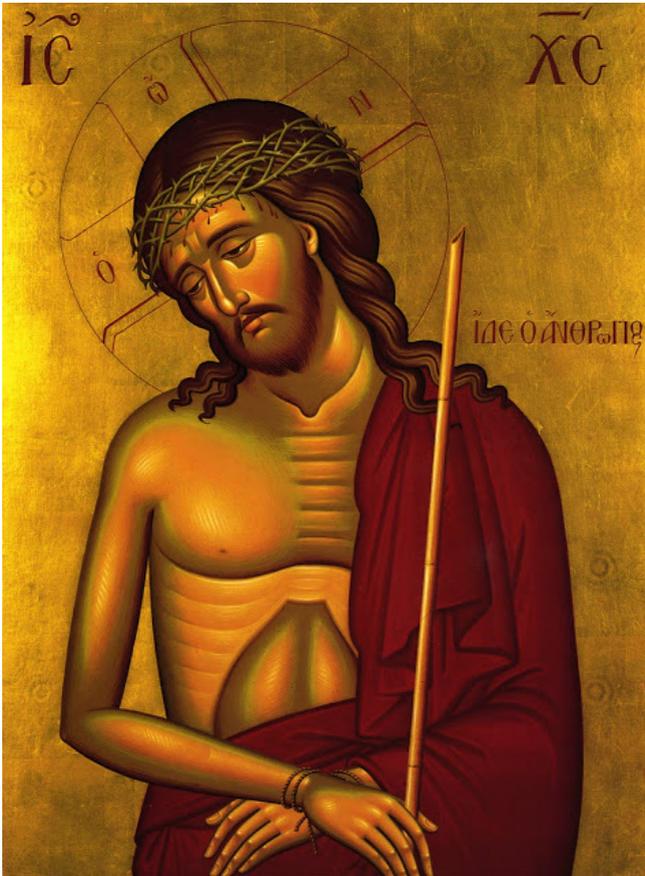




ELY CATHEDRAL

A Prelude to Holy Week A Vigil for the Coming of Christ



Palm Sunday
Sunday 14 April 2019
4pm

This service takes its inspiration from the Bridegroom services of the Orthodox Church which take place over three days from Palm Sunday Evening to Wednesday of Holy Week. During these services the faithful are reminded of the Second Coming of Christ.

Two of the readings at these services include the parable of *The Barren Fig Tree* and the story of *The Ten Bridesmaids*. These scripture readings prompt us to look towards the coming of Christ and seriously attend to our own preparation to receive him into our hearts and bear fruit in our lives.

The Liturgy focuses on personal preparation through prayer and penitence as we wait to meet Christ the Bridegroom who walks to Cavalry to be united with his bride, the Church. The theme is vigilance, we are watching and waiting and we are encouraged to prepare our hearts and our souls to participate in the great wedding banquet that is to come.

At the end of this service we walk with Christ towards the cross as *the Litany* is sung in procession. We process around the cathedral in silence, with our candles lit, reflecting on all that we need to put aside in order to be ready to meet Christ the Bridegroom and greet the coming of his Kingdom.

Behold the Bridegroom comes at midnight,
and blessed is the servant whom he shall find watching.
And again, unworthy is the servant whom he shall find heedless.
Beware therefore O my soul, do not be weighed down with sleep,
lest you be given up to death, and lest you be shut out of the kingdom.
But rouse yourself crying: holy, holy, holy are you our God.

In the Orthodox Liturgy, the icon is carried in a procession and after the Gospel the following response is sung: *'I see Thy Bridal Chamber adorned, O Saviour, and I have no wedding garment that I may enter therein'*. The icon depicts Christ as the Bridegroom of the Church, bearing the marks of his suffering, yet preparing the way for a marriage feast in his Kingdom. It portrays Christ during his Passion, particularly during the period when he was mocked and tortured by the soldiers who crowned him with thorns, dressed him in purple and placed a reed in his hands, jeering him as the "King of the Jews." The crown of thorns is a symbol of his marriage to the Church and his suffering. The rope around his hands is a symbol of bondage to sin, death and corruption which was loosed with Christ's death on the Cross. And the reed is a symbol of his humility. The imagery connotes the final union of the Lover and the beloved. The title *Bridegroom* also suggest the Parousia, the end times when Christ will draw all things to himself.

