

A Morning Service of the Word

From Common Worship

Wednesday 1st April at 9.30am

Greeting

O Lord, open our lips

All and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Give us the joy of your saving help

All and sustain us with your life-giving Spirit.

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 forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may give ourselves to the service of God.

Prayers of Penitence

God so loved the world
That he gave his only Son Jesus Christ
To save us from our sins,
To be our advocate in heaven,
And to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
Firmly resolved to keep God's commandments
And to live in love and peace with all.

**All Father eternal, giver of light and grace
We have sinned against you and against our neighbor
In what we have thought
In what we have said and done,
Through ignorance, through weakness,
Through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love
And marred your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed
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 lead us out of darkness
To walk as children of light. Amen**

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 Liturgy of the Word

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and say to him, ‘This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: “Let my people go, so that they may worship me.” If you refuse to let them go and continue to hold them back, the hand of the LORD will bring a terrible plague on your livestock in the field—on your horses, donkeys and camels and on your cattle, sheep and goats. But the LORD will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and that of Egypt, so that no animal belonging to the Israelites will die.’”

The LORD set a time and said, “Tomorrow the LORD will do this in the land.” And the next day the LORD did it: All the livestock of the Egyptians died, but not one animal belonging to the Israelites died. Pharaoh investigated and found that not even one of the animals of the Israelites had died. Yet his heart was unyielding and he would not let the people go.

Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “Take handfuls of soot from a furnace and have Moses toss it into the air in the presence of Pharaoh. It will become fine dust over the whole land of Egypt, and festering boils will break out on people and animals throughout the land.”

So they took soot from a furnace and stood before Pharaoh. Moses tossed it into the air, and festering boils broke out on people and animals. The magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils that were on them and on all the Egyptians. But the LORD hardened Pharaoh’s heart and he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said to Moses.

This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

The Psalm – Psalm 34:1-14

**I will extol the LORD at all times;
his praise will always be on my lips.**

**I will glory in the LORD;
let the afflicted hear and rejoice.**

**Glorify the LORD with me;
let us exalt his name together.**

**I sought the LORD, and he answered me;
he delivered me from all my fears.
Those who look to him are radiant;
their faces are never covered with shame.
This poor man called, and the LORD heard him;**

**he saved him out of all his troubles.
The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him,
and he delivers them.**

**Taste and see that the LORD is good;
blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.
Fear the LORD, you his holy people,
for those who fear him lack nothing.
The lions may grow weak and hungry,
but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.
Come, my children, listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
Whoever of you loves life
and desires to see many good days,
keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from telling lies.
Turn from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it.**

The Second Reading – Jeremiah 22:20-23.8

“Go up to Lebanon and cry out,
let your voice be heard in Bashan,
cry out from Abarim,
for all your allies are crushed.
I warned you when you felt secure,
but you said, ‘I will not listen!’
This has been your way from your youth;
you have not obeyed me.
The wind will drive all your shepherds away,
and your allies will go into exile.
Then you will be ashamed and disgraced
because of all your wickedness.
You who live in ‘Lebanon’,
who are nestled in cedar buildings,
how you will groan when pangs come upon you,
pain like that of a woman in labour!

“As surely as I live,” declares the LORD, “even if you, Jehoiachin son of Jehoiakim king of Judah, were a signet ring on my right hand, I would still pull you off. I will deliver you into the hands of those who want to kill you, those you fear— Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and the Babylonians. I will hurl you and the mother who gave you birth into another country, where neither of you was born, and there you both will die. You will never come back to the land you long to return to.”

Is this man Jehoiachin a despised, broken pot,
an object no one wants?
Why will he and his children be hurled out,
cast into a land they do not know?
O land, land, land,

hear the word of the LORD!
This is what the LORD says:
“Record this man as if childless,
a man who will not prosper in his lifetime,
for none of his offspring will prosper,
none will sit on the throne of David
or rule anymore in Judah.”

“Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!” declares the LORD. Therefore this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says to the shepherds who tend my people: “Because you have scattered my flock and driven them away and have not bestowed care on them, I will bestow punishment on you for the evil you have done,” declares the LORD. “I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number. I will place shepherds over them who will tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing,” declares the LORD.

“The days are coming,” declares the LORD,
“when I will raise up for David^[d] a righteous Branch,
a King who will reign wisely
and do what is just and right in the land.
In his days Judah will be saved
and Israel will live in safety.
This is the name by which he will be called:
The LORD Our Righteous Saviour.

“So then, the days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when people will no longer say, ‘As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt,’ but they will say, ‘As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the descendants of Israel up out of the land of the north and out of all the countries where he had banished them.’ Then they will live in their own land.”

This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Canticle

Jubilate – a song of Joy *Psalm 100*

**All: O be joyful in the Lord, all the earth;
Serve the Lord with gladness
And come before his presence with a song.
Know that the Lord is God;
It is he that has made us and we are his;
We are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving
And his courts with praise;
Give thanks to him and bless his name.**

**For the Lord is gracious; his steadfast love is everlasting
And his faithfulness endures from generation to generation.
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**

Creed

**All: 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**

Hymn

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;

Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Prayers

Intercessions – *we shall offer some intercessions and then have a few moments of quiet prayer.*

Let us begin our prayers by saying the collect for today together:

**All: Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
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**

Intercessions

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**All: 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.
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**

Blessing

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,
And keep us in eternal life.

All: Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: In the name of Christ. Amen