Hymn 598

Lord Christ, When First Thou Cam’st to Earth

We will not sing this hymn, but during the organist’s improvisation on the tune, you may meditate on the text below.

Lord Christ, when first thou cam’st to earth, upon a cross they bound thee, and mocked thy saving kingship then by thorns with which they crowned thee, till not a stone was left on stone, and all those nations’ pride, o’er-thrown, went down to dust beside thee!

New advent of the love of Christ, shall we again refuse thee, till in the night of hate and war we perish as we lose thee?

From old unfaith our souls release to seek the kingdom of thy peace, by which alone we choose thee.

O wounded hands of Jesus, build in us thy new creation;
our pride is dust, our vaunt is stilled, we wait thy revelation:
O love that triumphs over loss, we bring our hearts before thy cross, to finish thy salvation.

Lenten Acclamation

Celebrant

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People

His mercy endures for ever.

Decalogue

The congregation kneels.

Hear the commandments of God to his people: I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage. You shall have no other gods but me.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

Amen. Lord have mercy.
Honor your father and your mother.
*Amen. Lord have mercy.*

You shall not commit murder.
*Amen. Lord have mercy.*

You shall not commit adultery.
*Amen. Lord have mercy.*

You shall not steal.
*Amen. Lord have mercy.*

You shall not be a false witness.
*Amen. Lord have mercy.*

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.
*Amen. Lord have mercy.*

*The Celebrant adds a scriptural sentence.*

**CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION**

**Deacon**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*A period of silence is kept.*

**Officiant and People**

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. *Amen.*

*The Priest alone stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

**KYRIE** The congregation remains kneeling.

**Celebrant** Lord, have mercy.

**People** Christ, have mercy.

**Celebrant** Lord, have mercy.

**Collect**

*The congregation may be seated.*
Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods and you do not worship the golden statue that I have set up? Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble to fall down and worship the statue that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire, and who is the god that will deliver you out of my hands?” Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to present a defense to you in this matter. If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let him deliver us. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up.” Then Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face was distorted. He ordered the furnace heated up seven times more than was customary, and ordered some of the strongest guards in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire. Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up quickly. He said to his counselors, “Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?” They answered the king, “True, O king.” He replied, “But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the fourth has the appearance of a god.” Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and said, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!” So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king’s counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men; the hair of their heads was not singed, their tunics were not harmed, and not even the smell of fire came from them. Nebuchadnezzar said, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him. They disobeyed the king’s command and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God.

Reader   The Word of the Lord.       People   Thanks be to God.
CANTICLE 13  A Song of Praise (Benedictus es, Domine)  (said in unison)

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; *
you are worthy of praise; glory to you.
Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; *
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.
Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; *
on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.
Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; *
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.
Glory to you, beholding the depths; *
in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.
Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; *
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

The congregation stands.

GOSPEL  John 8:31-42

Before the Gospel

Deacon    The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ
          according to John.

People    Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?” Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are descendants of Abraham; yet you look for an opportunity to kill me, because there is no place in you for my word. I declare what I have seen in the Father’s presence; as for you, you should do what you have heard from the Father.” They answered him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing what Abraham did, but now you are trying to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You are indeed doing what your father does.” They said to him, “We are not illegitimate children; we have one father, God himself.” Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now I am here. I did not come on my own, but he sent me.”

After the Gospel

Deacon    The Gospel of the Lord.
People    Praise to you, Lord Christ.
Homily
Chuck Hagy
A brief period of silence follows the Homily.

The congregation stands at the Celebrant's lead.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is—seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

From Intercessions for the Christian People

Jesus Christ intercedes for us at all times. Together let us remember and pray
to God through Christ, saying: Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the church, that the fasting of these forty days may clear away
much that is needless and so open our eyes to the bright glory of the cross.
Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.
Let us pray for our divided and restless world, that those who hold power over others may be troubled and transformed by the demands of justice. Lord, in your mercy,
_Hear our prayer._
Let us pray for all who suffer want, that God in mercy may turn our hearts toward one another. Lord, in your mercy,
_Hear our prayer._
Let us pray for ourselves, that this church may walk both as burdened and as free as Jesus. Lord in your mercy,
_Hear our prayer._
Let us pray for all who have died, that they may be at peace. Lord, in your mercy,
_Hear our prayer._
Silence
*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

God of the present moment, God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart; bring hope and courage to all who wait or work in uncertainty. Bring hope that you will make them the equal of whatever lies ahead. Bring them courage to endure what cannot be avoided, for your will is health and wholeness; for you are God and we need you. _Amen._

**The Peace**
**Organ Voluntary**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

*Eucharistic Prayer I from _Enriching Our Worship_*

| Celebrant | The Lord be with you. |
| People | _And also with you._ |
| Celebrant | Lift up your hearts. |
| People | _We lift them to the Lord._ |
| Celebrant | Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. |
| People | _It is right to give our thanks and praise._ |
| Celebrant | It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. |

*The Celebrant adds a Proper Preface.*

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we say:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, 
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
  Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
  Hosanna in the highest.

