

## Morning Prayer 28th February 2021

### Second Sunday of Lent

#### Hymn: Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us



*sung by St Martin's Voices*

1. Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us  
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;  
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us  
for we have no help but thee;  
yet possessing every blessing  
if our God our Father be.
2. Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us;  
all our weakness thou dost know;  
thou didst tread this earth before us,  
thou didst feel its keenest woe;  
self denying, death defying,  
thou to Calvary didst go.
3. Spirit of our God, descending,  
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,  
love with every passion blending,  
pleasure that can never cloy:  
thus provided, pardoned, guided,  
nothing can our peace destroy.

*James Edmeston (1791-1867)*

#### Preparation

O Lord, open our lips  
**and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

In your resurrection, O Christ,  
**let heaven and earth rejoice. Alleluia.**

We have come together in the name of Christ  
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,  
to hear and receive God's holy word,  
to pray for the needs of the world,  
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins,

that by the power of the Holy Spirit  
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

## 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.

**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.**

May the Father of all mercies  
cleanse you from your sins,  
and restore you in his image  
to the praise and glory of his name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

Blessed is the Lord,  
**for he has heard the voice of our prayer;**  
Therefore shall our hearts dance for joy  
**and in our song will we praise our God.**

### ***This prayer of thanksgiving is said***

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation,  
to you be praise and glory for ever.  
As once you ransomed your people from Egypt  
and led them to freedom in the promised land,  
so now you have delivered us from the dominion of darkness  
and brought us into the kingdom of your risen Son.  
May we, the first fruits of your new creation,  
rejoice in this new day you have made,  
and praise you for your mighty acts.  
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;  
let us pray with one heart and mind.

### ***Silence is kept***

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,  
so may the light of your presence, O God,  
set our hearts on fire with love for you;  
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## **Collect for the Day**

Almighty God,  
by the prayer and discipline of Lent  
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,  
and by following in his Way  
come to share in his glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
Amen.

## **Old Testament Reading**

### **Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16**

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. <sup>2</sup>And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup>'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>15</sup> God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>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.'

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## **Psalm 22: 23-end**

**Refrain:** *Be not far from me, O Lord.*

- 23 Praise the Lord, you that fear him; ♦  
 O seed of Jacob, glorify him;  
 stand in awe of him, O seed of Israel.
- 24 For he has not despised nor abhorred the suffering of the poor;  
 neither has he hidden his face from them; ♦  
 but when they cried to him he heard them.
- 25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation; ♦  
 I will perform my vows  
 in the presence of those that fear you.
- 26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied; ♦  
 those who seek the Lord shall praise him;  
 their hearts shall live for ever. [R]
- 27 All the ends of the earth  
 shall remember and turn to the Lord, ♦  
 and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- 28 For the kingdom is the Lord's ♦  
 and he rules over the nations.
- 29 How can those who sleep in the earth  
 bow down in worship, ♦  
 or those who go down to the dust kneel before him ♦
- 30 He has saved my life for himself;  
 my descendants shall serve him; ♦  
 this shall be told of the Lord for generations to come.
- 31 They shall come and make known his salvation,  
 to a people yet unborn, ♦  
 declaring that he, the Lord, has done it.

*Refrain: Be not far from me, O Lord.*

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
 and to the Holy Spirit:  
 as it was in the beginning is now  
 and shall be for ever. Amen**

## New Testament Reading

### Romans 4: 13-end

<sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup> 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, <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>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.' <sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup>Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' <sup>23</sup>Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him', were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup>but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup>who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## Hymn: From ashes to the living font

*sung by St Martin's Voices*



- 1 From ashes to the living font  
your Church must journey, Lord,  
baptised in grace, in grace renewed  
by your most holy word.
- 2 Through fasting, prayer, and charity  
your voice speaks deep within,  
returning us to ways of truth  
and turning us from sin.
- 3 From desert to the mountaintop  
in Christ our way we see,  
so, tempered by temptation's might  
we might transfigured be.
- 4 For thirsting hearts let waters flow  
our fainting souls revive;  
and at the well your waters give  
our everlasting life.
- 5 From ashes to the living font  
your church must journey still:  
through cross and tomb to Easter joy,  
in Spirit-fire fulfilled.

*Alan J Hommerding*

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## Gospel Reading: Mark 8: 31-end

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

**Glory to you, O Lord**

31 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. 32 He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 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.'

34 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. 35 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. 36 For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? 37 Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 38 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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ**

## Sermon

### Hymn: Just as I am, without one plea

*sung by St Martin's Voices*

- 1 Just as I am, without one plea  
but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bidst me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come.
- 2 Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
fightings within and fears without,  
O Lamb of God, I come.
- 3 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
Yea, all I need, in thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come.
- 4 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve:  
because thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come.



- 5 Just as I am (thy love unknown  
has broken every barrier down),  
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come.
- 6 Just as I am, of that free love  
the breadth, length, depth, and height to prove,  
here for a season, then above,  
O Lamb of God, I come.

*Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871)*

## **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.**

## Intercessions

We pray to the Lord for courage to give up other things and to give ourselves to him this Lent.

Give your Church the courage  
to give up her preoccupation with herself  
and to give more time to your mission in the world.

**[We pray for ...]**

May the blood and water flowing from the side of Jesus  
bring forgiveness to your people  
and help us to face the cost of proclaiming salvation.

Lord, meet us in the silence,

**give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give your world the courage  
to give up war, bitterness and hatred,  
and to seek peace.

**[We pray for ...]**

May the shoulders of the risen Jesus,  
once scourged by soldiers,  
bear the burden of political and military conflict in our world.

Lord, meet us in the silence,

**give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give us the courage to give up quarrels, strife and jealousy  
in our families, neighbourhoods and communities.

**[We pray for ...]**

May the presence of the risen Jesus,  
his body once broken and now made whole,  
bring peace and direction as we live with one another.

Lord, meet us in the silence,

**give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give us the courage  
to give up our selfishness as we live for others,  
and to give time, care and comfort to those in need.

**[We pray for ...]**

May the wounded hands of Jesus bring his healing touch,  
and the light of his presence fill their rooms.

Lord, meet us in the silence,

**give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give us the courage to give up our fear of death  
and to rejoice with those who have died in faith.

**[Especially we hold ... in our minds.]**

May the feet of the risen Lord Jesus, once nailed to the cross,  
walk alongside the dying and bereaved in their agony,  
and walk with us and all your Church  
through death to the gate of glory.

Lord, meet us in the silence,  
**give us strength and hear our prayer,  
here and in eternity. Amen.**

*The Lord's Prayer is said*

Rejoicing in God's new creation,  
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 Conclusion**

### **Hymn: Guide me, O thou great Redeemer**

*sung by St Martin's Voices*

I      Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,  
         pilgrim through this barren land;  
         I am weak, but thou art mighty,  
         hold me with thy powerful hand:  
         bread of heaven,  
         feed me now and evermore.



- 2      Open now the crystal fountain  
          whence the healing stream doth flow;  
          let the fiery, cloudy pillar  
          lead me all my journey through:  
          strong deliverer,  
          be thou still my strength and shield.
- 3      When I tread the verge of Jordan  
          bid my anxious fears subside;  
          death of death, and hell's destruction,  
          land me safe on Canaan's side:  
          songs of praises  
          I will ever give to thee.

*Arglwydd arwain drwy'r anialwch*  
*William Williams (1717-1791)*  
*Translated by Peter Williams (1727-1796)*

## The Blessing

May God give to you and to all those you love  
his comfort and his peace,  
his light and his joy,  
in this world and the next;  
and the blessing ...**Amen.**

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