Front Image: An icon of Christ the Bridegroom

When the bell rings, please stand

INTROIT

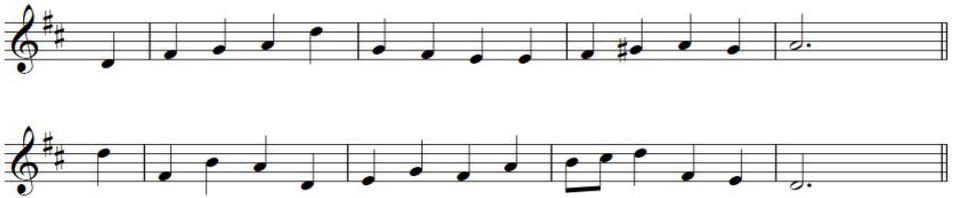
Look down, O Lord, on me, poor man;
In thee I live, and move, and am;
O clear my soul and conscience,
That I in thee my peace may find,
Rest to my heart, joy to my mind,
Freed from my sin and mine offence.

Words: William Leighton d. c.1616 from *Teares or Lamentacions of a Sorrowful Soule*
Music: William Byrd 1538-1623

Please remain standing

HYMN

During this hymn the choir process into the choir stalls



1
O for a heart to praise my God,
A heart from sin set free;
A heart that always feels thy blood
So freely spilt for me:

2
A heart resigned, submissive, meek,
My dear Redeemer's throne;
Where only Christ is heard to speak,
Where Jesus reigns alone:

3
A humble, lowly, contrite heart,
Believing, true, and clean,
Which neither life nor death can part
From him that dwells within:

4
A heart in every thought renewed,
And full of live divine;
Perfect, and right, and pure, and good,
A copy, Lord, of thine.

5
My heart, thou know'st can never rest
Till thou create my peace;
Till of mine Eden repossess,
From self, and sin, I cease.

6
Thy nature, gracious Lord, impart,
Come quickly from above;
Write thy new name upon my heart,
Thy new best name of love.

Words: Charles Wesley 1707-88
Music: *Stockton* NEH 74 Thomas Wright 1763-1829

With the whole church, we prepare to enter into this most Holy Week. We pray for faith in Christ, that we may walk with him to Calvary, and we trust in the promise of his saving help. As we look forward we anticipate the promise that Christ the Bridegroom is united with his church through suffering death on the cross, and trust that through the cross joy has come into the world.

OFFICE HYMN 112 *sung by the choir*

1
Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle,
Sing the ending of the fray,
O'er the cross, the victor's trophy,
Sound the loud triumphant lay:
Tell how Christ, the world's Redeemer,
As a Victim won the day.

3
Therefore when the appointed fulness
Of the holy time was come,
He was sent who maketh all things
Forth from God's eternal home:
Thus he came to earth, incarnate,
Offspring of a maiden's womb.

2
God in pity saw man fallen,
Shamed and sunk in misery,
When he fell on death by tasting
Fruit of the forbidden tree:
Then another tree was chosen
Which the world from death should free.

4
Thirty years among us dwelling,
Now at length his hour fulfilled,
Born for this, he meets his Passion,
For that this he freely willed,
On the Cross the Lamb is lifted,
Where his life-blood shall be spilled.

5
To the Trinity be glory,
To the Father and the Son,
With the co-eternal Spirit,
Ever Three and ever One,
One in love and one in splendour,
While unending ages run. Amen.

Words: Latin, *Venantius Fortunatus*, 530-609 tr. mainly by Percy Dearmer 1867-1936
Music: *Pange Lingua* Mode iii

FIRST READING *Please sit*

Jesus Curses the Fig Tree

In the morning, when Jesus returned to the city, he was hungry. And seeing a fig tree by the side of the road, he went to it and found nothing at all on it but leaves. Then he said to it, "May no fruit ever come from you again!" And the fig tree withered at once.

When the disciples saw it, they were amazed, saying, "How did the fig tree wither at once?" Jesus answered them, "Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only will you do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' it will be done. Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive."

