

WELCOME AND NOTICES

Lent course this Tuesday, session 4.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

'In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. ¹⁴ He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshipped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.
(Daniel 7:13-14)

OPENING PRAYER

God of life and truth, we gather before you with joy on this Mothering Sunday. Open our hearts to your love, our minds to your truth, and our lives to your service, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SONGS:

Wonderful, so wonderful (Beautiful one)

Wonderful, so wonderful
Is Your unfailing love
Your cross has spoken mercy over me
No eye has seen no ear has heard
No heart could fully know

How glorious, how beautiful You are

Beautiful One I love
You're beautiful One I adore
Beautiful One, my soul must sing

Powerful, so powerful
Your glory fills the skies
Your mighty works displayed for all to see
The beauty of Your majesty
Awakes my heart to see

How marvellous how wonderful You are

Beautiful One I love
You're beautiful One I adore
Beautiful One, my soul must sing
Beautiful One I love
You're beautiful One I adore
Beautiful One, my soul must sing

You opened my eyes to Your wonders
anew
You captured my heart with this love
'Cause nothing on earth is as beautiful as
You
You opened my eyes to Your wonders
anew
You captured my heart with this love
'Cause nothing on earth is as beautiful as
You

Beautiful One I love
You're beautiful One I adore
Beautiful One, my soul must sing
Beautiful One I love
You're beautiful One I adore
Beautiful One, my soul must sing

And You opened my eyes to Your wonders
anew
You captured my heart with this love
Because nothing on earth is as beautiful
as You.

This is amazing grace

Who breaks the power of sin and
darkness?
Whose love is mighty and so much
stronger?
The King of glory, the King above all kings
Who shakes the whole earth with holy
thunder?
And leaves us breathless in awe and
wonder?

THREE DAYS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD (4)
A Mock Trial – Luke 22:66-23:25
27th March 2022



The King of glory, the King above all kings

This is amazing grace
This is unfailing love
That You would take my place
That You would bear my cross

You laid down Your life
That I would be set free
Oh, Jesus, I sing for
All that You've done for me

Who brings our chaos back into order?
Who makes the orphans a son and
daughter?
The King of glory, the King of glory
Who rules the nations with truth and
justice
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance
The King of glory, the King above all kings

This is amazing grace
This is unfailing love
That You would take my place
That You would bear my cross

You laid down Your life
That I would be set free
Oh, Jesus, I sing for
All that You've done for me

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the
grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the
grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the
grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy, worthy, worthy

This is amazing grace

This is unfailing love
That You would take my place
That You would bear my cross

You laid down Your life
That I would be set free
Oh, Jesus, I sing for
All that You've done for me

All that You've done for me

When I survey the wondrous 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?

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.

CONFESSION

Let us come before the Lord with humble
hearts and confess our sins.

**Most merciful God, Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ, we confess that we have
sinned in thought, word and deed. We
have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as
ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we
have been, help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be; that we may**

do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

May God our Father forgive us our sins and bring us to the fellowship of his table with his saints for ever.

Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER AND PRAYER FOR SUNDAY CLUB

Loving God, in your generosity you have given us life through your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Now bless these gifts and our lives for your kingdom's sake.

We pray now for the Sunday Club, that both the children and adults would know the joy of your presence and the power of your Holy Spirit that together they may grow closer to you; in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

READING: Luke 22:66 – 23:25

⁶⁶ At daybreak the council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and the teachers of the law, met together, and Jesus was led before them. ⁶⁷ 'If you are the Messiah,' they said, 'tell us.' Jesus answered, 'If I tell you, you will not believe me, ⁶⁸ and if I asked you, you would not answer. ⁶⁹ But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God.' ⁷⁰ They all asked, 'Are you then the Son of God?' He replied, 'You say that I am.' ⁷¹ Then they said, 'Why do we need any more testimony? We have heard it from his own lips.'

