

Prayer and worship at home

Sunday 21 March 2021  
*Fifth Sunday of Lent*

## Preparation

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

The Lord is here  
**His spirit is with us.**

### The Act of Penitence

*As we pray, we reflect on the week that has passed  
and ask the Lord for his forgiveness and healing.*

We are often slow to follow the example of Christ.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

We often fail to be known as Christ's disciples.  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

We often fail to walk the way of the cross.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

### Words of Forgiveness

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

### The Special Prayer for this week

Gracious Father, you gave up your Son  
out of love for the world:  
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,  
that we may know eternal peace  
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## The Word of the Lord

### First Reading *Hebrews 5. 5 -10*

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek." In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

### The Holy Gospel | *John 12. 20 - 33*

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ...*

### Glory to you, O Lord

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. 'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say – "Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Affirmation of faith

With our Christian brothers and sisters, we affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,  
he did not cling to equality with God,  
but made himself nothing.  
Taking the form of a slave,  
he was born in human likeness.  
He humbled himself  
and was obedient to death,  
even the death of the cross.  
Therefore God has raised him on high,  
and given him the name above every name:  
that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bow,  
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is  
Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

## Prayers of intercession

*(Here you may wish to offer prayer in your own words,  
or be prompted by the words here)*

*We pray for our world, especially at this time of anxiety  
and fear...*

*We pray for our nation and its well-being...*

*We pray for neighbours, family and friends and we  
remember all those self-isolating at the moment...*

*We pray for all who are sick, worried or anxious, and for  
those who feel cut off from friends and family...*

*We pray for those who have died in recent days, and all  
whom we remember with love and affection....*

## The Lord's Prayer

Joining with Christians throughout the world,  
we pray:

**Our Father....**

or

**Our Father in heaven....**

## The Grace

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

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Readings for the coming week:

|           |          |                |
|-----------|----------|----------------|
| Monday    | Psalm 73 | John 11.28-44  |
| Tuesday   | Psalm 35 | John 11.45-end |
| Wednesday | Psalm 55 | John 12.1-11   |

**Thursday Psalm 113 Luke 1.26-38**  
**The Feast of the Annunciation**



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|----------|----------|-----------------|
| Friday   | Psalm 22 | John 12.20-36a  |
| Saturday | Psalm 23 | John 12.36b-end |

The Anointing at Bethany – a poem for reflection by  
Malcolm Guite

Come close with Mary, Martha, Lazarus  
So close the candles stir with their soft breath  
And kindle heart and soul to flame within us  
Lit by these mysteries of life and death.  
For beauty now begins the final movement  
In quietness and intimate encounter

The alabaster jar of precious ointment  
Is broken open for the world's true lover,  
The whole room richly fills to feast the senses  
With all the yearning such a fragrance brings,  
The heart is mourning but the spirit dances,  
Here at the very centre of all things,  
Here at the meeting place of love and loss  
We all foresee, and see beyond the cross.