

St Mary's Church

Tadley North



Morning Prayer

Lent

Wednesday, 3 March 2021

Preparation

O Lord, open our lips

All **and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Hear our voice, O Lord, according to your faithful love,

All **according to your judgement give us life.**

Blessed are you, God of compassion and mercy,
to you be praise and glory for ever.

In the darkness of our sin,
your light breaks forth like the dawn
and your healing springs up for deliverance.

As we rejoice in the gift of your saving help,
sustain us with your bountiful Spirit
and open our lips to sing your praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

A Song of Penitence

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness;
according to the abundance of your compassion blot out my
offences.
- 2 **Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin.**
- 3 For I acknowledge my faults
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 **Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,**
- 5 So that you are justified in your sentence
and righteous in your judgement.
- 6 **Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your holy spirit from me.**

- 7 Give me again the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your gracious spirit;
- 8 **Then shall I teach your ways to the wicked
and sinners shall return to you.**
- 9 Deliver me from my guilt, O God, the God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

Psalm 51.1-5, 12-15

All **Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

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.

All **Amen.**

The Word of God

Psalmody

Psalm 35

- 1 Contend, O Lord, with those that contend with me;
fight against those that fight against me.
- 2 **Take up shield and buckler
and rise up to help me.**
- 3 Draw the spear and bar the way against those who pursue me;
say to my soul, 'I am your salvation.'

- 4 **Let those who seek after my life be shamed and disgraced;
let those who plot my ruin fall back and be put to confusion.**
- 5 Let them be as chaff before the wind,
with the angel of the Lord thrusting them down.
- 6 **Let their way be dark and slippery,
with the angel of the Lord pursuing them.**
- 7 For they have secretly spread a net for me without a cause;
without any cause they have dug a pit for my soul.
- 8 **Let ruin come upon them unawares;
let them be caught in the net they laid; let them fall in it
to their destruction.**
- 9 Then will my soul be joyful in the Lord
and glory in his salvation.
- 10 **My very bones will say, 'Lord, who is like you?
You deliver the poor from those that are too strong for
them, the poor and needy from those who would despoil
them.'**
- 11 False witnesses rose up against me;
they charged me with things I knew not.
- 12 **They rewarded me evil for good,
to the desolation of my soul.**
- 13 But as for me, when they were sick I put on sackcloth
and humbled myself with fasting;
- 14 **When my prayer returned empty to my bosom,
it was as though I grieved for my friend or brother;**
- 15 I behaved as one who mourns for his mother,
bowed down and brought very low.
- 16 **But when I stumbled, they gathered in delight;
they gathered together against me;**

as if they were strangers I did not know they tore at me without ceasing.

17 When I fell they mocked me;
they gnashed at me with their teeth.

18 **O Lord, how long will you look on?
Rescue my soul from their ravages, and my poor life
from the young lions.**

19 I will give you thanks in the great congregation;
I will praise you in the mighty throng.

20 **Do not let my treacherous foes rejoice over me,
or those who hate me without a cause mock me with
their glances.**

21 For they do not speak of peace,
but invent deceitful schemes against those that are quiet in the
land.

22 **They opened wide their mouths and derided me, saying
'We have seen it with our very eyes.'**

23 This you have seen, O Lord; do not keep silent;
go not far from me, O Lord.

24 **Awake, arise, to my cause,
to my defence, my God and my Lord!**

25 Give me justice, O Lord my God, according to your
righteousness;
let them not triumph over me.

26 **Let them not say to themselves, 'Our heart's desire!'
Let them not say, 'We have swallowed him up.'**

27 Let all who rejoice at my trouble be put to shame and
confusion;
let those who boast against me be clothed with shame and
dishonour.

28 Let those who favour my cause rejoice and be glad; let them say always, 'Great is the Lord, who delights in his servant's well-being.'

29 So shall my tongue be talking of your righteousness and of your praise all the day long.

All **Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

The First Reading is from the Book of Jeremiah Chapter 8, verse 18 to Chapter 9 verse 11.

My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick. Hark, the cry of my poor people from far and wide in the land: 'Is the Lord not in Zion? Is her King not in her?' ('Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?') 'The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.' For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me.

Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored? O that my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears, so that I might weep day and night for the slain of my poor people! O that I had in the desert a traveller's lodging-place, that I might leave my people and go away from them! For they are all adulterers, a band of traitors. They bend their tongues like bows; they have grown strong in the land for falsehood, and not for truth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they do not know me, says the Lord.

Beware of your neighbours, and put no trust in any of your kin; for all your kin are supplanters, and every neighbour goes around like a slanderer. They all deceive their neighbours, and no one speaks the truth; they have taught their tongues to speak lies; they commit iniquity and are too weary to repent.

Oppression upon oppression, deceit upon deceit! They refuse to know me, says the Lord.

Therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: I will now refine and test them, for what else can I do with my sinful people? Their tongue is a deadly arrow; it speaks deceit through the mouth. They all speak friendly words to their neighbours, but inwardly are planning to lay an ambush. Shall I not punish them for these things? says the Lord; and shall I not bring retribution on a nation such as this?

Take up weeping and wailing for the mountains, and a lamentation for the pastures of the wilderness, because they are laid waste so that no one passes through, and the lowing of cattle is not heard; both the birds of the air and the animals have fled and are gone. I will make Jerusalem a heap of ruins, a lair of jackals; and I will make the towns of Judah a desolation without inhabitant.

Here ends the first reading.

Canticle

The Song of Manasseh

- 1 Lord almighty and God of our ancestors,
you who made heaven and earth in all their glory:
- 2 **All things tremble with awe at your presence,
before your great and mighty power.**
- 3 Immeasurable and unsearchable is your promised mercy,
for you are God, Most High.
- 4 **You are full of compassion, long-suffering and very
merciful,
and you relent at human suffering.**
- 5 O God, according to your great goodness,
you have promised forgiveness for repentance to those who
have sinned against you.

- 6 **The sins I have committed against you are more in number than the sands of the sea.**
- 7 I am not worthy to look up to the height of heaven, because of the multitude of my iniquities.
- 8 **And now I bend the knee of my heart before you, imploring your kindness upon me.**
- 9 I have sinned, O God, I have sinned, and I acknowledge my transgressions.
- 10 **Unworthy as I am, you will save me, according to your great mercy.**
- 11 For all the host of heaven sings your praise, and your glory is for ever and ever.

Manasseh 1a, 2, 4, 6, 7a, b, 9a, c, 11, 12, 14b, 15b

All **Glory to the Father, and to the Son :
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

The Second Reading is from the Gospel of John, Chapter 6, verses 60 to 71.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, 'This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?' But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, 'Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, 'For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.'

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, 'Do you also wish to go away?' Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come

to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.' Jesus answered them, 'Did I not choose you, the twelve? Yet one of you is a devil.' He was speaking of Judas son of Simon Iscariot, for he, though one of the twelve, was going to betray him.

Here ends the Second reading.

Benedictus

- 1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,
who has come to his people and set them free.
- 2 **He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of his servant David.**
- 3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate
us,
- 4 **To show mercy to our ancestors,
and to remember his holy covenant.**
- 5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
- 6 **Free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.**
- 7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
- 8 **To give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of all their sins.**
- 9 In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- 10 **To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow
of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

Luke 1.68-79

All **Glory to the Father, and to the Son :
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Prayers

The Apostles' Creed is said

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.**

The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

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.**

These versicles and responses are said.

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
R. and grant us your salvation.

V. O Lord, save the Queen;
R. and teach her counsellors wisdom.

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
R. and let your servants shout for joy.

V. O Lord, make your ways known upon the earth;
R. let all nations acknowledge your saving power.

V. Give your people the blessing of peace;
R. and let your glory be over all the world.

V. Make our hearts clean, O God;
R. and renew a right spirit within us.

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Collect for Peace

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Collect for Grace

Almighty and everlasting God, we thank you that you have brought us safely to the beginning of this day. Keep us from falling into sin or running into danger, order us in all our doings and guide us to do always what is righteous in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Reflection

Prayers of Intercessions

All A time to bring our prayers to God either out loud or silently.

Concluding with

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you ; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfil now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as

maybe best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth and in the age to come life everlasting.

All **Amen.**

The Conclusion

Blessing

May God our Redeemer show us compassion and love: and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us and those whom we love this day and always.

All **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

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