

Louthesk Deanery

Pew Sheets – w/c Sunday 21st December 2025

4th Sunday of Advent / O Oriens



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**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 at Daily Prayer this week

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SERVICES THIS WEEK ACROSS THE DEANERY...

Sunday 21st

4th Sunday of Advent

HC Scripture	
<i>Isaiah 7.10-16; Psalm 80.1-8, 18-20; Romans 1.1-7; Matthew 1.18-End</i>	
9 30am	Holy Communion at Marshchapel
10am	Carol Service at Fulstow
10am	Holy Communion at North Thoresby
10am	Holy Communion at St James'
10 30am	Holy Communion at Grimoldby
10 30am	Holy Communion at Saltfleetby
11am	Holy Communion at Legbourne
3pm	Crib Service at Fotherby
3pm	Carol Service & Baptism (Ruairi Dwyer) at Raithby
3pm	Carol Service followed by refreshments at Stewton
4pm	Carols For All at St James'
5pm	Carol Service at Ludborough
6pm	Carols at Belleau
6 30pm	Carol Service at Binbrook
6 30pm	Carols with Louth Chamber Choir at Sth Elkington

Monday 22nd

Rural Mission Enablers Day Off

MP Scripture	
<i>Psalm 124; Malachi 1.1, 6-End; Matthew 19.1.12</i>	
11am	Funeral (Pauline Thornton) at St James'
2pm	Carol Service on Archer Ward at Louth Hospital
6pm	Carols on the green with Fr Christmas at Ludborough

Tuesday 23rd

MP Scripture	
<i>Psalm 130; Malachi 2.1-16; Matthew 19.13.15</i>	
11am	BCP at St James
11am	Informal Coffee Break at Utterby
1pm	Funeral (Dorothy Broome) at Little Cawthorpe
1pm	Funeral (Martin Streets) at St James' & Great Carlton
6pm	Traditional Lessons & Carols at Fotherby
6pm	Carol Service at Great Carlton
6 30pm	Carols at South Thoresby with Mulled Wine & Hot Choc

Wednesday 24th

Christmas Eve

MP Scripture *Psalm 45; Malachi 2.17-3.12; Matthew 19.16-End*

HC Scripture *Psalm 89.2, 19-27; 2 Samuel 7.1-5, 8-11, 16; Acts 13.16-26; Luke 1.67-79*

EP Scripture *Psalm 85; Zechariah 2; Revelation 1.1-8*

- 9 30am Christmas Eve Holy Communion at Nth Somercotes
2 30pm Crib Service at Fulstow
3pm Christingle at North Thoresby
4pm Crib Service at Grainthorpe
4pm Crib Service at Grimoldby
4pm Crib Service at Legbourne
4pm Crib Service at St James'
6pm Holy Communion at North Thoresby
6pm Carols at Saltfleetby *with Mulled Wine & Mince Pies*
8pm Bethlehem Mass at St Michaels'
11 30pm Midnight Mass at Binbrook
11 30pm Christmas Eve Service at St James'

Thursday 25th

Christmas Day

MP Scripture *Psalm 110; Isaiah 62.1-5; Matthew 1.18-End*

HC Scripture *Isaiah 52.7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1.1-4; John 1.1-14*

EP Scripture *Psalm 8; Isaiah 65.17-25; Philippians 2.5-11*

- 9 30am Christmas Day Service at Stewton
10am Christmas Mass at Ludford
10am Christmas Day Service at St James'
11 15am Eucharist at South Elkington

Friday 26th

Stephen, deacon, first martyr

Priest In Charge of Louth - Day Off

MP Scripture *Psalm 13; Jeremiah 26.12-15; Acts 6*

Saturday 27th

John, Apostle and Evangelist

MP Scripture *Psalm 21; Exodus 33.12-End; 1 John 2.1-11*

Sunday 28th

Christmas 1

The Holy Innocents

HC Scripture *Isaiah 63.7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2.10-End; Matthew 2.13-End*

- 8 45am **Parish Mass** at Wold Newton
10am **Holy Communion** at North Thoresby
10am **Holy Communion** at St James'
10 30am **Holy Communion** at Binbrook
3pm **Carol Service** at Swinhope

