

## Wednesday in Holy Week – 'I am thirsty'



### GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

*If you would find it helpful, light a candle as a symbol of God's presence with us. As we reflect on Jesus' words, you may find it helpful to place a glass of water on a table.*

#### Call to worship

We gather in the Name of the One who calls us into being.  
We gather in the Name of the One who comes, not to be served,  
but to serve, and give his life that we might live.  
We gather in the Name of the One who continually embraces us in sacrificial love.  
We gather in the Name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### Suggested hymns: [To see the King of heaven fall](#) (StF 269) (11/19)

- 1 To see the King of heaven fall  
in anguish to his knees,  
the Light and Hope of all the world  
now overwhelmed with grief.  
What nameless horrors must he see,  
to cry out in the garden:  
'Oh, take this cup away from me --  
yet not my will but yours,  
yet not my will but yours.'
- 2 To know each friend will fall away,  
and heaven's voice be still,  
for hell to have its vengeful day  
upon Golgotha's hill.  
No words describe the Saviour's plight --  
to be by God forsaken  
till wrath and love are satisfied  
and every sin is paid  
and every sin is paid.
- 3 What took him to this wretched place,  
what kept him on this road?  
His love for Adam's cursed race,  
for every broken soul.  
No sin too slight to overlook,  
no crime too great to carry,  
all mingled in this poisoned cup --  
and yet he drank it all,  
the Saviour drank it all,  
the Saviour drank it all.

*Keith Getty (b. 1974) and Stuart Townend (b. 1963)*

### **Opening Prayer**

Loving God,  
we thirst for your presence;  
we are hungry to know you more.

Loving God,  
we thirst in a world of deep need;  
we are hungry to bring your healing.

Loving God,  
we offer ourselves and our worship to you;  
quench our thirst,  
satisfy our hunger as only you can.  
In Jesus' name, amen.

### **WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

#### **John 19: 28-29**

<sup>28</sup>After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfil the scripture), **'I am thirsty.'** <sup>29</sup>A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth.

### **A Time of Reflection**

Take your glass of water and hold it firmly in both hands.  
Repeat Jesus' words, either aloud or in your mind.  
What are you thirsty for today?  
Ask Jesus to quench your thirst.

*As you reflect on these words, you might like to listen to the following piece of music: 'Take  
'Take Me To The Water' – Nina Simone <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lf6i59NUfkk>*

### **A Time of Prayer**

*After each paragraph, take a sip of water.*

*'I am thirsty'*

You have made us for yourself.  
We know it, even if we cannot name it.

We have had these bodies and these minds

long enough to learn to live  
with our limitations.



Yet despite this,  
something in us hankers, yearns, thirsts  
for something better,  
something greater  
which we know is there.

Beautiful music ends  
and we wish it could continue.

We embrace,  
then refrain from embracing  
and wish that we could be held forever.

We think deeply or feel deeply  
and wish that this sense  
of being caught up in living  
would not be interrupted  
by the mundane things of life.  
We sense the disappointment  
in dashed hopes  
that deserve to be fulfilled,  
in missed opportunities  
which should have led to joy not frustration,  
in people whose potential  
has been buried or denied and deserves to flourish.

So much of life demands a resolution.

So thank you for this incompleteness,  
thank you for this yearning,  
thank you for this thirst.

Thank you for giving us enough of you  
to want more,  
and so to sense the fulness of eternity  
within the limits of time. Amen.\*

### **The Lord's 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 forever. Amen.



**Suggested hymn: [My song is love unknown](#) (StF 277, vv.1-4) (11/28)**

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| <p>1 My song is love unknown,<br/>my Saviour's love to me,<br/>love to the loveless shown,<br/>that they might lovely be.<br/>O who am I,<br/>that for my sake<br/>my Lord should take<br/>frail flesh and die?</p> <p>2 He came from his blest throne,<br/>salvation to bestow;<br/>but they made strange, and none<br/>the longed-for Christ would know.<br/>But O my Friend,<br/>my Friend indeed,<br/>who at my need<br/>his life did spend!</p> | <p>3 Sometimes they strew his way,<br/>and his sweet praises sing;<br/>resounding all the day<br/>hosannas to their King.<br/>Then 'Crucify!'<br/>is all their breath,<br/>and for his death<br/>they thirst and cry.</p> <p>4 Why, what has my Lord done?<br/>What makes this rage and spite?<br/>He made the lame to run,<br/>he gave the blind their sight.<br/>Sweet injuries!<br/>Yet they at these<br/>themselves displease,<br/>and 'gainst him rise.</p> |
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*Samuel Crossman (c. 1624-1683)*

## **SENDING OUT**

As you have quenched our thirst  
from the deep well of your presence,  
so send us out to quench the thirst of your world.  
As you have blessed us with your love,  
so send us out to be a blessing to others.  
For your own Name's sake. Amen.

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