Matthew 21: 18-22

ANTHEM

Let my complaint come before thee, O Lord :
give me understanding, according to thy word.
Let my supplication come before thee : deliver me, according to thy word.
My lips shall speak of thy praise : when thou hast taught me thy statutes.
Yea, my tongue shall sing of thy word : for all thy commandments are righteous.
Let thine hand help me : for I have chosen thy commandments.
I have longed for thy saving health, O Lord : and in thy law is my delight.
O let my soul live, and it shall praise thee : and thy judgements shall help me.
I have gone astray like a sheep that is lost : O seek thy servant, for I do not forget thy commandments.

Words: Psalm 119, verses 169-176
Music: Thomas Morley 1557-1602

FIRST ADDRESS

Silence is kept

PSALM 102

- 1 Hear my prayer, O Lord : and let my crying come unto thee.
- 2 Hide not thy face from me in the time of my trouble : incline thine ear unto me when I call; O hear me, and that right soon.
- 3 For my days are consumed away like smoke : and my bones are burnt up as it were a fire-brand.
- 4 My heart is smitten down, and withered like grass : so that I forget to eat my bread.
- 5 For the voice of my groaning : my bones will scarce cleave to my flesh.
- 6 I am become like a pelican in the wilderness : and like an owl that is in the desert.
- 7 I have watched, and am even as it were a sparrow : that sitteth alone upon the house-top.
- 8 Mine enemies revile me all the day long : and they that are mad upon me are sworn together against me.

- 9 For I have eaten ashes as it were bread : and mingled my drink with weeping;
- 10 And that because of thine indignation and wrath : for thou hast taken me up, and cast me down.
- 11 My days are gone like a shadow : and I am withered like grass.
- 12 But thou, O Lord, shalt endure for ever : and thy remembrance throughout all generations.

SECOND READING

The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Matthew 25:1-13

ANTHEM

Like as the hart desireth the water-brooks : so longeth my soul after thee, O God. My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the living God : when shall I come to appear before the presence of God. My tears have been my meat day and night : while they daily say unto me, Where is now thy God? Now when I think thereupon, I pour out my heart by myself : for I went with the multitude, and brought them forth into the house of God; In the voice of praise and thanksgiving : among such as keep holy-day. Why art thou so full of heaviness, O my soul : and why art thou so disquieted within me? Put thy trust in God : for I will yet give him thanks for the help of his countenance.

Words: Psalm 42
Music: Pelham Humfrey 1647-74

SECOND ADDRESS

THE LITANY *sung by the choir*
Please follow the Choir in procession
Candles are lit as the procession moves into the nave

O God the Father of heaven:
have mercy upon us miserable sinners.

O God the Father of heaven:
have mercy upon us miserable sinners.

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world:
have mercy upon us miserable sinners.

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world:
have mercy upon us miserable sinners.

O God the Holy Ghost, proceeding from the Father and the Son:
have mercy upon us miserable sinners.

O God the Holy Ghost,
proceeding from the Father and the Son:
have mercy upon us miserable sinners.

O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, three Persons and one God:
have mercy upon us miserable sinners.

O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity,
three Persons and one God:
have mercy upon us miserable sinners.

Remember not, Lord, our offences,
nor the offences of our forefathers;
neither take thou vengeance of our sins:
spare us, good Lord, spare thy people,
whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood,
and be not angry with us for ever.
Spare us, good Lord.

From all evil and mischief;
from sin, from the crafts and assaults of the devil;
from thy wrath, and from everlasting damnation,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From all blindness of heart;
from pride, vain-glory, and hypocrisy;
from envy, hatred, and malice, and all uncharitableness,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From fornication, and all other deadly sin;
and from all the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From lightning and tempest;
from plague, pestilence, and famine;
from battle and murder, and from sudden death,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From all sedition, privy conspiracy, and rebellion;
from all false doctrine, heresy, and schism;
from hardness of heart,
and contempt of thy Word and Commandment,
Good Lord, deliver us.

By the mystery of thy holy Incarnation;
by thy holy Nativity and Circumcision;
by thy Baptism, Fasting, and Temptation,
Good Lord, deliver us.