²³ Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate. ² And they began to accuse him, saying, 'We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes

payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Messiah, a king.' ³ So Pilate asked Jesus, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' 'You have said so,' Jesus replied. ⁴ Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, 'I find no basis for a charge against this man.' ⁵ But they insisted, 'He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here.' ⁶ On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. ⁷ When he learned that Jesus was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

⁸ When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform a sign of some sort. ⁹ He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him. ¹¹ Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate. ¹² That day Herod and Pilate became friends – before this they had been enemies.

¹³ Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, ¹⁴ and said to them, 'You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. ¹⁵ Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. ¹⁶ Therefore, I will punish him and then release him.' ^[a]

¹⁸ But the whole crowd shouted, 'Away with this man! Release Barabbas to

us!’¹⁹ (Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.)²⁰ Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again.²¹ But they kept shouting, ‘Crucify him! Crucify him!’²² For the third time he spoke to them: ‘Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore, I will have him punished and then release him.’²³ But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed.²⁴ So Pilate decided to grant their demand.²⁵ He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will.

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

REFLECTION: THREE DAYS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD (4) A Mock Trial

Six years ago Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe was tried in Iran on charges of spying. Five years later a further charge was levelled against her. On her release we discovered that the reason for her incarceration was political leverage by the Iranian government against the British government for an unpaid bill going back all the way to the 1970’s. Nazanin and millions of others over the centuries have been innocent victims of a political tit-for-tat. Was Jesus an innocent victim of a hostile regime or was there something else going on?

In the trial of Jesus, as we have heard in Luke’s account, there is not just one trial but several. We have Jesus’ trial before the Sanhedrin, the religious leaders of the Jews; Jesus’ trial before Pilate; Jesus’ trial

before Herod, and finally Jesus back in front of Pilate. Both Herod and Pilate deemed Jesus innocent of the charges levelled against him, but failed to release him. In the end the mob got their way, having bayed for his blood, shouting “Crucify him! Crucify him!” (23:21).

As there are many aspects of these trials, this morning I want to deal with the first of the trials, the trial by the Sanhedrin, who witnessed the declaration of three titles which truly expressed who Jesus was.

THE CHRIST (v67-68)

The Sanhedrin, that is the council of the elders – the chief priests and teachers of the law – met in the first light of day (v66) and Jesus was brought to them. “If you are the Christ,” they said, “tell us” (v67). It’s a quite simple question, and for readers of Luke’s gospel it’s an easy answer to give if we remember the rest of the gospel narrative. At his birth shepherds heard the words of the angel of the Lord say to them: “Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11). When Jesus was presented in the temple, Simeon took Jesus in his arms and we are told that “It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Christ” (Luke 2:26). During the ministry of John the Baptist people wondered whether John himself might be the Christ. John replied, “I baptise you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire (Luke 3:16). John regarded Jesus as the Christ. Then later on Jesus asked Peter who he thought he was, and Peter answered “The Christ of God” (Luke 9:20). Christ is the Greek rendering of the Jewish

word Messiah, which means 'anointed one'.

However, Jesus rarely asserted his Messianic title because it had become so politicised in his day. At that time many thought of the Messiah or Christ as an agent of God from David's royal throne and not a divine title, someone who would cast the Romans out and restore Israel. Imagine this was Ukraine today, and in their history and Scripture they had anticipated a Messiah to get rid of the Russians. Imagine that person coming and instead calling on the Ukrainians themselves to turn away from sin. You can imagine that many would become disillusioned with him very quickly. The title Messiah, however, was the one title that could get Jesus killed by the Romans because it carried with it the prospect of rebellion against Rome. Rome didn't care whether Jesus claimed to be God, but the claim to be Messiah was politically dangerous. So if the Sanhedrin could get Jesus to claim to be Messiah, they knew they would soon be rid of him. But Jesus, knowing their trap, gave them a non-answer. "If I tell you, you will not believe me, and if I asked you, you would not answer" (v67b-68). This wasn't a denial of being the Messiah, for we see him openly declaring to Pilate to be King of the Jews (23:3). But Jesus' non-answer was just the first step in a mock trial where those listening to the evidence weren't actually interested in the answer. At this point the Sanhedrin didn't have enough evidence to kill him.

