St Robert's Pannal & St Michaels Beckwithshaw Morning Prayer for Holy Week

Opening

Children sing your praises,
but we have gone our own way.
A donkey gladly bears your weight,
but we have gone our own way.
A thief will cry to you for mercy,
but we have gone our own way.

Forgiveness

O Saviour of the human race,
O true physician of every disease,
O heart-pitier and assister of all misery
O fount of true purity and knowledge
forgive us.
O star-like sun,
O guiding light,
O home of the planets,
O fiery-maned and marvellous one,
forgive us.

- O holy scholar of holy strength,
- O overflowing, loving, silent one,
- O generous and thunderous giver of gifts,
- O rock-like warrior of a hundred hosts,

forgive us.

Attributed to St Ciaran, adapted by Ray Simpson

When you were crucified, O Word, you offered your body and blood on behalf of all: your body to refashion us, your blood to wash us.
You gave up your spirit, O Christ, to bring us to your Father.

From St Andrew of Crete

Psalm

Psalm 130 (Monday); 56 (Tuesday); 40 (Wednesday); 116:11–18 (Thursday)

Old Testament reading

Isaiah 50:4–10 (Monday); Isaiah 42:1–9 (Tuesday); Lamentations 1:1–12 (Wednesday); Exodus 12:1–4, 11–14 (Thursday)

You pour out your life for us

O God, when the ride is bumpy and the world passes us by, you pour out your life for us, right to the very end.

When we are edged aside and doors are shut in our face, you pour out your life for us, right to the very end.

When others are out to get us and our home is not secure, you pour out your life for us, right to the very end.

When our lives are but a flicker in the darkness that encroaches,

you pour out your life for us,

right to the very end.

New Testament reading

Luke 19:41–48 (Monday); Luke 20:9–19 (Tuesday); Matthew 26:1–15 (Wednesday); John 13:1–17, 31b–35 (Thursday)

We, too, will praise you

The leaders turned on you, the crowds turned from you.

But the children sang to you and even the stones would have praised you.

You alone have the words of eternal life; to whom else could we go?

The children, the stones, and we, too, will praise you.

Intercessions

As his greatest trial drew near, Jesus looked upon the city and wept over it, because it did not recognise its salvation.

Open our eyes, that we may weep with you.

After each petition prayers may be offered or there may be silence.

We weep with you for the blindness of pride that corrodes the dignity of human life . . .

Open our eyes, that we may weep with you.

We weep with you for the mad rush to consume that tramples down on the earth and its children . . .

Open our eyes, that we may weep with you.

We weep with you for the lust to control that imprisons the soul and fragments community . . .

Open our eyes, that we may weep with you.

There may be free prayer, and/or silence or music.

Closing

Father, in the life of Jesus you have shown us the way. Give us his spirit of self-discipline; lead us more deeply into the way of the cross.

Before his hands were stretched out on the cross, they were stretched out in love to children, women, and men. May your way of the cross be our way, that we, too, may stretch out our hands in love to all.

Saviour of the world, by your Cross and precious death you have redeemed us;

save us and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.

May we carry your cross in our hearts through this day.

Your cross be in our eyes and in our looking.

Your cross be in our mouths and in our speaking.

Your cross be in our hands and in our working.

Your cross be in our minds and in our thinking.

Amen