

# The Parish of Louth and Deanery of Louthesk

Weekly notes and information for

28th February 2021: Second Sunday of Lent and Feast of St Herefrith



## Collect Prayer at Daily Prayer during the week



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.  
Amen

## Our churches: opening as places for prayer and reflection in our communities

The Parish Church of Louth St James will be open for private prayer between  
**10am and 1pm**

**Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays**

*Please see pages 2 and 3 for details of other churches that are open for private prayer  
across the Deanery of Louthesk*

# DIARY OF PRAYER & WORSHIP THIS WEEK...

Services marked \* are broadcast via [www.facebook.com/louthchurch](http://www.facebook.com/louthchurch)

<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup></b> Second Sunday of Lent	10am	<b>SUNG EUCHARIST</b> at St James'*
		Psalm 22.23-end
		Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16; Romans 4.13-end; Mark 8.31- end
	10am	<b>Morning Service</b> at North Thoresby
	10 30am	<b>Holy Communion</b> at Grimoldby
	11am	<b>Holy Communion</b> at South Elkington
	11 15am	<b>Matins</b> at Legbourne
	3pm	<b>Evensong</b> at Fotherby
	6pm	<b>PLAINSONG EVENSONG</b> at St James'*
		Psalm 135; Genesis 12.1-9; Hebrews 11.1-3, 8-16
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	9 15am	<b>MORNING PRAYER</b> at St James'*
		Psalm 32; Jeremiah 7.21=end-end; John 6.41-51
	10am	St James' open for private prayer until 1pm
<b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	9 15am	<b>MATINS</b> at St James'*
		Psalm 50; Jeremiah 8.1-15; John 6.52-59
	11am	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b> at St James'*
	11 45am	Praying with the Bible (Lectio Divina)
		Go to: <a href="http://www.zoom.us/join">www.zoom.us/join</a> or 'phone 0203 481 5240, and enter the Meeting ID: 847 0617 4009 and Password: 562604.
<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	9 15am	<b>MORNING PRAYER</b> at St James'*
		Psalm 35; Jeremiah 8.18-9.11; John 6.60-end
	10am	St James' open for private prayer until 1pm
	10am	<b>Funeral</b> at Alford Crematorium
	12 30pm	Outreach Post Office at Fotherby Church, which is also open for private prayer 'til 2 30pm
	2pm	<b>Funeral</b> at Alford Crematorium
	7pm	Soul Songs Lent Course
		Go to: <a href="http://www.zoom.us/join">www.zoom.us/join</a> or 'phone 0131 460 1196, and enter the Meeting ID 842 4999 6840 and password 379263.
	8pm	<b>COMPLINE</b> from Louth Rectory*
<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	9 15am	<b>MORNING PRAYER</b> at St James'*
		Psalm 34; Jeremiah 9.12-24; John 7.1-13
	11am	<b>Mass</b> at St Michael's
<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	9 15am	<b>MORNING PRAYER</b> at St James'*
		Psalm 41; Jeremiah 10.1-16; John 7.14-24
	10am	St James' open for private prayer until 1pm
	10am	World Day of Prayer Service
		Go to <a href="http://www.zoom.us/join">www.zoom.us/join</a> or 'phone 0203 481 5237, then enter the Meeting ID: 873 6773 2403 and Passcode: 639523.

<b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	10am	St James' open for private prayer until 1pm
	12 30pm	<b>MIDDAY PRAYER</b> at St James'*
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	9 30am	<b>Morning Service</b> at Great Carlton online
Third Sunday of Lent	9 30am	<b>Morning Service</b> at Covenham
	10am	<b>SUNG EUCHARIST</b> at St James'*
		Psalm 19 Exodus 20.1-17; 1 Corinthians 1.18-25; John 2.13-22
	10am	<b>Holy Communion</b> at North Thoresby
	10am	<b>Morning Service</b> at Marshchapel
	10 30am	<b>Morning Service</b> at Grimoldby
	11 15am	<b>Holy Communion</b> at Legbourne
	6pm	<b>PLAINSONG EVENSONG</b> at St James'*
		Psalm 11, 12; Exodus 5.1-6.1; Philippians 3.4b-14

## JOINING IN WORSHIP

All our worship is being streamed on the Parish of Louth facebook page. You do not need a Facebook account to view these services – just click on 'Not now' when it asks you to sign up. [www.facebook.com/louthchurch/live](http://www.facebook.com/louthchurch/live)

 Watch Louth CofE Services as live streams (and previously recorded) on Facebook. No account needed

## An Order of Service for the Eucharist this Sunday

- *We open our hearts to God, that we might be transformed by his love*
- *We listen to God's Word, and seek to find out how we may grow to understand God's will for us more fully*
- *We gather around the table to share a symbolic meal, a meal that joins us with our brothers and sisters throughout the world; the saints who have lived in all times and places*
- *We pray that we go out as lights that shine with God's love wherever we might go*

### **The Gathering**

*The GREETING and PREPARATION*

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

**Amen.**

Together we pray...

