

The Parish of Louth and Deanery of Louthesk

Weekly notes and information for

4th July 2021: Fifth Sunday after Trinity



www.teamparishoflouth.org.uk

In all we do, we seek to live out Jesus' command to draw close to the love of God in worship, and to share this by loving our neighbour

Collect Prayer for the week



Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the
Church is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all your
faithful people, that in their vocation and
ministry they may serve you in holiness
and truth to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the
unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
for ever.

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 4pm

Monday to Saturday unless otherwise stated below.

*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

Sunday 4th	9 30am	Morning Service at Great Carlton
Fifth Sunday	9 30am	Holy Communion at Covenham
After Trinity	10am	SUNG EUCHARIST at St James'*
		Psalm 123; Ezekiel 2.1-5; 2 Corinthians 12.2-10; Mark 6.1-13
	10am	Holy Communion at North Thoresby
	10am	Morning Service at Fulstow (Methodist)
	10am	Morning Service at Marshchapel
	10 30am	Morning Service at Grimoldby
	11 15am	Holy Communion at Legbourne
	2pm	Baptism at Utterby
	6pm	EVENSONG at St James'*
		Psalm 64; Jeremiah 20.1-11; Romans 14.1-17
Monday 5th	9 30am	MORNING PRAYER at St James'*
		Psalm 98; Ezekiel 1.1-14; 2 Corinthians 1.1-14
	10am	Parent & Toddler Grp at Trinity Centre 'til 12noon
Tuesday 6th	9 30am	MATINS at St James'*
		Psalm 106; Ezekiel 1.15-2.2; 2 Corinthians 1.15-2.4
	11 30am	Meditating with Scripture
		Go to: www.zoom.us/join or 'phone 0203 481 5240, and enter the Meeting ID: 847 0617 4009 and Password: 562604.
	12noon	HOLY COMMUNION at St James'*
	7pm	Centering prayer group at St James'
Wednesday 7th	9 30am	MORNING PRAYER at St James'*
		Psalm 111; Ezekiel 2.3-3.11; 2 Corinthians 2.5-end
	10am	'Knit and Natter' at Trinity Centre
	10am	SHINE Drop in at the Trinity Centre until 12noon
	10am	'Bundles of Joy' Baby Bank open until 12noon at Church House
	12 noon	Friendship Walk leaving from Trinity Centre
	12 30pm	Outreach Post Office at Fotherby Church, which is also open for private prayer 'til 2 30pm
Thursday 8th	9 30am	MORNING PRAYER at St James'*
		Psalm 115; Ezekiel 3.12-end; 2 Corinthians 3
	11am	Mass at St Michael's
Friday 9th	9 30am	MORNING PRAYER at St James'*
		Psalm 139; Ezekiel 8; 2 Corinthians 4
	10am	'Bundles of Joy' Baby Bank open until 12noon
	1pm	Friday Recital: John Prior (flute) and

Saturday 10th	12 30 pm	WEDDING BLESSING at St James'
Sunday 11th	10am	SUNG EUCHARIST at St James'*
Sixth Sunday		Psalm 85.8-end; Amos 7.7-15; Ephesians 1.3-14; Mark 6.14-29
After Trinity	10am	Morning Service at North Thoresby
	10 30am	Holy Communion at Manby
	10 30am	Morning Service at Grimoldby
	11am	Holy Communion at North Somercotes
	11am	Holy Communion at Ludborough
	11 15am	Holy Communion at Legbourne
	12 30pm	BAPTISM at St James'
	3pm	Holy Communion at Fotherby
	6pm	EVENSONG at St James'*
		Psalm 66; Job 4.1; 5.6-end; Romans 15.14-29

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

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

DETAILS OF CHURCHES OPEN

Binbrook: Please 'phone the keyholder on 07778 316486 for access

Covenham: Please 'phone the Churchwarden on 01507 363508 for access.

Fulstow: Open for private prayer each Wednesday between 10 am and 4 pm, and on the second, fourth and fifth Sundays between 10 am and 4 pm. All enquiries to churchwardens on 07825 293389 or 07889 343877

Fotherby: The Outreach Post Office is open on Wednesdays from 12.30pm to 2.30pm

Great Carlton: Please 'phone the Churchwardens on 01507 328369 or 450527 for access

Grimoldby: Please 'phone the churchwarden on 01507 328917

Ludborough: Please 'phone the churchwarden on 01472 840505 for access.

Manby: Please 'phone the churchwarden on 01507 327199 for access.

Marshchapel: temporarily closed for Private Prayer

North Thoresby: Please 'phone a churchwarden on 01472 840698 or 840160 for access.

North Somercotes: Please 'phone the Churchwarden on 01507 358520 for access.

Utterby: Open for private prayer on Sundays from 10am to 12noon.

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

Please stand as the ministers enter, an introit or hymn is sung or the organ played.

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

Amen.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Words of welcome are said.

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.

The PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

A Minister introduces the Prayers of Penitence.

