

March 30<sup>th</sup> 2020 – Passion Week

Enduring Love

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, draw our hearts to yours with love that is irresistible,  
Unite our hearts to yours with a love that is immeasurable,  
And bind our hearts to yours with a love that is inseparable:  
Now and forever. Amen.

Lectionary reading

Song of Solomon 2: 1-17 (page 664 Good News Bible, The Song of Songs)

I am only a wild flower in Sharon,  
a lily in a mountain valley.

**The Man**

<sup>2</sup> Like a lily among thorns  
is my darling among women.

**The Woman**

<sup>3</sup> Like an apple tree among the trees of the forest,  
so is my dearest compared to other men.

I love to sit in its shadow,  
and its fruit is sweet to my taste.

<sup>4</sup> He brought me to his banquet hall  
and raised the banner of love over me.

<sup>5</sup> Restore my strength with raisins  
and refresh me with apples!  
I am weak from passion.

<sup>6</sup> His left hand is under my head,  
and his right hand caresses me.

<sup>7</sup> Promise me, women of Jerusalem;  
swear by the swift deer and the gazelles  
that you will not interrupt our love.

**The Man**

Come then, my love;  
my darling, come with me.

<sup>11</sup> The winter is over; the rains have stopped;  
<sup>12</sup> in the countryside the flowers are in bloom.

This is the time for singing;  
the song of doves is heard in the fields.

<sup>13</sup> Figs are beginning to ripen;  
the air is fragrant with blossoming vines.

Come then, my love;  
my darling, come with me.  
<sup>14</sup> You are like a dove that hides  
in the crevice of a rock.  
Let me see your lovely face  
and hear your enchanting voice.  
  
<sup>15</sup> Catch the foxes, the little foxes,  
before they ruin our vineyard in bloom.

### **The Woman**

<sup>16</sup> My lover is mine, and I am his.  
He feeds his flock among the lilies  
<sup>17</sup> until the morning breezes blow  
and the darkness disappears.  
Return, my darling, like a gazelle,  
like a stag on the mountains of Bether.

### **Hymn 269**

- 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 curséd 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.

### Psalm 23

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd,  
**I shall not want.**
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
**he leads me beside still waters ;**
- 3 he restores my soul.  
**He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.**
- 4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil;  
**for you are with me ;  
your rod and your staff — they comfort me.**
- 5 You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies ;  
**you anoint my head with oil ;  
my cup overflows.**
- 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
**and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
my whole life long.**

From *The New Revised Standard Version*

### Prayer

**Dear Lord, we have much to be thankful for,  
may we remember to give thanks and praise for our blessings.  
We thank you for all NHS staff, key workers, volunteers and friends and family  
who are striving to sustain & care for us at this present time.  
We pray for forgiveness when we have sinned in thought, word or deed, forgive our foolish  
ways,  
Help us to be patient and kind & remember we are all trying our best to navigate our way  
through this crisis.  
We remember those who have poor health, are grieving, are lonely or frightened and those still  
dealing with the aftermath of natural disasters & war.  
Please guide us and show us the right path to further our faith and continue to spread your  
love.  
In your mercy, hear our prayer.  
Amen**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
The power, and the glory,  
For ever and ever. Amen.