



Saint
Michael
& All Angels

“The Passion *of* Christ”

A sequence of readings and music
for Passiontide

Tuesday 31st March 2026
6.00 p.m.

Welcome to the Church of St. Michael and All Angels

We are a Christian church within the Anglican tradition and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God here for over 135 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition. Our regular worshippers comprising of three congregations (English, Sinhala, Tamil) supported by members of staff and a large number of volunteers, make up the church community.

We are committed to the diversity, equal opportunities and personal and spiritual development of all who work and worship here because we are followers of Jesus Christ. Thank you for being with us today. If you need any help, please speak with the Vicar.

Holy Communion is celebrated daily at 7.00 am
and every Wednesday at 12.00 noon

On Sundays Holy Communion is celebrated at 7.30 am in English;
9.00 am in Sinhala; 10.30 am in Tamil and 12.00 noon in English.

For further information telephone 112 343 471
or email the parish secretary: secretary@stmichaelspolwatte.lk



As you prepare for worship, please be sensitive to the needs of those around you who may wish to pray in silence. Please silence mobile telephones and do not use photographic, video or recording equipment at any time.

As words and music combine to tell and interpret the story of Jesus Christ's suffering for the world, let us make a spiritual journey of penitence and faith, as we prepare for the great mysteries and feasts of the coming weeks.

The Service is officiated by
The Venerable Christopher Balraj
Vicar, St. Michael and All Angels

The Service is sung by
Voice of Praise, *Chamber Choir*

The Organ is played by
Denham Pereira

Organ Music before the Service

Chorale Prelude on 'O Welt, ich muss dich lassen'
(*O world, I must leave you*) *Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)*

Order of Service

The congregation is asked to join in all text printed in **bold**.

If you are unable to stand at any point during the service, please feel free to remain seated.

All stand as the clergy and Choir enter and take their places at the west end of the Church.

All sing

Processional Hymn

The musical notation consists of four staves. The first two staves are labeled 'Refrain' and the last two are labeled 'Verses'. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. The Refrain consists of two lines of music, and the Verses also consist of two lines of music. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a clear melody and accompaniment.

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

**Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
Our King victorious, Christ the Son of God.**

**O Lord once lifted on the glorious tree
As thou hast promised, draw us unto thee.**

**Let every race and every language tell
Of him who saves our souls from death and hell.**

**Set up thy throne, that earth's despair may cease
Beneath the shadow of its healing peace.**

**For thy blest cross which doth for all atone
Creation's praises rise before thy throne:**

Words: G. W. Kitchin (1827–1912)
M. R. Newbolt (1874–1956)

Tune: Crucifier
Sydney Nicholson (1875–1947)
Descant: Harold Darke (1888–1976)

Remain standing. The Officiant says

The Bidding

Brothers and sisters, welcome to St. Michael and All Angels and to this service of readings and music to prepare us for the celebration of our Lord's passion and resurrection. We remember how Christ entered his own city to complete his work as our Saviour: to suffer, to die, and to rise again. We recall the betrayal by Judas, Peter's denial, Thomas' doubts, Pilate's complicity, and the hope of Mary.

Let us go with them all, in faith and love, so that united with Jesus in his sufferings we may share his risen life.

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 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.

All sit

The Cross Foreshadowed

The Choir sings

Anthem

Hosanna to the Son of David
Blessed be the King that cometh
In the name of the Lord, Hosanna.
Thou that sittest in the highest heavens.
Hosanna in excelsis Deo.

Music: Thomas Weelkes (1576–1623)

Reading

Who has believed what we have heard?
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
He was despised and rejected by others;
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;
and as one from whom others hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him of no account.
Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases;
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.
But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.

Isaiah 53. 1–5

Silence is kept. After-which all stand to sing

Hymn



**There is a green hill far away,
Without a city wall,
Where the dear Lord was crucified,
Who died to save us all.**

**We may not know, we cannot tell,
What pains he had to bear,
But we believe it was for us
He hung and suffered there.**

**He died that we might be forgiven,
He died to make us good;
That we might go at last to heaven,
Saved by his precious Blood.**

**There was no other good enough
To pay the price of sin;
He only could unlock the gate
Of heaven, and let us in.**

**O, dearly, dearly has he loved,
And we must love him too,
And trust in his redeeming Blood,
And try his works to do.**

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1823–95)

Tune: Horsley
William Horsley (1774–1858)

All sit

The Cross: The Way of Salvation

The Officiant says

We glory in your cross, O Lord,
and praise and glorify your holy resurrection;
for you have brought salvation to the world.