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.

**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.

We say the GLORIA, a Song of Praise written by the early Christians

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.**

Amen.

The COLLECT prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 2.1-5

A Reading from the book of Ezekiel.

The Lord said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, "Thus says the Lord God." Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Reading: 2 Corinthians 12.2-10

A Reading from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians.

I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows— was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat.

On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading: Mark 6.1-13

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

Jesus came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

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

Peace to you from God our heavenly Father. Peace from his Son Jesus Christ who is our peace. Peace from the Holy Spirit, the life-giver. The peace of the triune God be always with you. **And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

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 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.**

The GIVING OF COMMUNION

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

As the priest receives, and instead of words spoken to each communicant, we hear and respond to the words of distribution together.

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**
The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

If you are worshipping with us online, please do make your spiritual communion now.

Act of Spiritual Reception to say at home:

O loving God, in union with Christian people throughout the world and across the centuries gathered to make Eucharist, hearing your holy Word and receiving the Precious Body and Blood of your dear Son, I offer you praise and thanksgiving. Even though I am exiled from tasting the Bread of Heaven and drinking the Cup of Life I pray that you will unite me with all the baptised and with your Son who gave his life for us. Come Lord Jesus, dwell in me and send your Holy Spirit that I may be filled with your presence. Amen.

Communion is distributed.

The PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION.

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by your governance, that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness; 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

Any notices are given before we stand for the priest proclaim God's BLESSING and we are sent into His world...

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; 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 remain standing 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 64

HEAR my voice, O God, in my prayer : preserve my life from fear of the enemy.

2 Hide me from the gathering together of the froward : and from the insurrection of wicked doers;

3 Who have whet their tongue like a sword : and shoot out their arrows, even bitter words;

4 That they may privily shoot at him that is perfect : suddenly do they hit him, and fear not.

5 They encourage themselves in mischief : and commune among themselves how they may lay snares, and say that no man shall see them.

6 They imagine wickedness, and practise it : that they keep secret among themselves, every man in the deep of his heart.

7 But God shall suddenly shoot at them with a swift arrow : that they shall be wounded.

8 Yea, their own tongues shall make them fall : insomuch that whoso seeth them shall laugh them to scorn.

9 And all men that see it shall say, This hath God done : for they shall perceive that it is his work.

10 The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord, and put his trust in him : and all they that are true of heart shall be glad.

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: Jeremiah 20.1-11

Now Pashur the son of Immer the priest, who was also chief governor in the house of the LORD, heard that Jeremiah prophesied these things. Then Pashur smote Jeremiah the prophet, and put him in the stocks that were in the high gate of Benjamin, which was by the house of the LORD. And it came to pass on the morrow, that Pashur brought forth Jeremiah out of the stocks. Then said Jeremiah unto him, The LORD hath not called thy name Pashur, but Magormissabib. For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will make thee a terror to thyself, and to all thy friends: and they shall fall by the sword of their enemies, and thine eyes shall behold it : and I will give all Judah into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall carry them captive into Babylon, and shall slay them with the sword. Moreover I will deliver all the strength of this city, and all the labours thereof, and all the precious things thereof, and all the treasures of the kings of Judah will I give into the hand of their enemies, which shall spoil them, and take them, and carry them to Babylon. And thou, Pashur, and all that dwell in thine house shall go into captivity: and thou shalt come to Babylon, and there thou shalt die, and shalt be buried there, thou, and all thy friends, to whom thou hast prophesied lies. O LORD, thou hast deceived me, and I was deceived: thou art stronger than I, and hast prevailed: I am in derision daily, every one mocketh me. For since I spake, I cried out, I cried violence and spoil; because the word of the LORD was made a reproach unto me, and a derision, daily. Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay . For I heard the defaming of many, fear on every side. Report, say they , and we will report it. All my familiars watched for my halting, saying , Peradventure he will be enticed, and we shall prevail against him, and we shall take our revenge on him. But the LORD is with me as a mighty terrible one: therefore my persecutors shall stumble, and they shall not prevail: they shall be greatly ashamed; for they shall not prosper: their everlasting confusion shall never be forgotten.

*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: Romans 14.1-17

Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations. For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him. Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand. One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks. For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living. But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way. I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean. But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died. Let not then your good be evil spoken of: For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

*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.

GRANT, O Lord, we beseech thee, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by thy governance, that thy Church may joyfully serve thee in all godly quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 PSALM AND HOMILY

Psalm 123

UNTO thee lift I up mine eyes : O thou that dwellest in the heavens.

2 Behold, even as the eyes of servants look unto the hand of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress : even so our eyes wait upon the Lord our God, until he have mercy upon us.

3 Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us : for we are utterly despised.

4 Our soul is filled with the scornful reproof of the wealthy : and with the despitefulness of the proud.

Jesus said "Prophets are not without honour, except in their home town, and among their kin, and in their own house."

