

Empower us by the gift of your holy and life-giving Spirit that we may be transformed into the likeness of Christ from glory to glory.
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Give to the world and its peoples the peace that comes from above,
that they may find Christ's way of freedom and life.
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Hold in your embrace all who witness to your love in the service of the
poor and needy; all those who minister to the sick and dying;
and all who bring light to those in darkness.
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Touch and heal all those whose lives are scarred by sin and pain,
that, raised from death to life in Christ,
their sorrow may be turned to eternal joy.
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Remember in your mercy those who have gone before us
who have been well-pleasing to you from eternity;
preserve us who live here in your faith,
guide us to your kingdom, and grant us your peace at all times.
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

The Lord's Prayer

We gather all our prayers in the words that Jesus taught us

**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.**

Hymn: Christ triumphant, ever reigning

God, give us grace to follow his saints,
In faith, and hope, and love,
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon us now and always. **Amen.**

The Blessing

The Benefice of St Benedict

Ashtmanhaugh, Barton Turf, Beeston St Lawrence, Horning, Irstead, & Neatishead

Morning Worship – 18th October 2020

St Luke

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

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.

Confession

God the Father forgives us in Christ and heals us by the Holy Spirit.
Let us therefore put away all anger and bitterness, all slander and malice,
and confess our sins to God our redeemer.

We have wandered from your paths, yet your truth leads us home.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

We have failed to live as your children, yet your love restores us.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

We are disfigured by our sin, yet your power heals us.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw us to himself, and cleanse
us from all our sins, that we may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn: Praise to the Lord, the almighty, the King of creation

The Collect

Almighty God, you called Luke the physician, whose praise is in the gospel,
to be an evangelist and physician of the soul:
by the grace of the Spirit and through the wholesome medicine of the
gospel, give your Church the same love and power to heal;
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.**

First Reading: Acts 16.6-12a

Hymn: Through all the changing scenes of life

Second Reading: Luke 10.1-9

Reflection

The saying, "Physician, heal yourself", is a well known one.

The Greek dramatist Euripides has the line, "He is a healer of others, but he swells with sores". Then there is the well-known saying of Jesus from the New Testament itself. "And he said unto them; doubtless ye will say unto me this parable, Physician, heal thyself:"

The writer who conveys this saying of Jesus about the physician to us was probably a physician himself - S.Luke who we remembered yesterday.

It was Luke's task to accompany S.Paul on his journeys across sea and land to bring the Christian good news to places where it had never been proclaimed before. He was the author of two New Testament books, the Gospel according to S.Luke and the Acts of the Apostles. In both he shows himself a good physician, for he recommends to us the best spiritual medicine and urges us to await our recovery with patience.

The medicine, which Luke recommends, is prayer. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus and the disciples pray together at every critical point in his earthly ministry. In the Acts, the early Church is conceived in prayer, and every new departure, every difficult challenge, is embarked upon with prayer. Mention of prayer is of course not absent from the other Gospels, but in Luke it is a major feature. Prayer is like medicine, which the good doctor prescribes for the Church, to be taken often and in generous measure.

Luke wrote his Gospel just at the time when the expectation of the earliest Christians that their Lord would return soon from heaven was beginning to wear thin, and many were losing their first faith and enthusiasm. His achievement was to re-plan the agenda, to enlarge the perspective, to set the ongoing purpose of God in a longer time scale, so that the hope of the return of Christ in the last days was by no means abandoned, but it was understood in a way that encouraged the Church to be patient, and to continue their discipleship in this world quietly, without panic or unease.

The Church provides us with the ministry of healing which is firmly rooted in prayer. The lovely words used during the laying of hands and anointing with oil make it clear that the healing comes from God alone, who is the source of all healing. This is not to say we can dismiss the work of the medical profession- far from it - because God is very much at work in all who minister to the sick.

. For a long time people had got into the habit of thinking that anointing with oil and praying for healing was something done as a last resort and it became associated with the phrase "last rites" - something administered to the dying. Yes anointing with oil can be an important part of our way of ministering to those near death but anointing and prayer for healing have now been recovered as something being very much part of our everyday lives.

We often need God's help and we don't have to wait until our lives are in danger to ask for it. Indeed we need to ask for it far more than we do. After all we teach our children to take care every time they cross the road and not just when they have to cross a really busy one. Prayer for healing helps us focus on the One who is always ready to bring us to wholeness.

To return to the proverb that Jesus quoted: "Physician heals thyself:" It is difficult for a physician to heal himself or those closest to him. When self-help fails us, when our own resources run dry, we find God is waiting to help us. If we turn to the writings of Luke we will find he directs us back to prayer, the indispensable means of access to the healing power of God in body, mind and spirit. And God will soothe away our anxious impatience by resetting the framework of our faith so that we are better able to appreciate the unfolding of God's kingdom in God's good time, and to relax in patient assurance that all will be well. Amen

The Creed

We say this simple Creed, the faith we share with Christians everywhere.

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

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

Hymn: Lord of all hopefulness

Prayers

United in the company of all the faithful and looking for the coming of the kingdom, let us offer our prayers to God, the source of all life and holiness. Merciful Lord, strengthen all Christian people by your Holy Spirit that we may live as a royal priesthood and a holy nation to the praise of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Bless Graham our bishop, and all ministers of your Church,

that by faithful proclamation of your word we may be built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets into a holy temple in the Lord.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**