

Sunday 21st February 2021
Morning Service
The First Sunday of Lent

Telephone: 0203 481 5240 from 9.50am.
Meeting ID: 858 7300 9907
Passcode: 664552

Greeting

The Lord our redeemer be with you
and also with you.

God of our days and years,
we set this time apart for you.
Form us in the likeness of Christ
so that our lives may glorify you.
Amen.

The Beatitudes

Let us hear our Lord's blessing on those who follow him.

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after
righteousness,
for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are those who suffer persecution for
righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Hymn: Forty days and forty nights

Forty days and forty nights
you were fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights,
tempted, and yet unbeguiled.

Sunbeams scorching all the day
chilly dew-drops nightly shed,
prowling beasts about your way,
stones your pillow, earth your bed.

Let us your endurance share,
and from earthly greed abstain,
with you vigilant in prayer,
with you strong to suffer pain.

Then if evil on us press,
flesh or spirit to assail,
Victor in the wilderness,
help us not to swerve or fail.

So shall peace divine be ours;
Holy gladness pure and true:
come to us, angelic powers,
such as ministered to you.

Keep, oh keep us, Saviour dear,
ever constant by your side,
that with you we may appear
at the final Eastertide.

George Hunt Smytten (1822-1870), melody from 'Nurnbergisches Gesangbuch' (1676). Copyright © 1999 Kevin Mayhew Ltd

The Collect for The First Sunday of Lent

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

Confession

Let us admit to God the sin which always confronts us.

Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore us to the joy of your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

cf Psalm 51

Absolution

May Almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading: 1 Peter 3: 18-end

¹⁸For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. ¹⁹After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits – ²⁰to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, ²¹and this water symbolises baptism that now saves you also – not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience towards God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand – with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him. *NIV 2011*

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection by Rev'd Mark Ward

The Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession led by John Maynard

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Hymn: Praise to the Holiest

Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise:
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.

O loving wisdom of our God!
when all was sin and shame,
a second Adam to the fight,
and to the rescue came.

O wisest love! that flesh and blood,
which did in Adam fail,
should strive afresh against the foe,
should strive and should prevail.

And that a higher gift than grace
should flesh and blood refine,
God's presence and his very self,
and essence all-divine.

And in the garden secretly,
and on the cross on high,
should teach his brethren, and inspire
to suffer and to die.

Praise to the Holiest in the height
and in the depth be praise;
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.

John Henry Newman (1801-1890) tune: Gerontius CM, John Bacchus Dukes
(1823-1876)

The Blessing

May Christ's holy, healing, enabling Spirit be with us
and guide us on our way at every change and turn;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon us and all those we love and pray for,
this day and forever more.
Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.