



Sunday Service
Sunday 21st March 2021
The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Love that is sacrificial
John 12 : 20 - 33

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, look mercifully on us as we gather to praise your name and bring our prayers to you. Through your infinite grace, strengthen us to hear your Word and be governed and inspired by your Holy Spirit to glorify you in everything that we are and do. In the precious name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Bible reading

²⁰ Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. 'Sir,' they said, 'we would like to see Jesus.' ²² Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

²³ Jesus replied, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. ²⁵ Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me.

²⁷ 'Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? "Father, save me from this hour"? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!'

Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.' ²⁹ The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

³⁰ Jesus said, 'This voice was for your benefit, not mine. ³¹ Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' ³³ He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

John 12 : 20 - 33

Talk : Love that is sacrificial

Prayers

Gracious God,
as we remember before you the thousands who have died,
surround us and all who mourn with your strong compassion.
Be gentle with us in our grief,
protect us from despair,
and give us grace to persevere and face the future with hope
in Jesus Christ our risen Lord. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ,
when fear and anxiety besiege us and hope is veiled in grief,
hold us in your wounded hands and make your face shine on us again,
for you are our Lord and God. Amen.

Final Prayer

Dear Lord, you gave all that you had for us in self-giving love. Help us, Lord, not to be driven by the world's vain pursuit of self-fulfilment, but by your Holy Spirit, enabling us to walk your way of sacrifice and selfless love. In your Name we pray. Amen.

Blessing

And now may the love of our Lord Jesus draw us to himself, the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen us in his service, the joy of the Lord Jesus fill our hearts:

and the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us all, now and for ever more. Amen.

This Service may be accessed from the Church YouTube Channel :

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbK-_QzhYCbTnOpdekn4DXA

or the Church website : <http://stpeters-elworth.org.uk/>