

Morning Prayer Sunday, 21 February 2021 The First Sunday of Lent

Minister: O Lord, open our lips

All: and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Lay Minister: Hear our voice, O Lord, according to your faithful love,

All: according to your judgement give us life.

A prayer of thanksgiving

Minister: Blessed are you, God of compassion and mercy, to you be praise and glory for ever. In the darkness your light breaks forth like the dawn and your healing springs up for deliverance. As we rejoice in the gift of your saving help, sustain us with your bountiful Spirit and open our lips to sing your praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

A Lenten Hymn is said.

Minister: Forty days and forty nights, You were fasting in the wild,
Forty days and forty nights, Tempted and yet undefiled.

Lay Minister: Sunbeams scorching all the day, Chilly dewdrops nightly shed,
Prowling beasts about thy way, Stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.

Minister: Let us your endurance share, And awhile from joys abstain,
With you watching in our prayer, Strong with you to take the day.

Lay Minister: So shall we have peace divine, Holier gladness ours shall be,
Round us too shall angels shine, Such as ministered to you.

Minister: Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear, Ever constant by your side,
That with you we may appear At the eternal Eastertide!

This opening prayer is said

Lay Minister: The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind. As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever.

All: Amen.

The Word of God

The appointed psalmody is said. Psalm 91 *(BCP Lectionary)*

Refrain: All: In the day of my trouble I have sought the Lord.

Minister: You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.' For he will deliver you; he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. You will not fear the terror of the night, or the arrow that flies by day, or the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or the destruction that wastes at noonday.

Refrain: All: In the day of my trouble I have sought the Lord.

Lay Minister: A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most High your dwelling-place, no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent.

Refrain: All: In the day of my trouble I have sought the Lord.

Minister: For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone. Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honour them. With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.

Refrain: All: In the day of my trouble I have sought the Lord.

Lay Minister: God our shepherd, you led us and saved us in times of old; do not forget your people in their troubles, but raise up your power to sustain the poor and helpless; for the honour of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

The Lay Reader brings the first scripture reading which is taken from the First Book of Peter Chapter 3.

[May] all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing.

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame.

For it is better to suffer for doing good than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit And [in his] baptism, which this prefigured, [He] now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God [] through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

1 Peter 3: vs 8-9,13-15a,17-19,21-22

Canticle 33

Refrain: All: Return to the Lord, who will have mercy, to our God, who will richly pardon.

Minister: Seek the Lord while he may be found, •
call upon him while he is near;

Lay Minister: Let the wicked abandon their ways, •
and the unrighteous their thoughts;

Minister: Return to the Lord, who will have mercy; •
to our God, who will richly pardon.

Lay Minister: 'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, •
neither are your ways my ways,' says the Lord.

Minister: 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, •
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.'

Lay Minister: As the rain and the snow come down from above, •
and return not again but water the earth,

Minister: Bringing forth life and giving growth, •
seed for sowing and bread to eat,

Lay Minister: 'So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; •
it will not return to me fruitless,

Minister: 'But it will accomplish that which I purpose, •
and succeed in the task I gave it.' *Isaiah 55.6-11*

**All: Return to the Lord, who will have mercy,
to our God, who will richly pardon.**

**All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

***The Minister brings the Second Scripture Reading taken from the First
Chapter of Mark Vs 9-15***

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

This is the word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God.**

Lay Minister: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;

All: O my God, in you I trust.

Minister: You are the God of my salvation,

All: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Minister: In you I hope all the day long.

All: O my God, in you I trust.

Lay Minister: Remember, Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.

All: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; O my God, in you I trust. from Psalm 25

Gospel Canticle: The Saviour of the world:

Refrain: All: Blessed are those who dwell with Christ, for they shall be called children of the living God.

Minister: Jesus, Saviour of the world,
come to us in your mercy: •
we look to you to save and help us.

Lay Minister: By your cross and your life laid down,
you set your people free: •
we look to you to save and help us.

Minister: When they were ready to perish, you saved your disciples: •
we look to you to come to our help.

Lay Minister: In the greatness of your mercy, loose us from our chains, •
forgive the sins of all your people.

Minister: Make yourself known as our Saviour and mighty deliverer; •
save and help us that we may praise you.

Lay Minister: Come now and dwell with us, Lord Christ Jesus: •
hear our prayer and be with us always.

Minister: And when you come in your glory: •
make us to be one with you and to share the life of your kingdom.

Refrain: All: Blessed are those who dwell with Christ, for they shall be called children of the living God.

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

Prayers

The Intercessions are offered in the form of a Lenten Litany

Minister: Let us pray.

God the Father, **All: have mercy upon us.**

God the Son, **All: have mercy upon us.**

God the Holy Spirit, **All: have mercy upon us.**

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity, **All: have mercy upon us.**

Lay Minister: Help and comfort the lonely, the bereaved and the oppressed.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Minister: Heal those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Lay Minister: Renew your church here and around the world fill us with
compassion and love.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Minister: From ashes we come and from ashes we will return, help us all to
turn from the dark things of the world towards your grace and light.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Lay Minister: Hear us as we remember those who have died in the peace of
Christ, both those who have confessed the faith and those whose faith is
known to you alone and grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Minister: During this time of Lent help us to seek a right relationship with you
forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance and help us make right those
things that are wrong in your sight and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit to
amend our lives according to your holy word.

**All: Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us and
Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ Amen.**

Silence may be kept.

The Collect of the day is said

Minister: Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer is said

Lay Minister: Trusting in the compassion of God,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**All: 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 who 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.**

The Blessing and Sending Out. Taken from Psalm 51

Minister: May God the Father, who does not despise the broken spirit, give to you a contrite heart.

All: Amen.

May Christ, who bore our sins in his body on the tree, heal you by his wounds.

All: Amen.

May the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth, speak to you words of pardon and peace.

All: Amen.

+ And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, remain with you and all those you love this day and forevermore.

All: Amen.

The Sending out and Dismissal:

Lay Minister: As we step out into the coming week, may it be our prayer that we will grow ever closer to the heart of God, and as Lenten pilgrims may God our Redeemer show us his compassion and love.

All: Amen.

Go in peace to love, serve, and bless the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.