**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.**

*As the Ministers enter, organ music may be played or a psalm sung.*

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

## The PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

*A Minister introduces the Prayers of Penitence.*

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 acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

**Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God.  
Amen**

*The Priest pronounces Absolution.*

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.

**Amen.**

*The COLLECT prayer*

Almighty God, by whose grace Herefrith, kindled with the fire of your love, became a burning and a shining light in the Church: inflame us with the same spirit of love and service, that we may ever walk before you as children of light; we ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## ***The Liturgy of the Word***

### **Old Testament Reading: Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16**

A reading from the book of Genesis.

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.'

God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

### **New Testament Reading: Romans 4.13-end**

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations', according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb.

No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him', were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Reading: Mark 8.31- end**

Reader: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark. All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it

profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.           All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*There will be a HOMILY and period for reflection, after which the service continues with the NICENE CREED:*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.**

**Amen.**

*The INTERCESSIONS, which may include the following bidding and response:*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

*And may end with:*

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers,**

**for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

## ***The Liturgy of the Sacrament***

*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.

**And also with you.**

*A CHANT may be sung, or the organ played, as the altar is prepared.*

#### PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

*The prayer at this point may include the following response:*

**Blessed be God for ever.**

#### The EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

**and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*The president praises God for his mighty acts, ending with:*

**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.]**

*The president recalls the Last Supper, after which the following acclamation may be used:*

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Prayer continues and leads into the doxology, to which all respond boldly*

**Amen.**

#### *We sit or kneel for the LORD'S PRAYER*

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has 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.**

#### *The BREAKING OF THE BREAD*

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

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

*The GIVING OF COMMUNION*

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

*The AGNUS DEI*

**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.**

*Communion is distributed.*

*The PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION.*

*The priest leads the congregation in prayer:*

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Following this prayer, all join in:*

**We thank you, Lord, that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet prepared for all peoples.**

**Amen.**

***The Dismissal***

*We stand, and the priest proclaims God's BLESSING and we are sent into His world...*

Christ crucified draw you to himself, to find in him a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sins forgiven; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*We stand as the Ministers leave.*

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# Sunday Evensong: An Order of Service

*If used in the context of a family or household the words in **bold** are said by all. If said alone, all words are spoken by the individual praying.*

**Almighty and most merciful Father; We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; And we have done those things which we ought not to have done; And there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us miserable offenders. Spare thou them, O God, that confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent; According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous and sober life, to the glory of thy holy name. Amen.**

*At other time the service may be begin with the opening responses:*

O Lord, open thou our lips.

**And our mouths shall shew forth thy praise.**

O God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Praise ye the Lord.

**The Lord's name be praised.**

## ***The Word of God***

*Say the appointed psalm from the Book of Common Prayer, or listen as it is sung*

### **Psalm 135**

O PRAISE the Lord, laud ye the Name of the Lord : praise it, O ye servants of the Lord;

2 Ye that stand in the house of the Lord : in the courts of the house of our God.

3 O praise the Lord, for the Lord is gracious : O sing praises unto his Name, for it is lovely.

4 For why? the Lord hath chosen Jacob unto himself : and Israel for his own possession.

5 For I know that the Lord is great : and that our Lord is above all gods.

6 Whatsoever the Lord pleased, that did he in heaven and in earth : and in the sea, and in all deep places.

7 He bringeth forth the clouds from the ends of the world : and sendeth forth lightnings with the rain, bringing the winds out of his treasures.

8 He smote the first-born of Egypt : both of man and beast.

9 He hath sent tokens and wonders into the midst of thee, O thou land of Egypt : upon Pharaoh, and all his servants.

10 He smote divers nations : and slew mighty kings;

11 Sehon king of the Amorites, and Og the king of Basan : and all the kingdoms of Canaan;

12 And gave their land to be an heritage : even an heritage unto Israel his people.

13 Thy Name, O Lord, endureth for ever : so doth thy memorial, O Lord, from one generation to another.

14 For the Lord will avenge his people : and be gracious unto his servants.

15 As for the images of the heathen, they are but silver and gold : the work of men's hands.

16 They have mouths, and speak not : eyes have they, but they see not.

17 They have ears, and yet they hear not : neither is there any breath in their mouths.

18 They that make them are like unto them : and so are all they that put their trust in them.

19 Praise the Lord, ye house of Israel : praise the Lord, ye house of Aaron.

20 Praise the Lord, ye house of Levi : ye that fear the Lord, praise the Lord.

21 Praised be the Lord out of Sion : who dwelleth at Jerusalem.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

### **Old Testament Reading: Genesis 12.1-9**

Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan.

