

ST MARK AND ALL SAINTS, READING

*Whoever you are,
wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.*

PARISH MASS

SUNDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2025

Fourteenth after Trinity

THE GATHERING

*All the words are in this service sheet. Please join in with the words printed in **bold type**.*

At the start of the service a bell is rung and the procession enters as we stand to sing the opening hymn.

ENTRANCE HYMN

The kingdom of God is justice and joy,
For Jesus restores what sin would destroy;
God's power and glory in Jesus we know,
And here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.

The kingdom of God is mercy and grace,
The captives are freed, the sinners find place,
The outcast are welcomed God's banquet to share,
And hope is awakened in place of despair.

The kingdom of God is challenge and choice,
Believe the good news, repent and rejoice!
His love for us sinners brought Christ to His cross,
Our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.

God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal,
In Jesus begun, in heaven made whole;
The heirs of the kingdom shall answer His call,
And all things cry, 'Glory!' to God all-in-all.

THE GREETING

✠ 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.

The priest welcomes us and introduces the theme of the service.

PRAYER OF PENITENCE

God has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of his glory in the face of Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us.

As we acknowledge our human frailty, we call to mind our sins of word, deed and omission, and confess them before God our Father.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

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.

Knowing that we are forgiven for our sins we sing this song of praise to God.

**Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest.**

**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. . .**

The priest invites us to pray silently and then prays the collect:

Almighty God,
whose only Son has opened for us
a new and living way into your presence:
give us pure hearts and steadfast wills
to worship you in spirit and in truth;
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

Please sit

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

1 Timothy 2.1-7

My dearly beloved, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all - this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth..

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN PSALM 113

Tune: Wareham 407

Our gradual Hymn is a congregational setting of today's psalm.

As we stand and sing the Gospel Book is carried into the midst of the congregation, reflecting God's coming among us in Christ. Please turn to face it.

**Come praise, you servants of the Lord,
give honour to his holy name,
the Lord, for evermore adored,
for all eternity the same.**

**The Lord is high above the earth,
more glorious than the spheres or sky.
The Lord our God, of matchless worth,
establishes his throne on high.
From east to west, in lands afar,
the Lord is worshipped. Alleluia.
Who stoops to view the shooting star,
the earth and mortals. Alleluia.**

THE GOSPEL

Luke 16.1-13

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia.

‘It is the will of him who sent me’, says the Lord,
‘that I should lose none of all that he has given me,
‘but raise them up on the last day’.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord be with you

And also with you

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

Jesus said to the disciples, ‘There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, “What is this that I hear about you? Give me an account of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.” Then the manager said to himself, “What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.” So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, “How much do you owe my master?” He answered, “A hundred jugs of olive oil.” He said to him, “Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.” Then he asked another, “And how much do you owe?” He replied, “A hundred containers of wheat.” He said to him, “Take your bill and make it eighty.” And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of using your worldly wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the worldly wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.’

Sit

THE SERMON

A brief period of silence may follow for us to reflect on the address and the readings today, then the priest invites us to stand to declare our faith.

THE 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.**

Sit or kneel to pray

THE INTERCESSIONS

During the prayers these or other responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

And at the end of the prayers we say

Merciful Father,
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Stand

THE PEACE

Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.'
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
and also with you.

We greet those around us in the peace of Christ, waving or shaking hands and saying "Peace be with you"

OFFERTORY HYMN

Inspired by love and anger,
disturbed by need and pain,
Informed of God's own bias,
we ask him once again:
"How long must some folk suffer?
How long can few folk mind?
How long dare vain self-interest
turn prayer and pity blind?"

From those forever victims
of heartless human greed,
Their cruel plight composes
a litany of need:
"Where are the fruits of justice?
Where are the signs of peace?
When is the day when prisoners
and dreams find their release?"

From those forever shackled
to what their wealth can buy,
The fear of lost advantage
provokes the bitter cry:
"Don't query our position!
Don't criticise our wealth!