THE SON OF MAN (v69)

The second title in this short trial before the Sanhedrin was Son of Man. "But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the Mighty God," said

Jesus (v69). Son of Man was Jesus' title of choice. The gospels have 82 instances of Jesus using this title. No one gave him the title, but 'Son of Man' was a title from the book of Daniel (Dan. 7:13), and encapsulated how Jesus saw himself, for it expressed two realities of his life: 1. His human mortality, and 2. His heavenly existence. As to his human mortality, the title expressed his incarnation, being born as a human and his being subject to death as a human, just as we are born and we will die. As to his heavenly existence, he was and is the one to whom the Father gives everything. "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me" said Jesus at his Ascension (Matt. 28:18).

Jesus' declaration to the Sanhedrin that "from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God" (v69) was a prophecy of his exaltation, and this exaltation would begin with his resurrection. Authority, glory and power like the Son of Man in Daniel 7:14 where "His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed" (Dan. 7:14).

SON OF GOD (v70).

The third title in this passage is Jesus as the Son of God. The members of the Sanhedrin, who knew the Scriptures, would have known that the Son of Man in Daniel 7:14 was considered to be divine, which is why they asked the subsequent question. "Are you then the Son of God?" (v70). If they were ever to catch Jesus out, this was their chance.

Just as the title Messiah was there in the early part of the birth narrative, the term Son of God is found there too. "You will

conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High" (Luke 1:31-32a). At Jesus' baptism he is called God's Son (Luke 3:22). In the temptations in the wilderness the devil tried to create doubt in Jesus mind by saying "If you are the Son of God..." (:4:3,9). And when Jesus was transfigured, we read "A voice came from the cloud, saying, 'This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him'" (Luke 9:35).

Of all the three titles we have considered this morning, the supreme title is Son of God, for it describes the unique relationship Jesus the Son has with God the Father. To be the Son in the way the angel Gabriel described is to be divine (1:35). So, Jesus simply answers their question by saying, "You are right in saying I am" (v70b). The Sanhedrin now had what they wanted, and Jesus was led to Pilate and then to Herod and back to Pilate. If they were going to kill Jesus, they were going to have to kill him for who he was and is – the Messiah, the Son of Man, and the Son of God.

We must never forget that Jesus proclaimed that he was the Messiah, the long-awaited descendent of King David who would reign on David's throne for ever. He would be a suffering, sin-bearing Messiah. We must never forget that Jesus declared that he was the Son of Man (Matt. 26:45; Mark 14:21), who would go to the cross judged as a criminal but as Son of Man who judge the whole world. We must never forget that Jesus said he was the Son of God who was incarnate in order to bear our sins, which is why we have hope this Mothering Sunday. You see, whatever you call your mother (or called your mother if

she is no longer alive), whether you call her mother, mum, mummy, ma or whatever, what matters this Mothering Sunday is what you call Jesus – Messiah, Son of Man and Son of God. There are two births in life; when we are born and when we are born again. Believing in Jesus brings about the new birth, birth into the eternal life for which he suffered and died.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord our God, as we celebrate Mothering Sunday, we thank you for those who have cared for us, our mothers and those who stood in their place. We pray this morning for all those who have lost their mothers during the pandemic, and especially those who were unable to be with them due to covid.

Lord our God, we pray for the church during this time, thanking you for one another and the fellowship we enjoy. We remember before you our mother church, the church from which we first knew you, and ask your blessing on its life and witness.

Lord our God, we pray for the people of Ukraine, for families displaced and divided by war. We pray for the negotiators between Ukraine and Russia, and pray for a peaceful and equitable resolution to this war.

We pray for the Queen and the royal family, for William and Kate in the Caribbean fostering ties of family across the Commonwealth. We pray for our own family, friends and neighbours, thanking you for them. In these testing times, help us to foster ties not only with those nearest and dearest to us but also with others from afar.