When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram, and said, 'To your offspring I will give this land.' So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. And Abram journeyed on by stages towards the Negeb.

*We say, sing, or hear sung the **Magnificat***

My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.  
For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his handmaiden.  
For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed.  
For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name.  
And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations.  
He hath shewed strength with his arm:  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and meek.  
He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away.  
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel  
As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.**

**New Testament Reading: Hebrews 11.1-3, 8-16**

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered himself faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, ‘as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.’ All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.

If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

*We say or hear sung the **Nunc Dimittis**:*

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace: according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation; Which thou hast prepared: before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles: and to be the glory of thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

## ***The Creed***

*You may wish to stand to say the Apostles' Creed:*

**I believe in God the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth:  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead and buried.  
He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church;  
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## ***The Prayers***

*The Lesser Litany, Lord's Prayer and Prayers:*

The Lord be with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father **which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.**

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

**And grant us thy salvation.**

O Lord, save the Queen.

**And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

**And make thy chosen people joyful.**

O Lord, save thy people.

**And bless thine inheritance.**

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

**Because there is none other that fighteth for us,  
but only thou, O God.**

O God, make clean our hearts within us.

**And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

ALMIGHTY God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; 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.**

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that, by thee, we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*After any further prayers, there may be a time for reflection including the singing of an anthem or evening hymn. If using this material at home, you may find this a good time to play a piece of recorded music or listen to one of the podcasts/video meditations.*

## **The Conclusion**

*The service ends with either a **Blessing**, or by praying the **Grace**:*

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

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# THIS WEEK'S SOUL SONG REFLECTION

Each week during Lent, a member of the ministry team will reflect on a particular psalm that is important to them. This week Reverend Chris Wedge introduces **Psalm 139**. Here in the parish notes, alongside the psalm, you will find some brief remarks of his, as well as some questions to reflect upon yourself. If you wish to listen to the full presentation, then do join in the zoom on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, at 7pm.

## **Psalm 139**

To the leader. Of David. A Psalm.

<sup>1</sup> O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

<sup>2</sup> You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

<sup>3</sup> You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

<sup>4</sup> Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.

<sup>5</sup> You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

<sup>6</sup> Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

<sup>7</sup> Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

<sup>8</sup> If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

<sup>9</sup> If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

<sup>10</sup> even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

<sup>11</sup> If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night',

<sup>12</sup> even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

<sup>13</sup> For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

<sup>14</sup> I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

<sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

<sup>16</sup> Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

<sup>17</sup> How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

<sup>18</sup> I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.

<sup>19</sup> O that you would kill the wicked, O God, and that the bloodthirsty would depart from me—

<sup>20</sup> those who speak of you maliciously, and lift themselves up against you for evil!

<sup>21</sup> Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD? And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?

<sup>22</sup> I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies.

<sup>23</sup> Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.

<sup>24</sup> See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Whenever I think of Psalm 139 I recall the many funerals of babies that I conducted when I was a hospital chaplain as I invariably incorporated this psalm into the service. The Psalm is divided into four movements and speaks about **a God who knows us intimately** 'You have searched me and known me'. It speaks also of **a God who is with us in our struggles** with the repeated phrase 'you are there'. The third movement is a reminder that **we are tenderly created by God with purpose and love** 'you knit me together in my mother's womb'. Finally, there is the assertion that **God's cause is our cause** 'Do I not hate those that you hate...lead me in the way everlasting'.

When I was with grieving parents I wanted them to know that their child mattered to God, was created by God, known by God and would be with God forever.

In the searing pain of loss it seemed important to give purpose and meaning to the child's life. This psalm can also be seen as an invitation to our intimacy with God.

The Mystical Christian tradition encourages a deep personal encounter with God; to pray with and in and through Christ with the expectation that God will reveal his will, his nature and his purpose to us in a way which is personal, direct and unique. This psalm reminds us that God longs for a mystical union with each one of us.

### **For further reflection**

- Has there been a time in your life when you have felt desperate? Were you aware then, or now, of the presence of God, of God being alongside you with tenderness?
- How does it feel to be 'searched and known' by God? If God knows us fully and in totality what does that do to our life of prayer?
- The final movement of the psalm can make difficult reading. We might be uncomfortable with words like hate and thoughts of killing the wicked. How do we make sense of this Biblical text?

