



## *The Lighting of a Candle*

We light this candle to remind us that the love of God is like a light in our darkness.  
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.

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you  
**and also with you.**

This is the day that the Lord has made.  
**We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

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.

**Lord, direct our thoughts, and teach us to pray.  
Lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## *Prayer of Penitence*

God our Father,  
we come to you in sorrow for our sins.  
For turning away from you,  
and ignoring your will for our lives;  
Father, forgive us:  
**save us and help us.**

For behaving just as we wish,

without thinking of you;

Father, forgive us:

**save us and help us.**

For failing you by what we do

and think and say;

Father forgive us:

**save us and help us.**

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you

by temptations in the world about us;

Father, forgive us:

**save us and help us.**

For living as if we were ashamed to belong to your Son;

Father, forgive us:

**save us and help us.**

May the God of Love bring us back to himself, forgive us our sins, and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

Blessed is the Lord

**for he has heard the voice of our prayer;**

therefore shall our hearts dance for joy

**and in our song we will praise our God.**

### *The Collect for the day*

O God,

the strength of all those who put their trust in you,

mercifully accept our prayers

and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature

we can do no good thing without you,

grant us the help of your grace,

that in the keeping of your commandments

we may please you both in will and deed;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

## *Hearing and responding to the Word of God*

*(We encourage you to look at the readings in your own time and will continue with the Gospel)*

### **First Reading:** Genesis 18.1-15(21.1-7)

<sup>1</sup>The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup>He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. <sup>3</sup>He said, 'My lord, if I find favour with you, do not pass by your servant. <sup>4</sup>Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. <sup>5</sup>Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on – since you have come to your servant.' So they said, 'Do as you have said.' <sup>6</sup>And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, 'Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.'

<sup>7</sup>Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. <sup>8</sup>Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.<sup>9</sup>They said to Abraham, 'Where is your wife Sarah?' And he said, 'There, in the tent.' <sup>10</sup>Then one said, 'I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.' And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. <sup>11</sup>Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. <sup>12</sup>So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, 'After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?' <sup>13</sup>The LORD said to Abraham, 'Why did Sarah laugh, and say, "Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?"' <sup>14</sup>Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.' <sup>15</sup>But Sarah denied, saying, 'I did not laugh'; for she was afraid. He said, 'Oh yes, you did laugh.'

### **Psalm 116.** 1,10-17

1     I love the Lord,  
      for he has heard the voice of my supplication;  
because he inclined his ear to me  
      on the day I called to him.

10    How shall I repay the Lord  
for all the benefits he has given to me?

11    I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call upon the name of the Lord.

12    I will fulfil my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people.

13    Precious in the sight of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful servants.

14 O Lord, I am your servant,  
your servant, the child of your handmaid;  
you have freed me from my bonds.

15 I will offer to you a sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and call upon the name of the Lord.

16 I will fulfil my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people,

17 In the courts of the house of the Lord,  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

### **Second Reading:** Romans 5.1-8

<sup>1</sup>Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. <sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

### **Gospel:** Matthew 9.35 - 10.8(9-23)

<sup>35</sup>Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness.

<sup>36</sup>When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup>Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; <sup>38</sup>therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. <sup>2</sup>These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; <sup>3</sup>Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; <sup>4</sup>Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

<sup>5</sup>These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, <sup>6</sup>but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

<sup>7</sup>As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near." <sup>8</sup>Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

### *Reflection*

## *Prayers of Intercession*

Gracious God, fountain of all wisdom,  
we pray for all Christian people;  
for John our bishop,  
and for all who teach and guard the faith ...  
May the word of Christ dwell richly in our hearts,  
and knit us together in the bond of your love.  
Hear us.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

We pray for the leaders of nations,  
and for those in authority under them.  
Give them the gift of your wisdom,  
and a right discernment in all things.  
Hear us.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

Living God,  
deliver us from a world without justice  
and a future without mercy;  
in your mercy, establish justice,  
and in your justice, remember the mercy  
revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Hear us.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

We pray for our villages and parishes,  
for those who live, work and visit here,  
and for all who seek the common good.  
Speak your word of peace in our midst,  
and help us to serve one another as Christ has served us.  
Hear us.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

We pray for those who do not believe,  
and for those of hesitant belief.  
Open their ears to hear your voice,  
and open their hearts to receive you, the very Word of life.  
Hear us.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

We pray for those bowed down with grief, fear or sickness ...  
May Christ your living Word bring them comfort and healing.

Hear us.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

We give thanks for all who have died in the faith of Christ,  
and we rejoice with all your saints,  
trusting in the promise of your word fulfilled.

Hear us.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

*Prayer for Coronavirus*

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy.  
Sustain and support the anxious,  
be with those who care for the sick,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may find comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Benefice Prayer*

God who made everyone and who may be found in every place, bless our parishes and  
Benefice, prosper our attempts to be faithful to you and to draw others to you.  
Inspire us by the power of your Holy Spirit that we may be a caring people, the true  
community of the body of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

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

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

**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 Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,

and keep us in eternal life.

**Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord:

**thanks be to God.**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all now and evermore. Amen.**