



**LANCASTER
PRIORY**

The Crucifixion

A Meditation on the
Sacred Passion
of the Holy Redeemer

Welcome to Lancaster Priory.

John Stainer's Crucifixion

Stainer's Crucifixion was first performed in February 1887 at Marylebone Parish Church. His purpose in composing The Crucifixion cantata was to create a meditation on the passion of Christ but on a scale that made it accessible to most parish choirs and which encouraged participation by the whole congregation. Despite some damning condemnation over the years, Stainer's collaboration with the Revd William Sparrow-Simpson, who wrote the words, is considered by many to contain 'some of the most memorable hymn tunes we shall ever hear'. Stainer's aim with this cantata was always a modest one and yet, at the time, there was no such piece which provided an extended Passiontide contemplation for ordinary choirs and congregations to perform. Its enduring popularity is a testament to its success.

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Please stand as the choir and clergy enter.

Welcome and Introduction

The officiant leads the opening responsory

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
O my God, in you I trust.

You are the God of my salvation;
In you I hope all the day long.

Remember, Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.

Welcome in the name of Christ.

Prayers of Penitence

The officiant says

Christ himself carried up our sins in his body to the tree,
so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness;
by his wounds we have been healed. Let us confess our sins.

Silence is kept

When we take our ease rather than watch with you:
Lord, forgive us. **Christ have mercy.**

When we bestow a kiss of peace yet nurse enmity in our hearts:
Lord, forgive us. **Christ have mercy.**

When we strike at those who hurt us
rather than stretch out our hands to bless:
Lord, forgive us. **Christ have mercy.**

When we deny that we know you for fear of the world and its scorn:
Lord, forgive us. **Christ have mercy.**

The officiant says

May almighty God, who sent his Son into the world to save sinners, bring you his pardon and peace, now and forever.

Amen.

Collect

The officiant says 'Let us pray' and silence is kept.

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Crucifixion

A Meditation on the Sacred Passion of the Holy Redeemer

*The words selected and written by the Revd J. Sparrow Simpson,
the music by J. Stainer*

We remain seated throughout 'The Crucifixion', but stand for the congregational hymns.

No. 1 Recitative *Tenor*

And they came to a place named Gethsemane: and Jesus saith to His disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray. *Mark 14:32*

No. 2 The Agony *Bass Solo*

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!

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

Bass Solo 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 worlds of hope?
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.

Recitative *Tenor and Bass*

And they laid their hands on Him, and to 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. *Mark 14:46, 53, 61-64; 15:1, 15*

No. 3 Processional to Calvary *Chorus*

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 a love divine,
His Crown is the thorn-wreath of woe,
He bears His load on the sorrowful road,
And bends 'neath the burden low.

Tenor Solo 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.

Chorus 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.

No. 4 Recitative *Bass*

And when they were come to the place called Calvary,
there they crucified Him, and the malefactors,
one on the right, and the other on the left. *Luke 23:33*

Hymn No. 5 The Mystery of the Divine Humiliation

Please stand.

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.

Evermore for human failure
by His Passion we can plead;
God has borne all mortal anguish,
surely He will know our need.

This – all human thought surpassing –
this is earth's most awful hour,
God has taken mortal weakness!
God has laid aside His Power!

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!

No. 6 Recitative *Bass*

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, and became obedient unto death,
Ev'n the death of the cross. *Philippians 2:7, 8*

No. 7 The Majesty of the Divine Humiliation *Tenor*

King ever glorious!
The dews of death are gath'ring round Thee,

Upon the Cross Thy foes have bound Thee,
Thy strength is gone.
Not in Thy Majesty,
Robed in Heaven's supremest splendor,
But in weakness and surrender,
Thou hangest here.
Who can be like Thee?
Pilate high in Zion dwelling,
Rome with arms the world compelling,
Proud tho' they be?
Thou art sublime;
Far more awful in Thy weakness,
More than kingly in Thy meekness,
Thou Son of God.
Glory and honour:
Let the world divide and take them,
Crown its monarchs and unmake them;
But Thou wilt reign.
Here in abasement,
Crownless, poor, disrobed and bleeding;
There, in glory interceding,
Thou art the King!

No. 8 Recitative *Bass*

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. *John 3:14, 15*

No. 9 God so loved the World *Chorus*

God so loved the world,
that He gave His only-begotten Son,
that whoso 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. *John 3:14, 15*

Hymn No. 10 Litany of the Passion *Please stand*

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 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.

No. 11 Recitative *Tenor and Chorus*

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

John 3:14, 15

No. 12 Duet *Tenor and Bass*

So Thou liftest Thy divine petition,
Pierc'd with cruel anguish through and through;
So Thou grieve'st 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,
Tho' 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,
Yea, he knew not; for my sake, forgive.

Hymn No. 13 The Mystery of Intercession *Please stand.*

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!

No. 14 Recitative *Tenor, Bass, and Chorus*

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 hath 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.”

Luke 23:39-43

Hymn No. 15 The Adoration of the Crucified *Please stand.*

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.

No. 16 Recitative *Tenor, Bass, and Chorus*

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?”

John 29:26, 27; Matthew 27:45; Mark 25:34

No. 17 Recitative *Bass*

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. *Lamentations 1:22*

No. 18 The Appeal of the Crucified *Chorus*

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, all ye that pass by?
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 this Cross on high;

Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by?
Is it nothing to you that I bow my head?
And nothing to you that my blood is shed?
Oh, perishing souls, to you I cry;
Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by?
Oh come unto me! by the woes I have borne,
By the dreadful scourge, and the crown of thorn,
By these I implore you to hear my cry;

Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by?
Oh come unto me! this awful price,
Redemption's tremendous sacrifice,
Is paid for you. – Oh, why will ye die?

Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by?

No. 19 Recitative *Tenor and Chorus*

After this, Jesus knowing 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.
John 29:28-30; Luke 23:46

Prayers of Intercession *Please sit. Silence is kept.*

The response to 'Let us pray to the Lord' is **Lord, have mercy.**

At the end

Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy on us. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in 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.

Hymn No. 20 For the Love of Jesus

Please stand. During the hymn a collection will be taken.

All for Jesus – all for Jesus,
this our song shall ever be;
for we have no 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, her sons are gathered
one in love, and one in Thee. Amen.

Blessing *Please remain standing. The officiant says*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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.

Dismissal

We go in the peace of Christ, our crucified Saviour.
Thanks be to God.

Organ Voluntary

Improvisation on The Crucifixion Ian Pattinson

during which choir and clergy depart.