Almighty and everlasting God,
who, of your tender love towards mankind,
sent your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,
to take upon him our flesh,
and to suffer death upon the cross,
that all humankind should follow the example of his great humility:
mercifully grant, that we may both follow the example of his patience,
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Reading

Philosophers have measured mountains,
Fathomed the depths of seas, of states, and kings,
Walked with a staff to heaven, and traced fountains;
But there are two vast, spacious things
The which to measure it doth more behove:
Yet few there are that sound them—
Sin and Love.

Who would know Sin, let him repair
Unto Mount Olivet; there shall he see
A man so wrung with pains, that all his hair,
His skin, his garments bloody be.
Sin is that press and vice, which forceth pain
To hunt his cruel food through every vein.

Who knows not Love, let him assay
And taste that juice, which on the cross a pike
Did set again abroach; then let him say
If ever he did taste the like.
Love is that liquor sweet and most divine,
Which my God feels as blood; but I, as wine.

The Agony
George Herbert (1593–1633)

The Choir sings

Anthem

Ave verum corpus natum de Maria Virgine:
Vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro homine.
Cuius latus perforatum, fluxit aqua et sanguine:
Esto nobis praegustatum, mortis in examine:
○ Jesu dulcis:
○ Jesu pie.
○ Jesu fili Mariae.

*Hail the body born of Mary, of the Virgin Mary born,
Thou who truly hangest weary,
on the cross, thou didst suffer for man.
Thou whose side was pierced, whence the water and blood did flow;
Feed us with thy body broken, now and in death's agony.
O loving Jesus,
O merciful Jesus.
O Holy Son of Mary.*

Words: Latin, 14c.

Music: Flor Peeters (1903–86)

When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples, "You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified." Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and they conspired to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. But they said, "Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people." One of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What will you give me if I betray him to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal. When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?" He answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born." Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" He replied, "You have said so."

Matthew 25. 1–5, 14–25

Silence is kept. After-which all stand to sing

Hymn

during which the procession moves to the foot of the Cross



**When I survey the wondrous Cross,
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his Blood.**

**See from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**His dying crimson, like a robe,
Spreads o'er his body on the Tree:
Then am I dead to all the globe,
And all the globe is dead to me.**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.**

Words: Isaac Watts (1674–1748)

Tune: Rockingham
Edward Miller (1731–1807)
Descant: George Guest (1924–2002)

All sit. The Officiant says,

The Cross: Liberation From Sin

We glory in your cross, O Lord,
and praise and glorify your holy resurrection;
for you have brought salvation to the world.

Lord Jesus Christ,
who in the Garden of Gethsemane did pray
with agony and bloody sweat that your Father's will be done;
grant that the same mind be formed also in us,
that dying to sin and selfishness
we may rise to life with thee:
who now lives and reigns with the same
Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end.
Amen.

All kneel or remain seated and the minister says

At the foot of the cross,
we lay down the burden of our sin,
and seek the healing and forgiveness
which is freely offered through Christ's sacrifice.

Silence is kept

When we deny our allegiance to Jesus Christ:
Lord, forgive us and strengthen us.

When we are silent in the face of injustice and oppression:
Lord, forgive us and strengthen us.

When we are tempted to give up the way of the cross:
Lord, forgive us and strengthen us.

When we reject the divine image in our brothers and sisters:

Lord, heal us and strengthen us.

When we have the courage to acknowledge our fears and failures,
and return to the way of your laws:

Lord, heal us and strengthen us.

The Choir sings

Anthem

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness,
And forgive me all my sin.
For I acknowledge my faults,
And my sin is ever before me.