PRAYERS AND READINGS SUNDAY 21ST DEC

Collect Prayer

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 7.10–16

¹⁰Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: ‘Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80.1–8, 18–20

¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, you that led Joseph like a flock;
² Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim, before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.
³ Stir up your mighty strength and come to our salvation.
⁴ Turn us again, O God; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
⁵ O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry at your people’s prayer?
⁶ You feed them with the bread of tears; you give them abundance of tears to drink.
⁷ You have made us the derision of our neighbours, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
⁸ Turn us again, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
¹⁸ Let your hand be upon the man at your right hand, the son of man you made so strong for yourself.
¹⁹ And so will we not go back from you; give us life, and we shall call upon your name.
²⁰ Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

New Testament Reading: Romans 1.1–7

¹Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all God’s beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 1.18–end

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

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose

her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' ²²All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYERS AND READINGS WEDNESDAY 24TH DEC

MP -Psalm 45; Malachi 2.17-3.12; Matthew 19.16-End

Psalm 45

- ¹ My heart is astir with gracious words; as I make my song for the king, my tongue is the pen of a ready writer.
- ² You are the fairest of men; full of grace are your lips, for God has blest you for ever.
- ³ Gird your sword upon your thigh, O mighty one; gird on your majesty and glory.
- ⁴ Ride on and prosper in the cause of truth and for the sake of humility and righteousness.
- ⁵ Your right hand will teach you terrible things; your arrows will be sharp in the heart of the king's enemies, so that peoples fall beneath you.
- ⁶ Your throne is God's throne, for ever; the sceptre of your kingdom is the sceptre of righteousness.
- ⁷ You love righteousness and hate iniquity; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your fellows.
- ⁸ All your garments are fragrant with myrrh, aloes and cassia; from ivory palaces the music of strings makes you glad.
- ⁹ Kings' daughters are among your honourable women; at your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.
- ¹⁰ Hear, O daughter; consider and incline your ear; forget your own people and your father's house.
- ¹¹ So shall the king have pleasure in your beauty; he is your lord, so do him honour.
- ¹² The people of Tyre shall bring you gifts; the richest of the people shall seek your favour.
- ¹³ The king's daughter is all glorious within; her clothing is embroidered cloth of gold.
- ¹⁴ She shall be brought to the king in raiment of needlework; after her the virgins that are her companions.
- ¹⁵ With joy and gladness shall they be brought and enter into the palace of the king.

¹⁶ 'Instead of your fathers you shall have sons, whom you shall make princes over all the land.

¹⁷ 'I will make your name to be remembered through all generations; therefore shall the peoples praise you for ever and ever.'

Old Testament Reading: Malachi 2.17-3.12

¹⁷You have wearied the Lord with your words. Yet you say, 'How have we wearied him?' By saying, 'All who do evil are good in the sight of the Lord, and he delights in them.' Or by asking, 'Where is the God of justice?' ³See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. ⁵Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts. ⁶For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, have not perished. ⁷Ever since the days of your ancestors you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. But you say, 'How shall we return?' ⁸Will anyone rob God? Yet you are robbing me! But you say, 'How are we robbing you?' In your tithes and offerings! ⁹You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me—the whole nation of you! ¹⁰Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing. ¹¹I will rebuke the locust for you, so that it will not destroy the produce of your soil; and your vine in the field shall not be barren, says the Lord of hosts. ¹²Then all nations will count you happy, for you will be a land of delight, says the Lord of hosts.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading: Matthew 19.16-end

¹⁶Then someone came to him and said, 'Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?' ¹⁷And he said to him, 'Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.' ¹⁸He said to him, 'Which ones?' And Jesus said, 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; ¹⁹Honour your father and mother; also, You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' ²⁰The young man said to him, 'I have kept all these; what do I still lack?' ²¹Jesus said to him, 'If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' ²²When the young man heard this word, he went away grieving, for he had many possessions. ²³Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Truly I tell you, it will be hard for a rich

person to enter the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.’ ²⁵When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astounded and said, ‘Then who can be saved?’ ²⁶But Jesus looked at them and said, ‘For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.’ ²⁷Then Peter said in reply, ‘Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?’ ²⁸Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name’s sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. ³⁰But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

HC - Psalm 89.2, 19-27; 2 Samuel 7.1-5, 8-11, 16; Acts 13.16-26; Luke 1.67-79

Collect Prayer

Almighty God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Old Testament Reading: 2 Samuel 7.1-5, 8-11, 16

⁷Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, ‘See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.’ ³Nathan said to the king, ‘Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.’ ⁴But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 89.2, 19-27

² I will declare that your love is established for ever; you have set your faithfulness as firm as the heavens.

