



Who is this Jesus?

A service for 28th February 2021

2nd Sunday in Lent

Welcome and introduction. In today's service, for the 2nd Sunday in Lent, we continue to follow Christ in the early days of his teaching and preaching. Last week Chris Mannall led us on Jesus's baptism by John, a key event for Jesus and all who followed and follow him. This week we think about another key event, where Jesus for the first time talks about his path to the cross. We hear of Peter's reaction and Jesus's response. In all this we are thinking today about the question "who is this Jesus", both then and now.

We start with a worship song which speaks of our relationship with Jesus now. There is a link to the song on YouTube, and to the others later, if you have the opportunity to access them.

Worship song – Jesus is the name we honour (Singing the Faith 354)

<https://youtu.be/POmIxtEr9Rk>

Jesus is the name we honour;
Jesus is the name we praise.
Majestic Name above all other names,
The highest heaven and earth proclaim
That Jesus is our God.

*We will glorify,
We will lift Him high,
We will give Him honour and praise.
We will glorify,
We will lift Him high,
We will give Him honour and praise.*

Jesus is the name we worship;
Jesus is the name we trust.
He is the King above all other kings,
Let all creation stand and sing
That Jesus is our God.

We will glorify.....

Jesus is the Father's splendour;
Jesus is the Father's joy.
He will return to reign in majesty,
And every eye at last shall see
That Jesus is our God.

We will glorify...

Philip Lawson-Johnson

A time of prayer

Holy God, we come from our busy lives.
We often forget that you walk with us.
As we gather now, help us to be more aware of who you are.
Give us the courage to admit when we don't understand,
so that we might grow more like you in all we do.

Amen.

All-powerful God of past, present and
future,
keeper of promises:
How we love you.

Son of Man, the way, the truth and the life,
loving despite rejection:
How we love you.

Holy Spirit, living Power within,
helping, guiding, testing and transforming:
How we love you.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
your unique relationship – open to us:
How we love you.

Amen.

In our reading from Mark's Gospel Jesus is telling his disciples a difficult truth about what will happen to him, his rejection, death and resurrection, and through that who he really is. Peter finds it hard to take and argues with Jesus. Jesus sets out that God's ways are different from human nature: he says we must forget about our earthly desires and follow him to truly know him.

Reading – Mark 8.31-38

Jesus Speaks about His Suffering and Death

³¹ Then Jesus began to teach his disciples: "The Son of Man must suffer much and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the teachers of the Law. He will be put to death, but three days later he will rise to life." ³² He made this very clear to them. So Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But Jesus turned around, looked at his disciples, and rebuked Peter. "Get away from me, Satan," he said. "Your thoughts don't come from God but from human nature!"

³⁴ Then Jesus called the crowd and his disciples to him. "If any of you want to come with me," he told them, "you must forget yourself, carry your cross, and follow me. ³⁵ For if you want to save your own life, you will lose it; but if you lose your life for me and for the gospel, you will save it. ³⁶ Do you gain anything if you win the whole world but lose your life? Of course not! ³⁷ There is nothing you can give to regain your life. ³⁸ If you are ashamed of me and of my teaching in this godless and wicked day, then the Son of Man will be ashamed of you when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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Reflection – *Who is this Jesus? – is he any of these?*



As we journey through Lent, a time of prayer and reflection, for some of abstinence, and for many, perhaps, repentance, turning around, taking their lives in a new direction, do we see Jesus, the "real" Jesus? We have heard in the last few weeks of how Jesus was seen by Peter at what is called the Transfiguration. We have heard of how he was seen by John at his baptism. Did these events allow Peter and John to answer the question, *who is this Jesus*, for themselves, to truly come to understand what knowing Jesus meant and would mean for them?

In today's passage, which follows immediately on from Jesus asking his disciples directly who they thought he was, he shows for the first time what the journey he and they are starting out on will mean. As we think on this perhaps, we might reflect on these questions –

- If we were asked by Jesus who we thought he was, what would we say?
- If we were told by Jesus of his coming suffering and death, as the disciples were, how would we react?
- What would we think of being likened to Satan?
- What would we think of being told we must forget ourselves and carry our cross to follow him?
- Can we see what Jesus means about gaining the whole world only to lose your life?

I invite you this week to think about these questions, to reflect on what they mean for you personally in your own Lenten journey. And perhaps as you do this next song might be of help.

Worship song – All I once held dear (StF 489)

https://youtu.be/4r8XfE_VNb0?list=RDMM

All I once held dear, built my life upon
All this world reveres, and wars to own
All I once thought gain I have counted loss
Spent and worthless now, compared to this

Knowing You, Jesus
Knowing You
There is no greater thing
You're my all, You're the best
You're my joy, my righteousness
And I love You, Lord

Now my heart's desire is to know You more
To be found in You and known as Yours
To possess by faith what I could not earn
All-surpassing gift of righteousness

Knowing You, Jesus
Knowing You
There is no greater thing

You're my all, You're the best
You're my joy, my righteousness
And I love You, Lord

Oh, to know the power of Your risen life
And to know You in Your sufferings
To become like You in Your death, my Lord
So with You to live and never die

Knowing You, Jesus
Knowing You
There is no greater thing
You're my all, You're the best
You're my joy, my righteousness
And I love You, Lord
And I love You, Lord

Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)

Prayers for others and Lenten prayer

We pray for followers of Jesus Christ;
for those who are imprisoned for their faith,
for those who serve as missionaries,
for teachers of the faith...

We pray for those who deny themselves to
serve others;
for those who work in hospitals and
prisons,
for those who are carers,
for those who serve their communities as
volunteers...

We pray for those who carry the weight of
a cross;
for the homeless and unemployed,
for those who are ill or bereaved,
for those who struggle with mental health...

We pray for ourselves, as we follow Christ;
for strength to overcome our struggles and
failures,
for our fears and worries,
for those we love, and those who love us...

Amen.

Lenten prayer

There are mountains that we will need to climb.
When those times come, remind us that we never make the journey on our own.
Remind us that you are the Rock on which we stand,
that you are our strength, our deliverer.
Remind us that you are with us in difficult journeys and uphill battles,
That you are with us in peaks of glory and dazzling light.
And as we make our descent into the rhythms of everyday life,
May we remember that you are with us,
Walking alongside us,
Leading the way.

Remind us to listen
and learn and love.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

And as we continue our Lenten journey, continue to reflect, and pray on what following this Jesus really means for us, perhaps this song will challenge us and help us in our journey

Worship song – Will you come and follow me (StF 673)

<https://youtu.be/S-Bq1YtpQL8>

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

John L Bell (b. 1949 and Graham Maule (1958-2020)

Blessing and the Grace

May the God of peace
bring peace to you.
May the Son of peace
bring peace to you.
May the Spirit of peace
bring peace to you,
this day and all days!

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the
Love of God, and the Fellowship of the Holy
Spirit, Be with us all, now and for
evermore.

Amen

