

# Our Service Together

## Lent 1 March 6th 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 91.1-2 and 9-16 *We say the psalm aloud*

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High and abides under the shadow of the Almighty, shall say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my stronghold, my God, in whom I put my trust.'

Because you have made the Lord your refuge and the Most High your stronghold,

There shall no evil happen to you, neither shall any plague come near your tent.

For he shall give his angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.

They shall bear you in their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone.

You shall tread upon the lion and adder; the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

Because they have set their love upon me, therefore will I deliver them; I will lift them up, because they know my name.

They will call upon me and I will answer them; I am with them in trouble, I will deliver them and bring them to honour.

With long life will I satisfy them and show them my salvation.

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    Deuteronomy 26.1-11

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, <sup>2</sup> you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. <sup>3</sup> You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.' <sup>4</sup> When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, <sup>5</sup> you shall make this response before the Lord your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. <sup>6</sup> When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, <sup>7</sup> we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. <sup>8</sup> The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; <sup>9</sup> and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>10</sup> So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.' You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. <sup>11</sup> Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

*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 4.1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup> where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone."'

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup> And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. <sup>7</sup> If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' <sup>8</sup> Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."'

<sup>9</sup> Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup> for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you",

<sup>11</sup> and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."

<sup>12</sup> Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' <sup>13</sup> When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

*At the end of the reading we say:*

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

## A Reflection for the day

*Reader John Hanson writes;*

As a community we've been in the grip of the Covid pandemic since November 2019, and there have been many testing times for everyone. Hospitalisation for the most seriously ill, the inability of saying a final goodbye to a lost loved one, and the isolation from family and friends. And just as we think we're getting on top of the situation along comes more testing times in the form of increased food and utility prices, pay and pension freezes, tax increases and higher interest rates, and not surprisingly we may be having serious fears and doubts about how we're going to get through it. We have probably all been affected or will be affected by the current and future situations, although we are not unique in facing testing times, or in having our own desert experiences. This passage from Luke shows that even Jesus was tested, and we can learn a lot from Him in how to respond to the testing times in our lives.

Time and time again the devil asked Jesus the "if" questions. "If you are the son of God," "if you worship me," Each a strategic question to try to encourage and tempt Jesus to doubt who He was when He was at his lowest ebb. But Jesus stands firm. Jesus knows who he is, and He uses scripture to counteract the assault by the devil. He responds by stating boldly and forcefully, "It is written," and "do not put the Lord your God to the test."

We may have been, or perhaps we still are, at our lowest ebb, and the doubts are starting to creep into our thinking, "How am I going to pay for the weekly shop or pay my gas and electric bill?"

In these testing times we can take real hope and encouragement because just like Jesus who knew who He was, we also know who we are, in Him. We are loved and accepted. We are children of God, we are the friends of Jesus, and we are joint heirs with Jesus as we share in His inheritance. We also have the powerful word of scripture to draw on, to read, reflect and pray over, and we have the indwelling strength and love of the Holy Spirit.

But God doesn't just hear us today as we cry out to Him in our wilderness experiences of testing times and doubt. He heard the Israelites as they cried out to Him in Deuteronomy, God saw their misery, toil, and oppression. He heard and saw everything then, as He sees and hears everything now.

We are so blessed and privileged to follow a God and a Saviour, and like the Israelites, be brought to a place of safety and provision.

God sees, hears, and will respond to our cries and our needs because He is love and we are loved unconditionally by Him. We have been given an inheritance through Jesus and we have the precious God given gifts of the Holy Spirit, scripture, prayer, and worship in which to banish all doubt.

## 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 start this season of Lent let us pray for that our faith will grow and develop.  
*Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

Strengthen Bishop Ruth and all laity and clergy who seek to serve you in this diocese      May they be filled with the Spirit and speak with authority.  
*Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

We Pray for Our Queen, Prime Minister, and all World leaders, that they may have the Spirit of wisdom to lead us through this difficult time.      We pray for all peace makers!  
*Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

We pray for the hungry and starving, that the available food may be used for the benefit of all.  
*Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

We pray for our families, friends, and neighbours that we may serve Christ in one another and seek the common good.  
*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 a share 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

Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in 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