

Our Service Together

Next before Lent

February 15th 2026

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 Psalms 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 Peter 1.16-21

⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, 'This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.' ¹⁸We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from 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 Matthew 17.1-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ²And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' ⁵While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them,

saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' ⁸ And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. ⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'

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

Our journey from Christmas to Lent bring revelation, it brings light, it is not a single 'epiphany', but a building 'revealing' of Jesus's identity as Son of Man and Son of God, in the one incarnate person. The transfiguration sets our focus towards Easter, towards Jerusalem and the full revealing of Jesus the Christ in the resurrection.

Peter is quite blunt in his letter, 'You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts'. He was there he says, on the mountain and heard the 'Majestic Glory, saying, 'This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

For those of us not there what is it we are to be attentive to in the transfiguration? What is the revelation gifted to us?

There have been many suggestions of what occurred, many of them fail to help us and any number are heretical and more akin to pagan ideas of the gods coming down to live amongst us. The most prominent has always proposed that the Son of God took on human form like a zippered onesie and on the mountain the outer covering was somehow peeled back to reveal the fullness of the being of god beneath.

Peter, James and John would run a mile from such a suggestion, for it suggests in this they would have looked on the form of God – and no one can look upon God, no one can create an idol, a statue or image of God, it is impossible, and heretical to Jew and Christian alike!

But the transfiguration is a revelation of the fullness of God in Jesus, of the full presence of God. I remember in my youth having a dynamo light on my bike. In normal mode on the road it shone enough, but turn the bike upside down and rotate the pedals stupid fast and the glow of the bulb was intensified.

All along God has been completely with us in Jesus, God with humanity, humanity with God, and at this time of the mountain, as the 'Majestic Glory', the Shekinah of God envelopes them all Jesus is 'transfigured', not transformed, and the fullness of God incarnate is revealed and the voice acknowledges this reality 'there, you see, this is my Son, the beloved, with whom, I am well pleased'.

Here we may be gifted something to ponder on during Lent – is there not a difference in Gods saying 'with whom', rather than 'who with' I am pleased? Might the former suggest God is pleased being with Jesus, rather than pleased with what Jesus has done? If so, what are the implications for us all, who in Christ God calls 'beloved' and we can call 'our Father'?

It is the fullness of God revealed, and we would do well to be attentive to this, says Peter and allow it to be a lamp that keeps you with light in the darkness until the dawn and the morning star rises in your hearts.

As we have been gifted time in Epiphany to reflect on the nature of God with us, of Jesus fully human (Son of Man) and completely divine (Son of God), so now, as we enter the season for reflection on our personal life and discipleship, Lent, what better a light to journey with. Lent can be shadowed in darkness and the events of Easter darker still, but Peter knows that after the dark night the morning star is able to rise in our hearts.

May we know the lamp of Christ shining in all our dark times and places, and be open to the dawn that will follow and the morning star rising in our hearts.

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.

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 Michael and Fiona, 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 King, the Prime Minister, Members of Parliament and all World leaders, that they may always seek to reveal your kingdom purposes, your grace and justice for the world.
Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

As we hear of the frightening events through the world 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 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.

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.