

Our Sunday Service Together

Remembrance Sunday 2022



An Acclamation for the Season

All: Alleluia, alleluia! To you we come, in remembrance those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence; may that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples and establish harmony among the nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia!

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

God the Father forgives us in Christ and heals us by the Holy Spirit. Let us therefore put away all anger and bitterness, all slander and malice, and confess our sins to God our redeemer.

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 9.9-20 *We say the psalm aloud*

Then will the Lord be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in the time of trouble.

And those who know your name will put their trust in you, for you, Lord, have never failed those who seek you.

Sing praises to the Lord who dwells in Zion; declare among the peoples the things he has done.

The avenger of blood has remembered them; he did not forget the cry of the oppressed.

Have mercy upon me, O Lord; consider the trouble I suffer from those who hate me,
you that lift me up from the gates of death;

That I may tell all your praises in the gates of the city of Zion and rejoice in your salvation.

The nations shall sink into the pit of their making and in the snare which they set will their own foot be taken.

The Lord makes himself known by his acts of justice; the wicked are snared in the works of their own hands.

They shall return to the land of darkness, all the nations that forget God.

For the needy shall not always be forgotten and the hope of the poor shall not perish for ever.

Arise, O Lord, and let not mortals have the upper hand; let the nations be judged before your face.

Put them in fear, O Lord, that the nations may know themselves to be but mortal.

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 1 Peter 5.1-8

Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters^[b] throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

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 Matthew 5.1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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 Reflection from John Webb

Many years ago when I was wondering where I should exercise my ministry an Army Padre friend suggested that I should join him. I responded, 'people get killed in the army!' to which he made the observation that no serviceman had been killed on active service the previous year. That year was 1968 and it was to be the only year in that century that no serviceman was killed on active service.

At my Remembrance sermon at the millennium I remember pointing out that the last century had seen more war and mass slaughter than any other and I expressed the hope that the human race had learnt the folly of war and that the century would see nations living at peace and settling their differences by negotiation and not violence. However, it soon became evident that was not to be and we very soon found ourselves caught up in the troubles in Iraq and Afghanistan. So we got used to seeing those ghastly processions of hearses grinding slowly through Royal Wotton Bassett between rows of grieving relatives and stoic veterans every night on the television. Thankfully that stopped when we withdrew from Afghanistan in 2016 and there were a few years with very few casualties and I was beginning to hope that my millennium prayer had been answered.

Then suddenly in February this year the peace in Europe was shattered when Russia invaded Ukraine and once again our news reports have been dominated by scenes of death and destruction on a massive scale. We are not directly involved but that doesn't reduce the stark horror of what is happening and there is always the danger of being drawn into the conflict.

Hindsight is a wonderful thing, but I can't help reflecting that after the last war we retained a strong military presence in Germany as a warning to the USSR not to attack. I remember many tough military exercises in pretty grim weather on the north German plains aware that we were being closely scrutinized by agents of the USSR who would report how prepared we were. It seems that with the collapse of the USSR and withdrawing our troops from Germany we let our guard down so that Russia felt free to attack Ukraine. The Russian bear had only retreated into his lair and not been tamed.

I am reminded of the introduction to Compline which is itself quote from the first letter of Peter 'Brethren, be sober be vigilant; because your adversary the Devil, as a roaring lion walketh about seeking whom he may

devour; whom resist steadfast in the faith. The roaring bear has come out seeking to devour Ukraine, and international leaders failed to see the signs. The 24th February is a stark reminder that we ignore Peter's warning, both as individuals and as a nation, at our peril.

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*

Let us pray

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for the wonder of creation, for the gift of life and the blessings of friendship; for Christ through whom we are shown the perfect way of life and service; and for the Holy Spirit who gives us his gifts.

All We give you thanks and praise

For our nation and those who have used your gifts to strengthen and enrich us.

All We give you thanks and praise

For our King; for his care for all his people, and for his concern for them at all times and in all places.

All We give you thanks and praise

For the peoples of the world and their governments; for those called to lead them through the crises of our times, and through racial, social and religious tensions.

All Lord, hear our prayer

For world leaders, that your spirit may lead them always to seek peace, justice and reconciliation.

All Lord, hear our prayer

We pray especially at this time for peace between Russia and Ukraine.

All Lord, hear our prayer

For all who suffer as a result of war or civil strife, for the maimed in mind and body; for those denied their place in family life and friendship.

All Lord, hear our prayer

For your Church's ministry of the Gospel, proclaiming your message of love and peace.

All Lord, hear our prayer

For the hungry, homeless and refugees.

All Lord, hear our prayer

For our homes, families, friends and neighbours.

All Lord, hear our prayer

For the sick, suffering and dying and those who care for them.

All Lord, hear our prayer

Almighty God, who called your Church to witness that you were in Christ reconciling us to yourself; help us to proclaim the good news that all who hear may be reconciled to you and each other, through Christ our Lord.

All Amen

The Collect

All: O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those whose memory we cherish, and those whose names we will never know. Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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.