

Benefice of Greatham, Empshott and Hawkley with Priors Dean

Morning Prayers at Home on Sunday 29th March

Be in a quiet place, be still, perhaps light a candle or have a focus for prayers such as a picture or a cross.

Today is the beginning of Passiontide which marks the last two weeks of Lent. As a fifth Sunday of the month we were hoping today to have a Benefice Songs of Praise at Priors Dean Church and sing a selection of hymns from Lent, Holy Week and Easter. That of course cannot happen but here are the words of one hymn we would have sung. Read them now as words of preparation. Remember that others will be doing this in their own homes this morning, so you are not on your own.

It is a thing most wonderful,
almost too wonderful to be,
that God's own Son should come from heaven,
and die to save a child like me.

And yet I know that it is true:
he chose a poor and humble lot,
and wept, and toiled, and mourned, and died,
for love of those who loved him not.

It is most wonderful to know
his love for me so free and sure;
but 'tis more wonderful to see
my love for him so faint and poor.

And yet I want to love thee, Lord;
O light the flame within my heart,
and I will love thee more and more,
until I see thee as thou art.

W. Walsham-How (1823-97)



Prayer of Preparation

United with others in prayer,
we have come together in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving,
to hear and 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. Amen.

Prayer of Penitence

In a moment of silence, we recall the past week and the things we might have thought, done or said differently and better.

Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' So let us turn away from our sin and turn to Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin. Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins and restore us in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect for the Day

Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Psalm 130

(Psalm 130 is one of 7 penitential psalms (the others are: 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130 and 143). The opening words address the predicament of humanity and our need to come to God. We cannot address the challenges of life on our own.)

- 1 Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord;
 Lord, hear my voice;
 let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
- 2 If you, Lord, were to mark what is done amiss,
 O Lord, who could stand?
- 3 But there is forgiveness with you,
 so that you shall be feared.
- 4 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him;
 in his word is my hope.
- 5 My soul waits for the Lord,
 more than the night watch for the morning,
 more than the night watch for the morning.
- 6 O Israel, wait for the Lord,
 for with the Lord there is mercy;
- 7 With him is plenteous redemption
 and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

The Readings

(Use which ever edition of the Bible you prefer)

Romans 8:6-11

St Paul reminds us that the Spirit of the risen Christ lives in us.

John 11:1-45

This is a long reading but stick with it! In the story of the raising of Lazarus Jesus does not visit the family home until his friend has died and when he does his actions and his words remind us of the essential truth of Christianity. Death, even though it comes with grief and great sadness, is not the end.

Reflection for Today

Hard copies have been posted to those without email.

For those with access to the internet click [xxxxx](#) for an audio version of the whole service with the reflection included.

To see a YouTube version of Peter's reflection only click here [xxxxx](#)



The Apostles' 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

Gracious God, out of the depths we call to you, hear our voices as we pray...

Be with those who are anxious; with those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light.

Be with all who work in and serve the NHS; give skill, sympathy and resilience to all who are caring for the sick, and your wisdom to those searching for a cure. Be with doctors, nurses, carers, volunteers and researchers; with those returning to medicine after retirement and with carers working in the community; that through their work many will be restored to health.

Be with the leaders of our nation and leaders throughout the world. Give them wisdom and strength in the face of the great challenges they face.

Be with those still in our schools; teachers and children and with young families in their homes. Strengthen them with your Spirit.

Be with those whose working life has been turned upside down; with the self-employed and with those whose businesses are now at risk. Be with them at this time and in the decisions that they need to make.

Be with the most vulnerable and the fearful, with the homeless and those in prison; give them courage and strength to those who help and support them.

Be with all those who we care for (*name them now before God*) keep them safe and grant them your blessing.

A Prayer of St Benedict

O gracious and holy Father, give us wisdom to perceive you, diligence to seek you, patience to wait for you, eyes to behold you, a heart to meditate upon you, and a life to proclaim you, through the power of the spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray, to the mercy and protection of God. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Blessing

May God bless us and keep us and all those we love.
In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**