ST MARY AT HILL

MIDDAY PRAYER FOR PASSIONTIDE

As we begin:

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

Thinking of one another and others we want to be encompassed within our prayer gathering;
those we might usually be with, colleagues, family, strangers and friends, we pray:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
Holy God,
Holy and strong,
Holy and immortal,
Have mercy upon us.

Psalm 142 or Psalm 143

Wednesday 1st April - Psalm 142 - A Maskil of David. When he was in the cave. A Prayer.

1 With my voice I cry to the LORD;
   with my voice I make supplication to the LORD.
2 I pour out my complaint before him; I tell my trouble before him.
3 When my spirit is faint, you know my way.
In the path where I walk they have hidden a trap for me.
4 Look on my right hand and see—
   there is no one who takes notice of me;
no refuge remains to me; no one cares for me.
5 I cry to you, O LORD;
   I say, “You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.”
6 Give heed to my cry for I am brought very low.
Save me from my persecutors for they are too strong for me.
7 Bring me out of prison,
   so that I may give thanks to your name.
The righteous will surround me,
   for you will deal bountifully with me.
Wednesday 8th April Psalm 143 - A Psalm of David.

1 Hear my prayer, O LORD;
give ear to my supplications in your faithfulness;
answer me in your righteousness.
2 Do not enter into judgment with your servant,
for no one living is righteous before you.
3 For the enemy has pursued me,
crushing my life to the ground,
making me sit in darkness like those long dead.
4 Therefore my spirit faints within me;
my heart within me is appalled.
5 I remember the days of old,
I think about all your deeds,
I meditate on the works of your hands.
6 I stretch out my hands to you;
my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.
7 Answer me quickly, O LORD;
my spirit fails.
Do not hide your face from me,
or I shall be like those who go down to the Pit.
8 Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning,
for in you I put my trust.
Teach me the way I should go,
for to you I lift up my soul.
Save me, O LORD, from my enemies;
I have fled to you for refuge.[a]
10 Teach me to do your will,
for you are my God.
Let your good spirit lead me
on a level path.
11 For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life.
In your righteousness bring me out of trouble.
12 In your steadfast love cut off my enemies,
and destroy all my adversaries,
for I am your servant.

After the Psalm we say:

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.
A short reading

Wednesday 1st April – I Corinthians 1:18, 22-25

18 For 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.
22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, 23 but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Wednesday 8th April – Mark 8:31-35

31 Then Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” 34 He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.

We keep silence to reflect on the Psalm and short reading, and then are invited to share our response to them.

When all who wish to share have done so, we keep silence again.

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray, remembering that God alone makes us dwell in safety
For all affected by coronavirus in this nation and across the world through illness, anxiety or isolation, that they may find relief and recovery.
Lord hear us
Lord graciously hear us.

For those guiding our nation at this time and shaping national policies, that they may make wise and compassionate decisions.
Lord hear us
Lord graciously hear us.

For medical teams and hospital staff, for medical researchers
That through their skill and insights many will be restored to health.
Lord hear us
Lord graciously hear us.
For those lesser-sung workers who continue to go out protect and aid the vulnerable, those whose working from home and elsewhere keeps our nation running and especially for those whose livelihoods are in jeopardy, that they may know your strength and protection.

Lord hear us
Lord graciously hear us.

For families and individuals under pressure, for parents and others caring for children, for the vulnerable, the gravely ill and the dying that they may know your encompassing peace.

Lord hear us
Lord graciously hear us.

Our Father,
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, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever
Amen.

Keep us good Lord
under the shadow of your abundant mercy.
Lift up all who are brought low.
be consolation in loneliness,
hope in fear,
light in darkness,
and ever remind us that nothing can sperate us from your love in Christ our Lord.

Amen.

As we conclude:

Though you may have lost the outside world
may you discover the untold journey that awaits you in the inner world.
May you come to recognize that though the body is imprisoned,
no-one can imprison your mind and soul.
Within this limited space may you learn to harness the stretch of time.
May you find, and be, a friend to talk with.
May your eyes look up and find
the bright line of an inner horizon
that will ground and encourage you
for that day when your new feet
will step out onto the pastures of freedom.

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

Amen.