Jesus was in Nazareth, his hometown, where he was known to be a craftsman, a carpenter. He came from a family of carpenters. He grew up in that small town, where everyone knew him, and he knew everyone. Then he went away for a time. And he came back as something different – a Rabbi, a teacher with a group of followers. And people were offended by him. People were offended firstly because he had gone away in the first place. The commentators are clear that the list of names we heard in our gospel reading, "the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon" is quite a good indication that Joseph, his earthly father had died. As the oldest son, it was Jesus' responsibility, his duty, to become the head of the household, to earn the money and keep food on the table. And yet he had disappeared. He had failed in his duty to his family. And he dared to come back to the town and tell them that they had to repent.

People were offended because of his message too. Jesus' message had that effect on a number of communities. I wonder if people in this country today don't really understand how radical and how offensive the message was. Most people in Britain think of themselves as law abiding citizens, both within the community and within the church. To be told that they have got it all wrong, and that the church has got it all wrong on their behalf, is offensive. It goes to the very roots of their faith and their beings. So, Jesus' return to Nazareth was definitely not a wholehearted success. He performed no deeds of power, apart from a few healings, and he was amazed at their unbelief. So, he left. And the town of Nazareth is not mentioned again in the New Testament.

The hardest situation in which we are witnesses to our faith is within our own family and local community. Like the people of Nazareth knew Jesus, our families know us all too well. They know we are not perfect, they know our failings, and all too often, they are keen to point them out, particularly when we are trying to talk about what God means to us. Within our local community, if we admit to going to Church, far too often we feel that we are considered odd, or even criticised for considering ourselves better than others! And we are left feeling that we do not have a voice. But we need to remember that we do indeed have a voice. If you go behind the indignation and look at what the people of Nazareth did recognise within Jesus, it is quite clear that they were responding to the message. “Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands!”. They had listened to his teaching. They recognised it as wise teaching – something he probably hadn’t learnt growing up in Nazareth. They saw the healing miracles and were amazed at the results. What they had failed to do was to understand that as a result of what they heard and saw, they all needed to make a decision – to remain within the Jewish faith as taught by the institution, or to explore the radical faith propounded by Jesus. By becoming offended, they made their decision at that time. But that did not mean their decision is final.

If you trace Jesus’ brothers through the gospel writings, you can see their development of faith in their brother, who they knew so well. In the early days of Jesus’ ministry, they were embarrassed. They encouraged him to leave Galilee and move into Judea, believing that if he wanted to get publicity, he should get it as far away from them as possible – “For even”, John tells us, “his own brothers did not believe in him.” Later on, in Acts, all the disciples were gathered together in the upper room. “They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with Mary the mother of Jesus and his brothers.” We know that, later again, one of Jesus’ brothers, James, became a leader in the Jerusalem Church.

One of the issues which most makes Christians despair, is the lack of faith they find in their own family members and communities. Our gospel reading today, and our knowledge of the development of the early Christian Church should encourage us that it is not a matter for despair, but for prayer. And never be upset if they find your faith offensive – it is probably a sign that, actually, they are being challenged to take an interest, and make a decision.

Questions for reflection

1. Have you encountered any family members being offended by your sharing of faith? How does that make you feel? Has today’s reflection changed any of those feelings?
2. How might we support one another as we face the challenge to make ourselves vulnerable in sharing the Gospel?
3. Is there anything else from the passage that speaks to you not already discussed? What is it?
4. What will you do this week in your Monday-to-Saturday ministry in response to what you have heard today?
#everydayfaith

NOTES AND NOTICES

- Our Associate Rector, Arabella Milbank Robinson, will be on maternity leave from the 20th June, as she awaits the birth of her baby due on the 4th July. Please do keep her, the baby, James and Aubrey in your prayers!
- Please be aware that there have been some scam emails from fraudulent addresses sent under the guise of clergy. Be vigilant and aware that we will not contact you asking you to purchase resources on behalf of the parish. Cameron Watt’s team parish of Louth email is now active and should be used as a primary contact (cameron.watt@teamparishoflouth.org.uk).

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, Ed Cox, Rev Moira Davis, Hildegard Dettmer-Beecroft, Rosemary Huke, Fr James Drayton, Oscar Gabryel, Mal Locking, Bob Lewis, Anna Mamwell, Mary Oxley, Alan Pounds, Sylvia Pounds, Andrea Prior, Betty Robinson, Eileen Robinson, Dorothy Scammell, Enid Spicer, Joyce Terrett, John Troughton, Pauline Watson, Stuart Watson.*

Those who have died: *John Spindley, Arthur Wilbourn, Joan Overton, Cyril Spence, Nigel Deaney, Nigel Thompson, Francis Ellis, Charles Wakeley, Richard Dettmer-Beecroft, Keith Bailey*

PARISH AND DEANERY CONTACTS

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

Deanery Office 01507 610247

louthesk@lincoln.anglican.org

For Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals
and other enquiries

Trinity Centre 01507 605803

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