## **NOTES AND NOTICES**

- James and Arabella have now moved into the Rectory in Louth as a temporary arrangement during interregnum. Their new landline telephone number is 01507 604215.
- The World Day of Prayer Service can be joined via Zoom (details above within the Parish Notes diary) on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 10 30am. Orders of service can be picked up from the back of St James'.
- The Guild of St. James' Church Trip  
It is time we got together! Hoping to organise an outing to the Walked Gardens, Baumber to celebrate liberation from Covid lockdowns. Date: Thursday 8th July, 2020 to arrive there at mid-day in time for a light lunch/coffee or a cream tea. It closes at 4p.m., which would be the return time. At this stage, I just want numbers, please. Partners and friends welcome to join us. Please ring me if you would like to join us. Jeannie Gurnham 609622 or message me on 07581511220.

### ~ SOUL SONGS ~

#### A REFLECTIVE COURSE FOR LENT ON THE PSALMS

Each week one of the Deanery ministry team will reflect upon a psalm that means something to them. We will then have a chance to pray the psalm together & discuss how it speaks to us before taking the 'soul song' into our week to come.

**Wednesdays in Lent at 7pm finishing in time for the live-streamed Compline at 8pm.**

10th March - PSALM 4 - Jenny Ballantyne  
17th March - PSALM 121 - Daphne King  
24th March - PSALM 27 - Arabella Milbank Robinson  
31st March (Holy Week) - PSALM 22 - Alan Hayday

You can join in person on Zoom using your computer or telephone. Go to: [www.zoom.us/join](https://www.zoom.us/join) or 'phone 0131 460 1196 and enter the Meeting ID 842 4999 6840 and password 379263. Alternatively you can watch the video recordings at any time. Go to: [www.facebook.com/louthchurch/videos](https://www.facebook.com/louthchurch/videos) or [www.teamparishofouth.org.uk](https://www.teamparishofouth.org.uk).

The Notes sent out from St James around the Deanery will also include a worksheet form of the reflection each week.

# COVID -19 REMINDERS

**We can only continue holding public worship if we all adhere very closely to the guidance in place to prevent the spread of the virus.**

Here are some reminders of how this should affect our behaviour in church.

- **Social distancing remains as important as ever**, sadly, as even post-vaccination we may be able to transmit the virus. Please do remember to keep the 2m distance from one another, vergers and clergy at all times, inside and outside.
- **Mask-wearing is also essential**, unless you are medically exempt. A visor on its own does not protect others from potential transmission
- **Before the service**, once we have given track & trace details and sanitised our hands (letting them air-dry, not wiping off the gel) we proceed directly to our seats.
- **After the service**, we make our way directly and immediately out onto the cobbles where the priest will already have gone to bid the congregation farewell and hear any pastoral needs or concerns.
- **Orders of Service** (Parish Notes) should be taken with you after the service, in order that the vergers do not have to handle them.

## In our prayers this week...

**All those affected by the current pandemic**

**The Sick and those in need:** Marguerite Baillie, Peggy Baillie, Anne-Marie Bidwell, Helen Blakey, Paul Clifford, Ed Cox, Hildegard Dettmer-Beecroft, Rosemary Huke, Fr James Drayton, Jennie Levick, Mal Locking, Bob Lewis, Anna Mamwell, Mary Oxley, Alan Pounds, Sylvia Pounds, Eileen Robinson, Enid Spicer, Joyce Terrett, John Troughton, Charles Wakeley, Pauline Watson, Stuart Watson

**Those who have died:** Mary Betts, Ida Broxholme, Christopher Rolph, Phyllis Coulson, Greta Rainthorpe, Leonard Jacklin, Mary Padison, Jack Sykes, Hazel Allen, Doreen Borrill, Thomas Stone, John Whelband, Dorothy Dennis, Peter Hill, Jean Milbank.

### PARISH AND DEANERY CONTACTS

At this time, if you are aware of anyone in urgent pastoral need please e-mail [louthparishpastoral@gmail.com](mailto:louthparishpastoral@gmail.com) or 'phone 01507 604215.

**Deanery Office 01507 610247**

[louthesk@lincoln.anglican.org](mailto:louthesk@lincoln.anglican.org)

For Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals  
and other enquiries

**Trinity Centre 01507 605803**

[trinity@teamparishoflouth.org.uk](mailto:trinity@teamparishoflouth.org.uk)

For matters relating to activities at Trinity Centre

**Safeguarding concerns 01507 610752**

For information about how to respond to safeguarding concerns,  
or for sources of support, please see Safeguarding Notices in church porches

[www.teamparishoflouth.org.uk](http://www.teamparishoflouth.org.uk)