By thine Agony and bloody Sweat;
by thy Cross and Passion;
by thy precious Death and Burial;
by thy glorious Resurrection and Ascension;
and by the coming of the Holy Ghost,
Good Lord, deliver us.

In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our wealth;
in the hour of death, and in the day of judgement,
Good Lord, deliver us.

We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God;
and that it may please thee to rule and govern
thy holy Church universal in the right way,
we beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to keep and strengthen
in the true worshipping of thee,
in righteousness and holiness of life,
thy Servant Elizabeth, our most gracious Queen and Governor,
we beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to illuminate
all Bishops, Priests, and Deacons,
with true knowledge and understanding of thy Word;
and that both by their preaching and living
they may set it forth and shew it accordingly,
we beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.
That it may please thee to bless and keep all thy people,
we beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give to all nations
unity, peace, and concord,
we beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give us an heart to love and dread thee,
and diligently to live after thy commandments,
we beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give to all thy people increase of grace,
to hear meekly thy Word, and to receive it with pure affection,
and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit,
we beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to bring into the way of truth
all such as have erred, and are deceived,
we beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to strengthen such as do stand;
and to comfort and help the weak-hearted;
and to raise up them that fall;
and finally to beat down Satan under our feet,
we beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to succour, help, and comfort
all that are in danger, necessity, and tribulation,
we beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to preserve all that travel by land or by water,
all women labouring of child, all sick persons, and young children;
and to shew thy pity upon all prisoners and captives,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to defend, and provide for,
the fatherless children, and widows,
and all that are desolate and oppressed,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to have mercy upon all men,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to forgive our enemies
persecutors, and slanderers,
and to turn their hearts,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.
That it may please thee to give and preserve to our use
the kindly fruits of the earth,
so as in due time we may enjoy them,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give us true repentance;
to forgive us all our sins, negligences, and ignorances;
and to endue us with the grace of thy Holy Spirit,
to amend our lives according to thy holy Word,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

Son of God: we beseech thee to hear us.
Son of God: we beseech thee to hear us.
O Lamb of God: that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.

O Lamb of God: that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Christ, hear us.
O Christ, hear us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Music: Thomas Tallis 1505-85

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name;
 thy kingdom come;
 thy will be done;
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation;
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 the power and the glory,
 for ever and ever. Amen.**

HYMN



1
 O Thou, who dost accord us
 The highest prize and guerdon,
 Thou hope of all our race,
 Jesu, do thou afford us
 The gift we ask of pardon
 For all who humbly seek thy face.

2
 With whispered accusation
 Our conscience tells of sinning
 In thought and word and deed;
 Thine is the restoration,
 The work of grace beginning
 For souls from every burden freed.

3
 For who, if thou reject us,
 Shall raise the fainting spirit?
 'Tis thine alone to spare:
 That thou to life elect us
 Through our Redeemer's merit,
 Shall be thy people's lowly prayer.

4
 O Trinity most glorious,
 Thy pardon free bestowing,
 Defend us evermore;
 That in thy courts victorious,
 Thy love more truly knowing,
 We may with all thy saints adore.

Words: From the Latin; translation based on that of J. W. Hewett 1959
 Music: Innsbruck NEH 75 Traditional song set by H Isaac 1450-1527; harmony by J. S. Bach 1685-1750

PRAYER

O holy Lord, you dwell on high and regard the humble of heart,
and with your all-seeing eye behold all creation,
to You we have bowed down to worship, and we entreat you.

O Holy of Holies,
extend your invisible hand from your holy dwelling place
and bless us all.

And if in anything we have sinned, voluntarily or involuntarily,
forgive us, since you are a good God who loves humanity,
granting us your earthly and heavenly blessings.
For yours it is to show mercy and to save us, O God,
and to you we give glory,
to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
now and forever, and to the ages of ages. **Amen.**

Orthodox Prayers from the Bridegroom service

Please be seated for the Organ Voluntary

ORGAN O Lamm Gottes Unschuldig BWV 656 - J. S. Bach

At the end of the Voluntary, candles are extinguished and we leave in silence