

# Our Service Together

## Lent 2 March 13th 2022



### An Acclamation for the Season

This is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son. He is the sacrifice for our sins, that we might live through him.

### Preparation

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.*

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*

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

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

*Silence is kept.*

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 27 *We say the psalm aloud*

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?

When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.

Though a host encamp against me, my heart shall not be afraid, and though there rise up war against me, yet will I put my trust in him.

One thing have I asked of the Lord and that alone I seek:

that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,

To behold the fair beauty of the Lord and to seek his will in his temple.

For in the day of trouble he shall hide me in his shelter;

in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me and set me high upon a rock.

And now shall he lift up my head above my enemies round about me;

Therefore, will I offer in his dwelling an oblation with great gladness;

I will sing and make music to the Lord.

Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call; have mercy upon me and answer me.

My heart tells of your word, 'Seek my face.' Your face, Lord, will I seek.

Hide not your face from me, nor cast your servant away in displeasure.

You have been my helper; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.

Though my father and my mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up.

Teach me your way, O Lord; lead me on a level path, because of those who lie in wait for me.

Deliver me not into the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen up against me, and those who breathe out violence.

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord; be strong and he shall comfort your heart; wait patiently for the Lord.

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

## Scripture Reading    Genesis 15.1-12 and 17-18

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, 'O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' <sup>4</sup> But the word of the Lord came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' <sup>5</sup> He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants

be.’ <sup>6</sup> And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup> Then he said to him, ‘I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.’ <sup>8</sup> But he said, ‘O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?’ <sup>9</sup> He said to him, ‘Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.’ <sup>10</sup> He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. <sup>11</sup> And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup> As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

<sup>17</sup> When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup> On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, ‘To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,

*At the end of the reading we say:*

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

## Gloria

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 13.31-35

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, ‘Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.’ <sup>32</sup> He said to them, ‘Go and tell that fox for me, “Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup> Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem.” <sup>34</sup> Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup> See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.”’

*At the end of the reading we say:*

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

## A Reflection for the day      *Revd John Webb writes*

Our Psalm, Epistle and the Gospel all have one central theme – the visceral power of evil. St Paul says ‘many live as enemies of the cross of Christ, I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears in my eyes’. And Jesus speaks about his crucifixion and the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70.

It seems that most of us take a positive view of the world and are reluctant to regard people as being evil. We have lived in relative peace and harmony in Europe since the last war which has faded in our memories and become something relegated to history books rather than a lived experience. The so-called Cold War which followed didn’t really affect the average person – all they knew was the relative peace and security we enjoyed in Europe for almost eighty years. Most people probably didn’t realise that the allied powers were still training hard and were an effective deterrent to any threat from the USSR. I know from personal

experience that our armed forces in Germany took the threat of invasion very seriously and our success was that we never actually had to fight. I can't help wondering if, rather than withdrawing our troops from Germany, we had maintained our presence the present situation would never have developed. Hindsight is a wonderful thing!

With the coming of modern digital communications, we are no longer insulated by time and distance from the horrors of war and the plight of refugees. They are with us in our homes whenever we turn on the TV. We are in the fight with the soldiers and fleeing with the refugees.

We need to be constantly aware of evil at all levels of society. It is easy to assume that the Christian faith is a passport to ease and comfort. That God will be there to protect us from all danger, hardship and suffering. In reality it is quite the opposite, our faith is a pledge to service and possibly suffering as witnessed by the saints and martyrs down the ages. However, we are never on our own, it isn't about being abandoned – Christ has walked the path of suffering and rejection and has promised to be alongside us in our need. This has been clearly shown in the recent troubles by amazing acts of courage by the defending forces and the selfless generosity and compassion extended to the refugees. They are certainly suffering but they are by no means abandoned and we mustn't tire of finding other ways of supporting them.

As we continue on our Lenten journey the events in Ukraine are a stark reminder that our faith is a serious call to fight against the forces of evil wherever they show themselves and to respond with generosity in the support of those in need.

## The Creed

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 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 and pray 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. And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and for evermore. Amen.

## A Prayer for Peace

Father, when we have no words, when our emotions are frayed, when we see no future, help us to trust you and commit the people of Ukraine, Russia and Belarus into your hands. Give wisdom to all working in diplomacy. Direct aid and support for all seeking refuge at this time. Be close to those fearful for their life. Amen

## The Collect

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his way may we come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us*

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

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

Christ,  
Christ under