



Sunday 21 February 2021

- All the Bible readings come from the *New Revised Standard Version*.
- The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration have been included at the end rather than in situ because many following the service will be in isolation and unable to celebrate the sacrament.
- The hymns are YouTube links. To hear the hymns please hover the mouse over each link, press Ctrl and then return.
- To see service transcripts from previous weeks, please visit the page, <http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/resources/index.htm>

Introduction and welcome

HYMN 1 [Amazing grace](#)

(please click on this link to hear the hymn)

The Welcome

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

All Amen.

The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

The Preparation

**All Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.’

And the second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

All Amen. Lord, have mercy.

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart God will not despise. Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion, and confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God’s commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

All **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Gloria

This Gloria is usually omitted during Lent

The Collect for the First Sunday of Lent

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

First reading

A reading from the First Book of Moses called Genesis

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.

God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.' *Genesis 9:8-17*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Second reading

A reading from the Second Letter of St Peter

Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil.

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during

the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.

And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him. *1 Peter 3:13–22*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

HYMN 2 Amazing love

[\(please click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

All Glory to you O Lord.

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’ And immediately the Spirit drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’ *Mark 1:9–15*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

Lent is upon us, and on Wednesday we began a season of lament for our sins and the effects of sin in our world. Today we hear the timeless story of the great flood ... the deluge of water God visited upon the earth to cleanse the wickedness he saw inhabiting his good creation. We arrive at the point in the story when the floods have abated and the Ark has reached the safety of dry land. Noah and his family now have to pick up the pieces, and images of the devastation that flooding wreaks today come to mind; destruction everywhere and the subsequent relentless clearing of mud and debris.

Our passage from the first letter of Peter links the story of Noah's deliverance through the water of the flood, with baptism and deliverance from the power of sin ... but that's not the end of the story. Despite the cleansing flood and the cleansing effects of the water of baptism, frail humanity has a propensity ... that is, a natural tendency ... to stray from the paths of righteousness. We are always mindful of the ways we have sinned against God, our neighbours and even ourselves, and have to be constantly on guard to maintain godly habits in order to remain true to the promises made at baptism.

Even the man who is without sin—Jesus—submits himself to John's baptism in the Jordan but is immediately driven by the Spirit into the wilderness where wild beasts and Satan await him. He becomes the target of the most powerful of tempters. During a 'wilderness' time of extreme hardship his trust in God is tested, but he remains faithful to his Heavenly Father.

All these passages from Scripture speak of sin and temptation ... but also of ultimate redemption and things to be hoped for. In Genesis, God sets a bow in the sky as an everlasting sign of his covenant with Noah, and generations to come, *'When ... the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember ... and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.'* Towards the end of Peter's words comes the assurance that *'baptism ... now saves you ... through the resurrection of Jesus.'* In our gospel, even though Jesus had to endure the trials of the desert, *'the angels waited on him'* and his experiences strengthened him as he began his earthly ministry *'proclaiming the good news of God.'*

On our Lenten journey towards the glories of Easter Day, we are called to prepare—to undertake forty days in a kind of self-imposed wilderness. Through prayer, engagement with Scripture, works of service, denying ourselves and self-examination, we should all try to clear the elements of pride and sinfulness which have crept into our lives. As Christians observing Lent we should be prepared to get our hands dirty and clear the 'mud and debris'—whether literal, metaphorical or spiritual—that ruins lives. I invite you to include today's collect regularly in your prayers throughout this season as an earnest plea to God that we all might have a good Lent.

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; ...

Amen.

The Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
the source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

All We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

All This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers of intercession

Lord God, we come with all our muddled and muddied priorities,
and conflicting agendas,
to be made whole as the Body of Christ;
to renounce evil so as to be equipped
to announce the kingdom of peace.

Lord in your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

Lord God, we come with the world's clamour
ringing in our ears,
with comfort zones beckoning us,
but the pain of injustice refusing to be shut out.
We come for the world's healing,
and for an end to all lying and deceit.

Lord in your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

Lord God, we come with the demands
of home, family, work and expectations
warring in us for space and attention.
We come on behalf of those
too busy or too exhausted to pray;
that our daily lives may be washed in your peace,
ordered in holiness and lit up with your joy.
Lord in your mercy,
All hear our prayer.

Lord God, we come with the needs and sorrows,
pain and suffering of our brothers and sisters
all over the world, who are aching—
physically, emotionally or spiritually;
we come to ask for your comfort and healing love.
Lord in your mercy,
All hear our prayer.

Lord God, we come to realign our lives
in the context of your eternity,
and commend to your love our own loved ones
who have passed through earthly death
to the life which has no ending.
Lord in your mercy,
All hear our prayer.

Lord God, we come with thankfulness
for the gift of life, and for the call to holiness.
Give us the grace to respond to your calling.

Merciful Father,

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

The peace

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you,

All And also with you.

HYMN 3 Be thou my vision

[\(please click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below

The Dismissal

May God the Father,
who does not despise the broken spirit,
give to you a contrite heart.

All Amen.

May Christ,
who bore our sins in his body on the tree,
heal you by his wounds.

All Amen.

May the Holy Spirit,
who leads us into all truth,
speak to you words of pardon and peace.

All Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with you now and remain with you always.

All Amen.

HYMN 4 O Jesus I have promised

[\(please click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Eucharistic Prayer (prayer E)

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, you made the world and love your creation.
You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.
His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death.
And so we gladly thank you,
with saints and angels praising you, and saying,

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

**All Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

All We do not presume
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him,
and he in us. Amen.

Communion is distributed.

Prayer after Communion

Lord God,
you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven;
by it you nourish our faith,
increase our hope,
and strengthen our love:
teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread,
and enable us to live by every word
that proceeds from out of your mouth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

All Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory. Amen.