

The Cross

What happened and why it matters Making sense of what happened

March 25

Victory over evil

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. *Romans 5.6*

The royal banners forward go,
the cross shines forth in mystic glow;
where he in flesh, our flesh who made,
our sentence bore, our ransom paid.

to cleanse us in the precious flood
of water mingled with his blood.

There whilst he hung, his sacred side
by soldier's spear was opened wide,

Fulfilled is now what David told
in true prophetic song of old,
how God the nation's King should be;
for God is reigning from the Tree.

For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God....

Ephesians 6.12

When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Luke 4.13

But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come to you. Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his property, without first tying up the strong man? Then indeed the house can be plundered.

Matthew 12.28

Batter my heart, three-person'd God, for you
As yet but knock, breathe, shine, and seek to mend;
That I may rise and stand, o'erthrow me, and bend
Your force to break, blow, burn, and make me new.
I, like an usurp'd town to another due,
Labor to admit you, but oh, to no end;
Reason, your viceroy in me, me should defend,
But is captiv'd, and proves weak or untrue.
Yet dearly I love you, and would be lov'd fain,
But am betroth'd unto your enemy;
Divorce me, untie or break that knot again,
Take me to you, imprison me, for I,
Except you enthrall me, never shall be free,
Nor ever chaste, except you ravish me.

John Donne

One of Churchill's most memorable war speeches came on 10 November 1942 at the Lord Mayor's Luncheon at Mansion House in London, in response to the Allied victory at the Second Battle of El Alamein. Churchill stated:

This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end.
But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
.....
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.....

Tell the praise of him who called you
out of darkness into light,
broke the fetters that enthralled you,
gave you freedom, peace and sight:
tell the tale of sins forgiven,
strength renewed and hope restored,
till the earth, in tune with heaven,
praise and magnify the Lord.

- 1 Jesus, Saviour of the world,
 come to us in your mercy:*
- we look to you to save and help us.
- 2 By your cross and your life laid down,
 you set your people free:*
- we look to you to save and help us.
- 3 When they were ready to perish,
 you saved your disciples:*
- we look to you to come to our help.

- 4 In the greatness of your mercy,
 loose us from our chains,*
 forgive the sins of all your people.
- 5 Make yourself known
 as our saviour and mighty deliverer;*
- save and help us that we may praise you.
- 6 Come now and dwell with us, Lord Christ
 Jesus;*
- hear our prayer and be with us always.
- 7 And when you come in your glory,*
 make us to be one with you
 and to share the life of your kingdom.