



CHESTER  
CATHEDRAL

**Devotions  
for Good Friday**

The Crucifixion  
*John Stainer*

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2026  
12noon-1pm

# WELCOME

We welcome you to Chester Cathedral! It is a place where the mission of the church to proclaim God's love is central, and your welcome presence here for worship helps to strengthen this vital act of witness.

We're a paperless Cathedral and are working environmentally to save paper. The service can be downloaded to your device using the QR code at the back of the nave, or by visiting [Service Information for Chester Cathedral - Chester Cathedral](#)

The words of the hymns will be presented on the screens.

If you need to leave during the devotions, please do so during a convenient pause in the service or during a hymn.

Music by John Stainer (1840-1901). Text is selected and written by The Revd J. Sparrow-Simpson (1859-1952).

Soloists are Edward Comer and James Rees, Lay Clerks of Chester Cathedral.

# THE CRUCIFIXION

*We begin in silence with all seated.*

We adore you, O Christ,  
and we bless you;  
**by your holy cross,  
you have redeemed the world.**

Almighty Father,  
look with mercy on this your family  
for which our Lord Jesus Christ was  
content to be betrayed  
and given up into the hands of sinners  
and to suffer death upon the cross;  
who is alive and glorified with you  
and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

## **1. Recitative**

*And they came to a place named Gethsemane*

## **2. Solo and Chorus**

*The Agony*

## **3. Chorus and Solo**

*Processional to Calvary*

## 4. Recitative

*And when they were come*

*Please stand, if able, to sing.*

## 5. Hymn

*The mystery of the divine humiliation*

Cross of Jesus, cross of sorrow,  
Where the blood of Christ was shed,  
Perfect man on thee was tortured,  
Perfect God on thee has bled.

Here the King of all the ages,  
throned in light ere worlds could be  
robed in mortal flesh is dying,  
crucified by sin for me.

From the “holy, holy, holy,  
we adore thee, O most High,”  
down to earth’s blaspheming voices  
and the shout of “Crucify”.

Cross of Jesus, cross of sorrow,  
where the blood of Christ was shed,  
perfect man on thee was tortured,  
perfect God on thee has bled.

*Please be seated.*

## **6. Recitative**

*He made himself of no reputation*

## **7. Solo**

*The majesty of the divine humiliation*

## **8. Recitative**

*And as Moses lifted up the serpent*

## **9. Chorus**

*God so loved the world*

*Please stand, if able, to sing.*

## **10. Hymn**

*Litany of the Passion*

Holy Jesu, by thy passion,  
by the woes which none can share,  
borne in more than kingly fashion,  
by thy love beyond compare:  
crucified, I turn to thee,  
Son of Mary, plead for me.

By the treachery and trial,  
by the blows and sore distress,  
by desertion and denial,  
by thine awful loneliness:  
crucified, I turn to thee,  
Son of Mary, plead for me.

By the hour of condemnation,  
by the blood which trickled down,  
when, for us and our salvation,  
thou didst wear the robe and crown:  
crucified, I turn to thee,  
Son of Mary, plead for me.

By the Spirit which could render  
love for hate and good for ill,  
by the mercy, sweet and tender,  
poured upon thy murderers still:  
crucified, I turn to thee,  
Son of Mary, plead for me.

*Please be seated.*

## **11. Recitative**

*Jesus said, "Father forgive them".*

## **12. Duet**

*So thou liftest thy divine petition*

*Please stand, if able, to sing.*

### **13. Hymn**

*The mystery of intercession*

Jesus, the crucified, pleads for me,  
while he is nailed to the shameful tree,  
scorned and forsaken, derided and curst,  
see how his enemies do their worse!  
Yet, in the midst of the torture and shame,  
Jesus, the crucified, breathes my name!  
Wonder of wonders, oh! How can it be?  
Jesus, the crucified, pleads for me!

Jesus is dying, in agony sore,  
Jesus is suffering more and more,  
Jesus is bowed with the weight of his woe,  
Jesus is faint with each bitter throe.  
Jesus is bearing it all in my stead,  
pity incarnate for me has bled;  
wonder of wonders it ever must be  
Jesus, the crucified, pleads for me!

*Please be seated.*

### **14. Recitative**

*And one of the malefactors*

*Please stand, if able, to sing.*

## **15. Hymn**

*The adoration of the crucified*

I adore thee, I adore thee!  
Glorious ere the world began;  
yet more wonderful thou shinest,  
though divine, yet still divinest  
in thy dying love for man.

I adore thee, I adore thee!  
Thankful at thy feet to be;  
I have heard thy accent thrilling,  
lo! I come, for thou art willing  
me to pardon, even me.

I adore thee, I adore thee!  
Born of woman yet divine:  
stained with sins I kneel before thee,  
sweetest Jesu, I implore thee  
make me ever only thine.

*Please be seated.*

## **16. Recitative**

*When Jesus therefore saw his mother*

## **17. Recitative**

*Is it nothing to you?*

## **18. Chorus**

*The appeal of the crucified*

## **19. Recitative and Chorus**

*After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished.*

*Please stand, if able, to sing.*

## **20. Hymn**

*For the love of Jesus*

All for Jesus! All for Jesus!  
This our song shall ever be;  
for we have not hope nor Saviour  
if we have not hope in thee.

All for Jesus! Thou wilt give us  
strength to serve thee hour by hour:  
none can move us from thy presence  
while we trust thy love and power.

All for Jesus! At thine altar  
thou wilt give us sweet content;  
there, dear Lord, we shall receive thee  
in the solemn sacrament.

All for Jesus! Thou hast loved us,  
all for Jesus! Thou hast died,  
all for Jesus! Thou art with us,  
all for Jesus, crucified!

All for Jesus! All for Jesus!  
this the Church's song must be,  
till at last the flock is gathered  
one in love, and one in thee. Amen.

*W.J. Sparrow-Simpson 1859-1952*

*John Stainer 1840-1901*

*Please be seated. Silence is kept. Our Good Friday devotions continue with a reflective hour, and then the Liturgy of Good Friday at 2pm.*

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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