We pray for our community of Bowthorpe, that all within its embrace may know they

are remembered in love. Bless them with joy despite the difficulties they continue to face. We pray for families as they prepare for the Easter holiday in a week's time. We pray also for all school staff, for rest and recovery.

Lord our God, we pray for those who have gone through a sham trial and who have been punished despite being innocent. As Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and Anoosheh Ashoori begin to enjoy a life of freedom once again, we pray for all political prisoners around the world, for those wrongly imprisoned, and pray for the work of organisations such as Barnabas Aid, who bring hope to Christians suffering persecution and imprisonment.

Lord our God, we pray for all those who grieve, especially today remembering mothers who have lost children. We pray for lost loved ones, for lost health or work or hope. Finally we pray for ourselves, that we may be faithful to you in all we say and do, that our lives may not betray our love for you.

All these things we pray in Jesus' name.
Amen.

When the music fades

When the music fades
All is stripped away
And I simply come
Longing just to bring
Something that's of worth
That will bless Your heart

Bridge:

I'll bring You more than a song, for a song
in itself
Is not what You have required
You search much deeper within through
the way things appear
You're looking into my heart

Chorus:

I'm coming back to the heart of worship
And it's all about You, all about You, Jesus
I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it
When it's all about You, all about You,
Jesus

2. King of endless worth

No one could express how much You
deserve
Though I'm weak and poor
All I have is Yours, ev'ry single breath

(Repeat bridge and chorus)

THE PEACE

The Lord calls us to be peacemakers. He gives us his peace and invites us to share it.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Let us share with one another a sign of peace.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Almighty God, good Father to us all, your face is turned towards your world.

In love you gave us Jesus your Son to rescue us from sin and death.

Your Word goes out to call us home to the city where angels sing your praise.

We join with them in heaven's song:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Father of all, we give you thanks for every gift that comes from heaven.

To the darkness Jesus came as your light. With signs of faith and words of hope he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean. This is his story.

This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

The crowds came out to see your Son, yet at the end they turned on him.

On the night he was betrayed he came to table with his friends to celebrate the freedom of your people. This is his story.

This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food; he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said: This is my body, given for you all.

Jesus then gave thanks for the wine; he took the cup, gave it and said:

This is my blood, shed for you all for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this in remembrance of me. This is our story.

This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate the cross on which he died to set us free.

Defying death he rose again and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world. This is our story.

This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Send your spirit on us now that by these gifts

we may feed on Christ with opened eyes and hearts on fire.

May we and all who share this food offer ourselves to live for you and be welcomed at your feast in heaven where all creation worships you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF BREAD

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

THE GIVING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

The Body of Christ keep you in eternal life
The Blood of Christ keep you in eternal life

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

Thank you for the cross

Thank You for the cross,
The price You paid for us

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A Mock Trial – Luke 22:66-23:25
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How You gave Yourself
So completely
Precious Lord

Really love You, Lord
I will never understand
Why You love me

Now our sins are gone
All forgiven
Covered by Your blood
All forgotten
Thank You, Lord (thank You, Lord)

You're my deepest joy
You're my heart's desire
And the greatest thing of all, O Lord, I see
You delight in me!
You delight in me!
You delight in me!
You delight in me!

Oh, I love You, Lord
Really love You, Lord
I will never understand
Why You love me

I Really love You Lord

You're my deepest joy
You're my heart's desire
And the greatest thing of all, O Lord, I see
You delight in me!

You delight in me!
You delight in me!

For our healing there
Lord, You suffered
And to take our fear
You poured out Your love
Precious Lord

I Really love You Lord

Calvary's work is done
You have conquered
Able now to save
So completely
Thank You, Lord
Thank You, Lord

You delight in me!
You delight in me!

CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

Now may the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Oh, I love You, Lord
Really love You, Lord
I will never understand
Why You love me

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

You're my deepest joy
You're my heart's desire
And the greatest thing of all, O Lord, I see
You delight in me!

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Oh, I love You, Lord