

Our Service Together

January 25th 2026



An Acclamation for the Season

All: Alleluia, alleluia, Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations and believed in throughout the world. 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

*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 27.1 and 4-9 *We say the psalm aloud*

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?
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.
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 Corinthians 1.10-18

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you should be in agreement and that there should be no divisions among you, but that you should be united in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹ For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹² What I mean is that each of you says, 'I belong to Paul', or 'I belong to Apollos', or 'I belong to Cephas', or 'I belong to Christ.' ¹³ Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. ¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power 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.

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

'Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.'

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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

Was the 'following' of Simon, Andrew, James and John' and instant matter, did they leave everything 'immediately'. Or did they talk things over with Jesus for a few days before they put the nets to one side and went with him? There must have been that initial draw, the desire to hear more and spend the time with Jesus, but to leave all as Jesus called them to do – maybe that takes some weighing up.

The initial message from Jesus was a simple one – 'repent'. Why? How? Was his 'cry' to repent, to turn your life around because the judgment of God was at hand? No, and Jesus makes the point elsewhere he is not there to pass judgement. Jesus' call for repentance is because the Kingdom of God is at hand. What is this Kingdom of God?

We hear much about the Kingdom of God in Matthew's gospel. He interchanges it with the 'Kingdom of Heaven'; for him and his Jewish audience these two concepts are interchangeable, and reflects the sacredness of God's name, rule and presence. It is the presence of God amongst the community, in the lives of individuals through the Messiah and His Spirit that enables peace, righteousness of living and is marked by the transformative possibilities of His power.

Being 'at hand' is a powerful term. It suggests the kingdom is present in Christ – the kingdom has come on earth as in heaven in the Messiah stood before Andrew, James, John and Peter. It also suggests that it is 'becoming', on its way fully, still something to be hoped for; so we continue to pray 'your kingdom come and will be done'. But, maybe the most powerful suggestion is that in Christ the kingdom is in reach, it can be grasped, attained, held on to and a reality in his disciples lives, and through them in the world itself.

However, this takes 'repentance', turning about from the ways of the world to the ways and possibilities of heaven. In short to see the kingdom in a disciple's life and the world it takes turning about from the way of the world and becoming people of 'the way, the truth, and the life' You have to jump on the bus and take the ride into the adventures Jesus has for each and all of his disciples.

Adventures of faith in Christ can of course be of the spirit as well as the body. But sometimes the hardest thing of all for us all as disciples is to 'turnabout and jump on the bus', especially as the decision to follow is most often a daily prayer, a daily call to come and journey with Jesus in his ways in that day.

There is risk to weigh up, each and every day as he calls us to follow. Peter, Andrew, James and John were

perfectly happy on the beach by the boats and the world they knew very well. But there was something more to be known with this Jesus, more to see and experience, and so they left the beach, their nets and followed.

What might be the first step today for us to follow; be that in spirit or in with our physical life?

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

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

Strengthen Michael our Bishop, Fiona our bishop of Taunton elect, and those who seek to serve you in this diocese. May they be filled with the spirit of wisdom and serve you as the first disciples. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

We Pray for the King, Prime Minister, and all World leaders in these difficult and turbulent times. May they know and speak only the truth and in wisdom lead every nation in peace. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

We pray for nations at war, that they may reconcile their differences and live in peace.
Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

We pray for the homeless, hungry and starving, that their needs may be satisfied.
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 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: God of all mercy, your son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed; anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set your people free to praise you in 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.