Words: Psalm 51. 2–3

Music: Samuel S. Wesley (1810–76)

The Officiant continues

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you,
that God is light and in him is no darkness at all.
If we walk in the light, as he is in the light,
we have fellowship with one another,
and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

This is Christ's gracious word: 'Your sins are forgiven.'

Amen. Thanks be to God.

All stand to sing

Hymn

during which a collection will be taken



**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 every 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.**

Words: Thomas Kelly (1769–1855)

Tune: Bow Brickhill
Sydney Nicholson (1875–1947)

All sit. The Officiant says

The Cross: A Sign of Wisdom and Power

We glory in your cross, O Lord,
and praise and glorify your holy resurrection;
for you have brought salvation to the world.

Eternal God, by your gift the tree of life
was set at the heart of the earthly paradise,
and the word of life at the heart of your Church:
may we who have worshipped Christ crucified
be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross,
and come to share in the fulfilment
of his eternal promises;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Reading

So this is the day when his God does not answer;
how different this hour from the day of Christ's birth!
God spoke at his baptism and transfiguration,
but not when they lift up his Son from the earth.

No legions of angels, but devilish laughter;
no sound from the silence of heaven comes down,
no rescue from friends and no mercy from soldiers,
no last-minute sign and no hint of renown;

but only his thirst and the agonized crying;
yes, only the blood and the gasping for breath.
Completing his work that alone is sufficient;
the last dereliction, and darkness and death.

So this is the One whom his God has forsaken,
who takes all our sins in his flesh on the tree!
The Lord becomes sin, so that we may be holy;
he dies and he lives for the world, and for me.

Christopher Idle (b.1938)

All stand to sing

Hymn



**My song is love unknown,
My Saviour's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown,
That they might lovely be.
O who am I,
That for my sake
My Lord should take
Frail flesh, and die?**

**He came from his blest throne,
Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none
the longed-for Christ would know.
But O, my Friend,
My Friend indeed,
Who at my need,
His life did spend.**

All Women: **Sometimes they strew his way,
 And his sweet praises sing,
Resounding all the day
 Hosannas to their King.**

All: **Then “Crucify!”
 Is all their breath,
 And for his death
 They thirst and cry.**

All Men: **They rise, and needs will have
 My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save,
 The Prince of Life they slay.**

All: **Yet cheerful he
 To suffering goes,
 That he his foes
 From thence might free.**

**Here might I stay and sing:
 No story so divine;
Never was love, dear King,
 Never was grief like thine.
 This is my Friend,
 In whose sweet praise
 I all my days
 Could gladly spend.**

Words: Samuel Crossman (1624–83)

Tune: Love Unknown
John Ireland (1879–1962)
Descant: Christopher Robinson (b.1952)

Remain standing

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glory to Christ, our Saviour

Jesus said, '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. Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say - "Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.'

John 12. 24-32

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

All sit. The Choir sings

Anthem

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Words and Music: Traditional African American Spiritual
arr. Bob Chilcott (b.1955)

Silence is kept

All kneel or remain seated as the Officiant says

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom in the words our Saviour taught us.

**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.**

All stand as the Officiant gives

The Blessing

Christ crucified draw you to himself,
to find in him a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope,
and the assurance of sins forgiven;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Remain standing as the Procession leaves the Quire and moves to the Vestry, then sit.

Organ music after the service

Fantasia super 'Valet will ich dir geben', BWV 735 J. S. Bach (1685–1750)

You are welcome to remain seated for the Organ Voluntary or to leave quietly at this point.

Forthcoming Services during Holy Week

Wednesday 1st April

6.00 pm - Holy Week Meditation in Word and Music

Thursday 2nd April

THE MAUNDY THURSDAY LITURGY

6.00 pm

A Trilingual Service of Holy Eucharist

Friday 3rd April

GOOD FRIDAY

8.00 am

The Good Friday Liturgy with the
Veneration of the Cross and Distribution of the Sacrament
English

Saturday 4th April

LITURGY OF EASTER-EVE

6.00 pm

Sunday 5th April

EASTER DAY

7.30 am Sung Eucharist - English

Noon Said Eucharist - English

Please take this order of service away with you to reflect on the readings and prayers and as a reminder of your visit.