

# The Temple Church

Wednesday 16 April 2025, 6.00pm

## Stainer: THE CRUCIFIXION

It is a pleasure for all of us at the Temple Church that you are here this evening. *The Crucifixion: A Meditation on the Sacred Passion of the Holy Redeemer* is an oratorio composed by John Stainer (1840–1901) in 1887. It was written for the Parish of St Marylebone. The piece includes five hymns for congregational participation, and please join in with the singing! Its structure is clearly modelled on Bach's Passion settings, with a mixture of recitative, solo arias, hymns and choruses telling the dramatic story of Christ's trial and crucifixion. Stainer introduced *The St Matthew Passion* for Holy Week at St Paul's Cathedral in 1873.

**The Temple Singers**  
**Nathan Vale (tenor)**  
**Hugo Herman-Wilson (bass)**  
**Charles Andrews (organ)**  
**Thomas Allery (conductor)**

*All stand at the entrance of the choir and clergy.*

### **And they came to a place named Gethsemane**

And they came to a place named Gethsemane, and Jesus saith to his disciples: Sit ye here, while I shall pray.

### **The Agony**

Could ye not watch with me one brief hour? Could ye not pity my sorest need? Ah! If ye sleep while the tempests lower, surely, my friends, I am lone indeed.

Jesu, Lord Jesu, bowed in bitter anguish, and bearing all the evil we have done, Oh, teach us, teach us how to love thee for thy love; Help us to pray, and watch, and mourn with thee.

Could ye not watch with me one brief hour? Did ye not say upon Kedron's slope, ye would not fall into the Tempter's power? Did ye not murmur great words of hope?

Jesu, Lord Jesu, bowed in bitter anguish, and bearing all the evil we have done, Oh, teach us, teach us how to love thee for thy love; Help us to pray, and watch, and mourn with thee.

Could ye not watch with me? Even so: Willing in heart, but the flesh is vain. Back to mine agony I must go, Lonely to pray in bitterest pain. And they laid their hands on him and took him, and led him away to the High Priest.

And the High Priest asked him and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. Then the High Priest rent his clothes and saith: What need we any further witnesses? Ye have heard the blasphemy. And they all condemned him to be guilty of death. And they bound Jesus and carried him away, and delivered him to Pilate. And Pilate willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified. And the soldiers led him away.

### **Processional to Calvary**

Fling wide the gates! For the Saviour waits to tread in his royal way; He has come from above, in his power and love, to die on this Passion day. His cross is the sign of his love divine, his crown is the thorn-wreath of woe, He bears his load on the sorrowful road, and bends 'neath the burden low.

How sweet is the grace of his sacred face and lovely beyond compare; though weary and worn with the merciless scorn of a world he has come to spare. The burden of wrong that earth bears along, past evil and evil to be. All sins of man since the world began, they are laid, dear Lord, on thee.

Then on to the end, my God and my friend, with thy banner lifted high, Thou art come from above, in thy power and love, to endure and suffer and die.

### **And when they were come**

And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified him, they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right, and the other on the left.

### **The Mystery of the Divine Humiliation**

#### **Hymn**

**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.**

**O mysterious condescending!  
O abandonment sublime!  
Very God himself is bearing  
All the sufferings of time!**

**Evermore for human failure  
By his Passion we can plead;  
God has borne all mortal anguish,  
Surely he will know our need.**

**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.**

### **He made himself of no reputation**

He made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, ev'n the death of the cross.

### **The Majesty of the Divine Humiliation**

King ever glorious, King ever glorious! The dews of death are gath'ring round thee; upon the cross thy foes have bound thee - thy strength is gone, thy strength is gone. Not in thy Majesty, robed in Heaven's supremest splendour, but in weakness and surrender, thou hangest there. Who can be like thee? Pilate high in Zion dwelling, Rome with arms the world compelling, Proud though they be? Thou art sublime, thou art sublime: Far more awful in thy weakness, more than kingly in thy meekness, thou Son of God, thou Son of God. Glory and honour: let the world divide and take them; crown its monarchs and unmake them; but thou, thou wilt reign. Here in abasement; crownless, poor, disrobed, and bleeding: There, in glory interceding, thou art the King, thou art the King!

### **And as Moses lifted up the serpent**

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; that whosoever believeth in him, should not perish, but have everlasting life.

### **God so loved the world**

God so loved the world that he sent his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.