The congregation kneels, and the Celebrant continues.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: “Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
The Celebrant continues
Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ’s Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. AMEN.

Celebrant
As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Celebrant and People Second translation of The Lord’s Prayer from The Book of Common 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. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Agnus Dei
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Communion
In apartheid South Africa many prisoners were denied the sacraments and had to find other ways of taking Spiritual Communion. This found its way into the 1989 Anglican Church of Southern Africa Prayer Book as a help to others who could not receive:

Jesus, may all that is you flow into me. May your body and blood be my food and drink. May your passion and death be my strength and life. Jesus, with you by my side enough has been given. May the shelter I seek be the shadow of your cross. Let me not run from the love which you offer But hold me safe from the forces of evil. On each of my dyings shed your light and your love. Keep calling to me until that day comes When, with your saints, I may praise you for ever. Amen.

The congregation stands when the Celebrant returns to the High Altar.
**Postcommunion Prayer**

Celebrant and People

*God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.*

**Prayer over the People**

The congregation bows.

Celebrant

*Look down in mercy, Lord, on your people who bow before you; and grant that those whom you have nourished by your Word and Sacraments may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Meditation on Hymn 479**

*Glory Be to Jesus*

We will not sing this hymn, but during the organist’s improvisation on the tune, you may meditate on the text below.

**Wem in Leidenstagen**

Glory be to Jesus, who in bitter pains
poured for me the lifeblood from his sacred veins!

Blest through endless ages be the precious stream
which from sin and sorrow doth the world redeem.

Lift ye then your voices; swell the mighty flood;
louder still and louder praise the precious blood.

**Dismissal**

Response

*Thanks be to God.*

**Give Now Online!**

You may “Give Now” electronically in one of two ways: 1. Scanning the QR code with your smartphone; or 2. Visiting bbts.org and clicking the red “Give Online” button.
Palm Sunday • Holy Week • Easter Day

Palm Sunday, April 5
11:00 a.m. *Livestream: Palm Sunday celebration with The Royal Poinciana Chapel
11:50 a.m. *Zoom: Coffee Hour

Monday, April 6 — Monday in Holy Week
11:00 a.m. *Livestream: Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, April 7 — Tuesday in Holy Week
11:00 a.m. *Livestream: Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, April 8 — Wednesday in Holy Week
11:00 a.m. *Livestream: Holy Eucharist
6:30 p.m. *Zoom: Middle Way discussion

Thursday, April 9 — Maundy Thursday
6:30 p.m. *Zoom: Maundy Thursday Agape meal
7:30 p.m. *Livestream: Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altars

Friday, April 10 — Good Friday
12:00 noon *Livestream: The Good Friday Liturgy with meditations by the Bethesda clergy

Saturday, April 11 — Holy Saturday
11:00 a.m. *Livestream: The Holy Saturday Liturgy

Sunday, April 12 — Easter Day
11:00 a.m. *Livestream: Holy Eucharist
11:50 a.m. *Zoom: Coffee Hour conversation

* link can be found on our home page
bbts.org

Our Facebook page (BBTSChurch) provides updates, information, and encouragement.
Bethesda’s Mission is to experience the clear and strong presence of God and to understand and spread Christ’s teachings through collective worship, learning, and service.

Rector and Associates
The Rev. James E. Harlan, Rector
The Rev. Burl Salmon
Associate for Christian Education, Pastoral Care, and Outreach
The Rev. Margaret E. McGhee
Curate
Fred E. Staley
Associate for Administration

Non-Stipendiary Assisting Clergy
The Rev. Canon Elizabeth R. Geitz
Assisting Priest
The Rev. W. Frisby Hendricks III
Assisting Priest
The Rev. Clayton B. Waddell
Deacon for Port Ministry
The Rev. Dr. Cecily J. Titcomb
Deacon for Spiritual Direction

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