¹⁹ You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: ‘I have set a youth above the mighty; I have raised a young man over the people.

²⁰ ‘I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him.

- ²¹ 'My hand shall hold him fast and my arm shall strengthen him.
²² 'No enemy shall deceive him, nor any wicked person afflict him.
²³ 'I will strike down his foes before his face and beat down those that hate him.
²⁴ 'My truth also and my steadfast love shall be with him, and in my name shall his head be exalted.
²⁵ 'I will set his dominion upon the sea and his right hand upon the rivers.
²⁶ 'He shall call to me, "You are my Father, my God, and the rock of my salvation;"
²⁷ 'And I will make him my firstborn, the most high above the kings of the earth.

New Testament Reading: Acts 13.16-26

¹⁶So Paul stood up and with a gesture began to speak: 'You Israelites, and others who fear God, listen. ¹⁷The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. ¹⁸For about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. ¹⁹After he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance ²⁰for about four hundred and fifty years. After that he gave them judges until the time of the prophet Samuel. ²¹Then they asked for a king; and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, who reigned for forty years. ²²When he had removed him, he made David their king. In his testimony about him he said, "I have found David, son of Jesse, to be a man after my heart, who will carry out all my wishes." ²³Of this man's posterity God has brought to Israel a Saviour, Jesus, as he promised; ²⁴before his coming John had already proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. ²⁵And as John was finishing his work, he said, "What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but one is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of the sandals on his feet." ²⁶'My brothers, you descendants of Abraham's family, and others who fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Luke 1.67-79

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁶⁷Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:
⁶⁸'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them. ⁶⁹ He has raised up a mighty saviour for us in the house of his servant David, ⁷⁰as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, ⁷¹that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. ⁷²Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, ⁷³the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us ⁷⁴that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. ⁷⁶And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. ⁷⁸By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, ⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, for whom we wait, you have fed us with the bread of eternal life: keep us ever watchful, that we may be ready to stand before the Son of man, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

EP - Psalm 85; Zecharia 2; Revelation 1.1-8

Psalm 85

- ¹ Lord, you were gracious to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
² You forgave the offence of your people and covered all their sins.
³ You laid aside all your fury and turned from your wrathful indignation.
⁴ Restore us again, O God our Saviour, and let your anger cease from us.
⁵ Will you be displeased with us for ever? Will you stretch out your wrath from one generation to another?
⁶ Will you not give us life again, that your people may rejoice in you?
⁷ Show us your mercy, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.
⁸ I will listen to what the Lord God will say, for he shall speak peace to his people and to the faithful, that they turn not again to folly.
⁹ Truly, his salvation is near to those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.
¹⁰ Mercy and truth are met together, righteousness and peace have kissed each other;
¹¹ Truth shall spring up from the earth and righteousness look down from heaven.
¹² The Lord will indeed give all that is good, and our land will yield its increase.
¹³ Righteousness shall go before him and direct his steps in the way.

Old Testament Reading: Zechariah 2

¹I looked up and saw a man with a measuring line in his hand. ²Then I asked, 'Where are you going?' He answered me, 'To measure Jerusalem, to see what is its width and what is its length.' ³Then the angel who talked with me came forward, and another angel came forward to meet him, ⁴and said to him, 'Run, say to that young man: Jerusalem shall be inhabited like villages without walls, because of the multitude of people and animals in it. ⁵For I will be a wall of fire all round it, says the Lord, and I will be the glory within it.' ⁶Up, up! Flee from the land of the north, says the Lord; for I have spread you abroad like the four winds of heaven, says the Lord. ⁷Up! Escape to Zion, you that live with daughter Babylon. ⁸For thus said the Lord of hosts (after his glory sent me) regarding the nations that plundered you: Truly, one who touches you touches the apple of my eye. ⁹See now, I am going to raise my hand against them, and they shall become plunder for their own slaves. Then you will know that the Lord of hosts has sent me. ¹⁰Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion! For lo, I will come and dwell in your midst, says the Lord. ¹¹Many nations shall join themselves to the Lord on that day, and shall be my people; and I will dwell in your midst. And you shall know that the Lord of hosts has sent me to you. ¹²The Lord will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem. ¹³Be silent, all people, before the Lord; for he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading: Revelation 1.1-8