# **Litany of the Passion**

## **Hymn**

**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 path of sorrows dreary,  
By the cross, thy dreadful load,  
By the pain, when faint and weary,  
Thou didst sink upon the road:  
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.**

**Jesus said, "Father, forgive them"**

Jesus said: "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

**So Thou liftest Thy divine petition**

So thou liftest thy divine petition, pierced with cruel anguish through and through; So thou grieveest o'er our lost condition, pleading, "Ah, they know not what they do." Oh! 'Twas love, in love's divinest feature, passing o'er that dark and murd'rous blot, finding, e'en for each low fallen creature, though they slay thee - one redeeming spot.

Yes! And still thy patient heart is yearning with a love that mortal scarce can bear; thou in pity, deep, divine, and burning, liftest e'en for me thy mighty prayer. So thou pleadest, e'en for my transgression, bidding me look up and trust and live; so

thou murmurest thine intercession, bidding me look up and trust and live; so thou pleadest, Yea, he knew not - for my sake, forgive.

## **The Mystery of the Intercession**

### **Hymn**

**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 worst!**

**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!**

**Lord, I have left thee, I have denied,  
Followed the world in my selfish pride;  
Lord, I have joined in the hateful cry,  
Slay him, away with him, crucify!**

**Lord, I have done it, oh! Ask me not how;  
Woven the thorns for thy tortured brow:  
Yet in his pity so boundless and free,  
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!**

### **And one of the malefactors**

And one of the malefactors which were hanged, railed on him, saying, "If thou be the Christ, save thyself and us." But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man has done nothing amiss." And he said unto Jesus, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy Kingdom." And Jesus said unto him, "Verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with me in Paradise."

## **The Adoration of the Crucified**

### **Hymn**

**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.**

### **When Jesus therefore saw his mother**

When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, "Woman, behold thy son!" Then saith he to the disciple, "Behold thy mother!" There was darkness over all the land. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

### **Is it nothing to you?**

Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? Behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is done unto me, wherewith the Lord hath afflicted me in the day of his fierce anger.

### **The Appeal of the Crucified**

From the throne of his cross, the King of grief cries out to a world of unbelief: Oh! Men and women, afar and nigh, is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? I laid my eternal power aside, I came from the home of the Glorified, a babe, in the lowly cave to lie; is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? I wept for the sorrows and pains of men, I healed them, and helped them, and loved them - but then, they shouted against me - "Crucify" Is it nothing to you? Behold me and see: pierced through and through with countless sorrows - and all is for you; for you I suffer, for you I die, is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? Oh! Men and women, your

deeds of shame, your sins without reason and number and name; I bear them all on the cross on high; is it nothing to you? Is it nothing to you that I bow my head? And nothing to you that my blood is shed? O perishing souls to you I cry, Is it nothing to you? O come unto me - by the woes I have borne, by the dreadful scourge, and the crown of thorns, by these, I implore you to hear my cry, Is it nothing to you? O come unto me - this awful price, redemption's tremendous sacrifice – is paid for you. Oh. Why will ye die O come unto me.

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

After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, saith, "I thirst." When Jesus had received the vinegar, he saith, "It is finished. Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit." And he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

### **For the Love of Jesus**

#### **Hymn**

**All for Jesus - all for Jesus,  
This our song shall ever be;  
For we have no hope, now 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, her sons are gathered  
One in love and one in thee.  
Amen.**

*The congregation departs in silence.*

*There will be a retiring collection. If you would prefer to donate online, kindly scan the QR code below.*



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**SPECIAL SERVICES DURING HOLY WEEK AND EASTERTIDE**

**Thursday 17 April, 1.15pm**

CHORAL COMMUNION: MAUNDY THURSDAY  
The Temple Singers

**Friday 18 April, 11.15am**

CHORAL MATTINS: GOOD FRIDAY  
The Temple Church Choir

**Saturday 19 April, 8.00pm**

EASTER VIGIL AND FIRST COMMUNION OF EASTER  
The Temple Singers

**Sunday 20 April, 11.15am**

CHORAL COMMUNION: EASTER SUNDAY  
The Temple Church Choir

**Wednesday 30 April, 6.00pm**

EASTER CAROLS

**Sunday 4 May, 11.15am**

EASTER CAROLS

*To include: Five Mystical Songs (Vaughan Williams)*

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**SAFEGUARDING**

If you have any concerns about safeguarding, the Safeguarding Officer can be contacted confidentially at [safeguarding@templechurch.com](mailto:safeguarding@templechurch.com) or via 020 7427 5650.