**Don't mention those exploited
by politics and stealth!"**

**To God, who through the prophets
proclaimed a different age,
We offer earth's indifference,
its agony and rage:
"When will the wronged be righted?
When will the kingdom come?
When will the world be generous
to all instead of some?"
God asks, "Who will go for me?
Who will extend my reach?
And who, when few will listen,
will prophesy and preach?
And who, when few bid welcome,
will offer all they know?
And who, when few dare follow,
will walk the road I show?"**

**Amused in someone's kitchen,
asleep in someone's boat,
Attuned to what the ancients
exposed, proclaimed and wrote,
A saviour without safety,
a tradesman without tools
Has come to tip the balance
with fishermen and fools..**

When the altar is prepared and the offerings received the president leads the offertory prayers.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this bread
to set before you,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.
Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this wine to set before you,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of salvation.
Blessed be God for ever.

Generous God, as we gather around your table called and welcomed by Christ we present this
money, symbol of all the gifts you give to us.
**use it, use us, in the service of your world
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

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.

Father, we give you thanks and praise
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,
through whom you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.
By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

**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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, in the same night that he was
betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,

which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

And so, Father,
calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of [N and] all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen

We kneel or sit as silence is kept before the Lord's Prayer.

**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 priest breaks the consecrated bread, saying

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 priest invites the people to receive Communion, and says

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.**

We sing

**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 your peace**

COMMUNION HYMN

**O thou, who at thy Eucharist didst pray
That all thy Church might be for ever one,
Grant us at every eucharist to say,
With longing heart and soul, 'Thy will be done.'
O may we all one bread, one body be,
Through this blest sacrament of unity.**

**For all thy Church, O Lord, we intercede;
Make thou our sad divisions soon to cease;
Draw us the nearer each to each, we plead,
By drawing all to thee, O Prince of Peace:
Thus may we all one bread, one body be,
Through this blest sacrament of unity.**

**We pray thee too for wand'ers from thy fold;
O bring them back, good Shepherd of the sheep,
Back to the faith which saints believed of old,
Back to the Church which still that faith doth keep;
Soon may we all one bread, one body be,
Through this blest sacrament of unity.**

**So, Lord, at length when sacraments shall cease,
May we be one with all thy Church above,
One with thy saints in one unbroken peace,
One with thy saints in one unbounded love;
More blessed still, in peace and love to be
One with the Trinity in unity.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Once communion has been shared we stand when the priest invites us to pray.

Lord God, the source of truth and love,
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**God of gentleness and love
draw near to us as we draw near to you.
Dwell in every heart and conversation.
Fashion in us the likeness of your Son, Jesus Christ.
Help us to discern together
all that you are calling us to be
and all that you are calling us to do.
Assist us by your Spirit
to become a more contemplative,
more compassionate
and more courageous Church,
for the building of your kingdom
and the glory of your Son.
Amen.**

NOTICES

*We sit to listen to any notices about parish events.
Banns of Marriage may be announced.*

If your Birthday falls this week please tell us we would love to celebrate with you.

THE DISMISSAL

Stand

THE BLESSING

The Lord be with you
And also with you

God grant to the living, grace;
to the departed, rest;
to the Church, the King, the Commonwealth,
and all humankind,
peace and concord;
and to us and all his servants, life everlasting;

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..

CLOSING HYMN

Tune : Lord enthroned in heavenly splendour

**Lord of lords and King eternal,
Down the years in wondrous ways
You have blessed our land and guided,
Leading us through darkest days.
For your rich and faithful mercies,
Lord, accept our thankful praise.**

**Speak to us and every nation,
Bid our jarring discords cease;
To the starving and the homeless
Bid us bring a full release;
And on all this earth's sore turmoil
Breathe the healing of your peace.**

**Love that binds us all together
Be upon the Church outpoured;
Shame our pride and quell our factions,
Smite them with your Spirit's sword;
Till the world, our love beholding,
Claims your power and calls you Lord.**

**Brace the wills of all your people
Who in every land and race
Know the secrets of your kingdom,
Share the treasures of your grace;
Till the summons of your Spirit
Wakes new life in every place.**

**Saviour, by your mighty Passion
Once you turned sheer loss to gain,
Wresting in your risen glory
Victory from your cross and pain;
Now O Saviour, dead and risen,
In us triumph, live, and reign.**

