm 71 (read responsively)*

1In you, Lord, I have taken refuge;  
**let me never be put to shame.**  
2In your righteousness, rescue me and deliver me;  
    **turn your ear to me and save me.**  
3Be my rock of refuge,  
    **to which I can always go;**  
give the command to save me,  
    **for you are my rock and my fortress.**  
4Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,  
    **from the grasp of those who are evil and cruel.**

5For you have been my hope, Sovereign Lord,  
    **my confidence since my youth.**  
6From my birth I have relied on you;  
    **you brought me forth from my mother’s womb**.  
    I will ever praise you.  
**7I have become a sign to many;**  
    you are my strong refuge.  
8**My mouth is filled with your praise,**  
    declaring your splendour all day long.

*Read Mark 12:28-34*

*Silence*

*Say together the Lord’s Prayer*

*Prayer (read by one person)*

God of love,

Through your Son

You gave us a new commandment

To love one another as he loved us.

In his Spirit we ask you

For a mind that does not dwell on past hurts,

A will to seek the good of others,

And a heart full of love for all;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

*Say together*

True and humble King, hailed by the crowd as Messiah

Grant us the faith to know you and love you,

That we may be found beside you on the way of the cross,

Which is the path of glory. Amen

*Benediction said by one person*

Go in peace. And may the grace of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with us all. Amen

**WEDNESDAY**

On this day Jesus remained withdrawn in Bethany preparing himself for the agony that awaited, while Judas was bargaining with the chief priests to betray him.

*Say together*

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ

withdrew to the quietness of Bethany

to prepare himself for his passion.

In the fellowship of his suffering, strengthen us to be more than conquerors

in all our trials and temptations.[[3]](#footnote-3)

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

*Psalm 70 (read responsively)*

Hasten, O God, to save me;  
    **come quickly, Lord, to help me**.

2May those who want to take my life  
    **be put to shame and confusion;**  
may all who desire my ruin  
    **be turned back in disgrace.**  
3May those who say to me, ‘Aha! Aha!’  
    **turn back because of their shame.**  
4But may all who seek you  
  **rejoice and be glad in you;**  
may those who long for your saving help always say,  
    **‘The Lord is great!’**

5But as for me, I am poor and needy;  
    **come quickly to me, O God.**  
You are my help and my deliverer;  
**Lord, do not delay.**

*Read Mark 14:1-11*

*Silence*

*Say together the Lord’s Prayer*

*Prayer (read by one person)*

Lord God

Maker and lover of all

As we contemplate again

The story of the Lord’s betrayal, suffering and death,

May neither the history, ritual nor sentiment of this season

Be the things that fascinate us.

Rather may our souls be grasped

By what our minds alone cannot contain –

That all this was all for us.

And so Lord may we be all for you. Amen

*Say together*

True and humble King, hailed by the crowd as Messiah

Grant us the faith to know you and love you,

That we may be found beside you on the way of the cross,

Which is the path of glory. Amen

*Benediction said by one person*

Go in peace. And may the grace of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with us all. Amen

**THURSDAY**

On this day Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and ate the Passover meal with them, inaugurating the new covenant between God and people which he would seal the next day with his blood. He prayed in Gethsemane, where he was betrayed by Judas, deserted by his disciples and taken off for trial.

*Say together*

Holy God, source of all love, on the night before he died

Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment

to love one another as he loved them.

Write this commandment in our hearts.

Give us the will to be the servant of others

as he was the servant of all.[[4]](#footnote-4)

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

*Psalm 10 (read responsively)*

1Why, Lord, do you stand far off?  
**Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?**

12Arise, Lord! Lift up your hand, O God.  
**Do not forget the helpless.**  
13Why does the wicked man revile God?  
    **Why does he say to himself,  
    ‘He won’t call me to account’?**  
14But you, God, see the trouble of the afflicted;  
    **you consider their grief and take it in hand.**The victims commit themselves to you;  
    **you are the helper of the fatherless.**  
15Break the arm of the wicked man;  
    **call the evildoer to account for his wickedness.**

16The Lord is King for ever and ever;  
**the nations will perish from his land.**  
17You, Lord, hear the desire of the afflicted;  
    **you encourage them, and you listen to their cry,**  
18defending the fatherless and the oppressed,  
    so that mere earthly mortals will never again strike terror.

*Read Mark 14:12-31*

*Prayer (read by one person)*

Faithful God

We are no different from your disciples:

Capable of faithlessness and betrayal;

Carrying within us all the sin which leads to your crucifixion.

