

Our Service Together

Next before Lent

February 27th 2022

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace.
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of peace.
Amen

Preparation

All: This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Through the brokenness of Christ, we become one body
as one body we now gather in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to receive God's
holy word, to pray for the needs of the world,
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

Our Confession

*The sun of righteousness has dawned with healing in his wings. Let us come to the light of Christ,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.*

All: Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to
you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of your resurrection.
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing.
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven.
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

Be still for a moment in confession and in receiving God's Grace in Christ

All: May Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive us
our sins, open our eyes to God's truth, strengthen us to do God's will and give us the joy of his
kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Risen Lord. **Amen.**

The opening prayer

All: The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

All: 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. Amen.

The Psalmody Psalm 99 *We say the psalm aloud*

The Lord is king: let the peoples tremble; he is enthroned above the cherubim: let the earth shake.

The Lord is great in Zion and high above all peoples.

Let them praise your name, which is great and awesome; the Lord our God is holy.

Mighty king, who loves justice, you have established equity;

you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

Exalt the Lord our God; bow down before his footstool, for he is holy.

Moses and Aaron among his priests and Samuel among those who call upon his name;

they called upon the Lord and he answered them.

He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; they kept his testimonies and the law that he gave them.

You answered them, O Lord our God; you were a God who forgave them and pardoned them for their offences.

Exalt the Lord our God and worship him upon his holy hill, for the Lord our God is holy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Scripture Reading 2 Corinthians 3.12 to 4.2

Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, ¹³ not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. ¹⁴ But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. ¹⁵ Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; ¹⁶ but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. ² We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

At the end of the reading we say:

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

Gloria

All: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Gospel Luke 9.28-36

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰ Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹ They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³² Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³ Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'—not knowing what he said. ³⁴ While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' ³⁶ When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

At the end of the reading we say:

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

A Reflection for the day *Revd John Webb writes*

'L' is for Lent, starting next Wednesday, as I was reminded when one of my grandsons drove in with 'L plates' on his car. Talking with him I was interested to hear how much the driving test has changed since I took it rather more years ago than I care to remember. It is now in two parts theory and practical. It was then that I realised that, although I hope I am a reasonably competent driver, I have forgotten much of the detail in the Highway Code which has considerably expanded since the slim volume I was required to be familiar with.

I then realised that in the same way much has changed since I started my faith journey, and that Lent is an invitation to 'go back to basics'. We all change and the world we live in changes, often without us realising, so it is a good idea to pull into a layby and assess where we are going and if we are still on the right road – I remember one day in Germany finding myself on the right autobahn but going in the wrong direction! I hope that isn't what has happened to my faith.

Our readings to-day speak of the wonder and mystery of Moses encounter with God which transformed his appearance and of the similar experience of Peter, James and John when they witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus. They were left speechless; they didn't know what to say and they 'kept silent in those days and told no one of any of the things they had seen'. It was as if the whole experience was so overwhelming that it was a while before they felt able to try to put it into

words which are inadequate for such an amazing revelation. Moses' vision of God and Jesus' transfiguration marked an important step in the journey of faith for the witnesses. For the Israelites, it inspired them on their epic journey through the Red Sea to the Promised land. For the apostles it inspired them to journey with Jesus through his ministry expressing the love of God in action, and ultimately dying and being resurrected. After that they were inspired to speak about Him and bring others to faith.

So as we journey through Lent, we are invited to carry this vision of the Transfiguration of Jesus in our hearts to encourage us to a deeper understanding and faith in the love of God expressed in the transforming life of Jesus. As I see those 'L plates', I remember that their removal will not mark the end of the learning process, but only a stage in our journey that it will go on for the rest of our lives.

The Creed

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Prayers *We make our intercessions*

O God of peace, who has taught us that in quietness and confidence shall be our strength; help us, as we come into your presence, to be still and know that you are God.

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ let us pray to the Father.

As we prepare to travel through Lent let us pray for the coming of the Kingdom of God in our troubled world.
Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

Strengthen Bishop Ruth and those who seek to serve you in this diocese May they be filled with the Spirit and serve you as the first disciples. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

We pray for our Queen, the Prime Minister, Members of Parliament and all World leaders, that they may always seek to serve the best interests of those they represent.
Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

As we hear of the frightening developments in eastern Europe, we pray for the people of Ukraine that they may find peace and justice. We pray for all world leaders that they may have the courage and goodwill to work together to establish peace between nations. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

We pray for the homeless, hungry and starving in this country and abroad.
Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

Let us pray for our families, friends, and neighbours that we may bring light and hope in the darkest places.
Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

We give thanks for all those combatting Covid throughout the world.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

We pray for the sick, suffering and dying and we give thanks and pray for those who use their skill and risk their lives to care for them.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

Hear us as we remember those who have died..... According to your promises grant them joy in your eternal kingdom.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all your saints, we commend ourselves and the whole creation to your unfailing love. Amen.

The Collect

All: Almighty God, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death on the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him, and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen.**

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, 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 Conclusion

All: Christ, as a light illumine and guide me this day.
Christ, as a shield overshadow me.
Christ under me, Christ over me;
Christ beside me on my left and my right.
This day be within and without me. Amen.