¹The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place; he made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, ²who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. ³Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of the prophecy, and blessed are those who hear and who keep what is written in it; for the time is near. ⁴John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. ⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. ⁸'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS AND READINGS CHRISTMAS DAY

MP Scripture Psalm 110; Isaiah 62.1-5; Matthew 1.18-End

Psalm 110

- ¹ The Lord said to my lord, 'Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.'
² May the Lord stretch forth the sceptre of your power; rule from Zion in the midst of your enemies.
³ 'Noble are you on this day of your birth; on the holy mountain, from the womb of the dawn the dew of your new birth is upon you.'
⁴ The Lord has sworn and will not retract: 'You are a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.'
⁵ The king at your right hand, O Lord, shall smite down kings in the day of his wrath.
⁶ In all his majesty, he shall judge among the nations, smiting heads over all the wide earth.
⁷ He shall drink from the brook beside the way; therefore shall he lift high his head.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 62.1-5

¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. ² The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. ³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. ⁴ You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. ⁵ For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading: Philippians 2.5-11

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

HC - Psalm 89.2, 19-27; 2 Samuel 7.1-5, 8-11, 16; Acts 13.16-26; Luke 1.67-79

Collect Prayer

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; 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**

New Testament Reading: Isaiah 52.7–10

⁷ How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns.’ ⁸ Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. ⁹ Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰ The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 98

¹ Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things.

² His own right hand and his holy arm have won for him the victory.

³ The Lord has made known his salvation; his deliverance has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

⁴ He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness towards the house of Israel, and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

⁵ Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth; break into singing and make music.

⁶ Make music to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the voice of melody.

⁷ With trumpets and the sound of the horn sound praises before the Lord, the King.

⁸ Let the sea thunder and all that fills it, the world and all that dwell upon it.

⁹ Let the rivers clap their hands and let the hills ring out together before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth.

¹⁰ In righteousness shall he judge the world and the peoples with equity.

New Testament Reading: Hebrews 1.1–4

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: John 1.1-14

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion

God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts. To him be glory both now and for ever. **Amen.**

EP : Psalm 8; Isaiah 65.17-25; Philippians 2.5-11

Psalm 8

¹ O Lord our governor, how glorious is your name in all the world!

² Your majesty above the heavens is praised out of the mouths of babes at the breast.

³ You have founded a stronghold against your foes, that you might still the enemy and the avenger.

⁴ When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have ordained,

⁵ What is man, that you should be mindful of him; the son of man, that you should seek

him out?

- ⁶ You have made him little lower than the angels and crown him with glory and honour.
⁷ You have given him dominion over the works of your hands and put all things under his feet,
⁸ All sheep and oxen, even the wild beasts of the field,
⁹ The birds of the air, the fish of the sea and whatsoever moves in the paths of the sea.
¹⁰ O Lord our governor, how glorious is your name in all the world!

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 65.17-25

¹⁷ For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. ¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice for ever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. ¹⁹ I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. ²⁰ No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. ²¹ They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. ²² They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. ²³ They shall not labour in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—and their descendants as well. ²⁴ Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. ²⁵ The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading: Philippians 2.5-11

⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

In our prayers this week...

Those being Baptised: *Ruairi Dwyer*

The sick and those in need: *Sylvia Hynes, Julie Johnson, Patrick Lee, Phil Mamwell, Andrew Mawer, Richard Mawer, Ronnie & Revd Ian Partridge, Christina Pettifer, John and Liz Morris, Margaret Pinchbeck, Elaine Walsh, Lawrence Willets, Connie Robinson, Lesley Carroll, Michelle Neal.*

Those who have died: *Doreen Stephenson, Shelia Larter, Charles Boardman, Russell Baker, Pauline Thornton, Dorothy Broome, Martin Streets.*