As you washed their feet and shared with them bread and wine,

So cleanse us from all our sins.

As you called them to watch and pray,

So fill us with your Spirit that we, weak as we are,

Might wait patiently for your coming again

And whilst waiting, be ready to love in your name.

Amen

*Read Mark 14:32-52*

*Say together*

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.

*Read Mark 14:53-72*

*Silence*

*Say together*

The peace of God, which passes all understanding keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of God’s Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord;

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit remain with us always. Amen.

**FRIDAY**

On this day Jesus endured the mockery of trials before the High Priests, Pilate and Herod. He was tortured, condemned to die and executed on a cross. His body was taken down and buried in a borrowed grave.

*Say together*

Christ became obedient to death on a cross. God forbid that we should glory in anything other than the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

*Read Mark 15:1-15*

*Isaiah 53 (read responsively)*

Who has believed our message  
    **and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?**  
2He grew up before him like a tender shoot,  
    **and like a root out of dry ground.**  
He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,  
    **nothing in his appearance that we should desire him**.  
3He was despised and rejected by all,  
    **a man of suffering, and familiar with pain**.  
Like one from whom people hide their faces  
**he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.**

4Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering,  
**yet we considered him punished by God,  
    stricken by him, and afflicted.**  
5But he was pierced for our transgressions,  
    he was crushed for our iniquities;  
**the punishment that brought us peace was on him,  
    and by his wounds we are healed.**  
6We all, like sheep, have gone astray,  
    each of us has turned to our own way;  
**and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

*Say together the Lord’s Prayer*

*Read Mark 15:16-41*

*Prayer (read by one person)*

Saviour of the world, what have you done to deserve this?

And what have we done to deserve you?

Strung up between criminals,

Cursed and spat upon,

You wait for death,

And look for us,

For us whose sin has crucified you.

To the mystery of undeserved suffering,

You bring the deeper mystery of unmerited love.

Forgive us for not knowing what we have done;

Open our eyes to what we are doing now,

As, through wood and nails,

You disempower our depravity

And transform us by your grace. Amen.

*Read Mark 15:42-47*

*Silence*

*Say together*

O Christ the Master Carpenter

Who at the last, through wood and nails,

Purchased our whole salvation,

Wield well your tools

In the workshop of your world,

So that we who come rough-hewen to your bench

May here be fashioned to a truer beauty of your hand.

We ask it for your own names sake. Amen

*Benediction said by one person*

God the Father, who so loved the world that he gave his only Son;

Jesus Christ, whose love for us made him obedient to death, even death on a cross;

And the Holy Spirit, who enables us to love the Father and each other;

Comfort, encourage and protect you. Amen[[5]](#footnote-5)

*You may wish to sit in silence and personal prayer*

**SATURDAY**

On this say, as Jesus lay, dead, in the tomb, the disciples remained scattered in fear, and the women watched and waited to do what they could for him.

*Say together*

O God, creator of heaven and earth

as the crucified body of your dear Son was laid in the tomb

and rested on this holy Sabbath,

so may we wait with him for the coming of the third day

and rise with him to newness of life,[[6]](#footnote-6)

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

*Psalm 46 (read responsively)*

1God is our refuge and strength,  
    **an ever-present help in trouble.**  
2Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way  
    **and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,**3though its waters roar and foam  
    **and the mountains quake with their surging.**

4There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
    **the holy place where the Most High dwells.**  
5God is within her, she will not fall;  
    **God will help her at break of day.**  
6Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;  
**he lifts his voice, the earth melts.**

7The Lord Almighty is with us;  
**the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

8Come and see what the Lord has done,  
    **the desolations he has brought on the earth.**  
9He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth.  
**He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;**  
    he burns the shieldswith fire.  
10**He says, ‘Be still, and know that I am God;**

*Say together the Lord’s Prayer*

*Read Romans 5:6-11*

*Silence*

*Prayer (read by one person)*

Saving God, All creation waits with groaning and longing

For the salvation promised to our ancestors

And revealed in the resurrection of your Son Jesus.

Teach us how to wait for the bursting forth of your saving power

When all will be reconciled to you in Christ Jesus.

We wait in hope, O God.

We wait in the company of all   
the angels and saints of heaven.

By your Spirit may we have the power to say with them,

“Holy, Holy, Holy is our God.” Amen

*Say together*

O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory?

Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Benediction said by one person*

Go in peace. And may the grace of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with us all. Amen

1. BCOp664 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. BCO p665 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. BCO p666 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. BCO p667 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. TWS p629 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. BCO p668 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)