THE GATHERING OF GOD’S PEOPLE

The Lord be with you

**and also with you.**

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

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. *John 12: 24*

Beloved in Christ, we come together to offer to Almighty God our worship and praise and thanksgiving, to confess our sins and to receive God’s forgiveness, to hear his holy word proclaimed, to bring before him our needs and the needs of the world, and to pray that in the power of his Spirit we may serve him and know the greatness of his love.

*Kneel. Silence is kept.*

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; by what we have done and by what we have failed to do. 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 on you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD

O Lord, open our lips

**and our mouth will proclaim your praise.**

O God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

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.**

Praise the Lord.

**The Lord’s name be praised.**

SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD *page 130*

Jesus, Saviour of the world, come to us in your mercy:

**We look to you to save and help us.**

By your cross and your life laid down you set your people free:

**We look to you to save and help us.**

When they were ready to perish you saved your disciples:

**We look to you to come to our help.**

In the greatness of your mercy, loose us from our chains

**Forgive the sins of all your people.**

Make yourself known as our Saviour and mighty Deliverer:

**Save and help us that we may praise you.**

Come now and dwell with us, Lord Christ Jesus:

**Hear our prayer and be with us always.**

And when you come in your glory:

**Make us to be one with you and to share the life of your kingdom. Amen.**

## PSALM 118: 1,2, 19 – 29 *page 730*

1  O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; ♦︎  
   **his mercy endures for ever.**2  Let Israel now proclaim, ♦︎  
   **‘His mercy endures for ever.’**19  Open to me the gates of righteousness, ♦︎  
   **that I may enter and give thanks to the Lord.**20  This is the gate of the Lord; ♦︎  
   **the righteous shall enter through it.**21  I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me ♦︎  
   **and have become my salvation.**22  The stone which the builders rejected ♦︎  
   **has become the chief cornerstone.**23  This is the Lord’s doing, ♦︎  
   **and it is marvellous in our eyes.**24  This is the day that the Lord has made; ♦︎  
   **we will rejoice and be glad in it.**25  Come, O Lord, and save us we pray. ♦︎  
   **Come, Lord, send us now prosperity.**26  Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; ♦︎  
   **we bless you from the house of the Lord.**  
27  The Lord is God; he has given us light; ♦︎  
   **link the pilgrims with cords right to the horns of the altar.**28  You are my God and I will thank you; ♦︎  
   **you are my God and I will exalt you.**29  O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; ♦︎  
   **his mercy endures for ever.**

Glory to the Father, and | to the | Son, and | to the | Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be|ginning, is | now, and shall be for | ever. | A|men.

FIRST READING **Matthew 21: 1-11**

A reading from the Gospel according to St Matthew:

21When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 2saying to them, ‘Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. 3If anyone says anything to you, just say this, “The Lord needs them.” And he will send them immediately.[\*](javascript:void(0);)’ 4This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, 5 ‘Tell the daughter of Zion,  
Look, your king is coming to you,    humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’  
6The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; 7they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. 8A very large crowd[\*](javascript:void(0);) spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David!    Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!’ 10When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, ‘Who is this?’ 11The crowds were saying, ‘This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.’

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

TE DEUM Part 2 *page 106*

7 You, Christ, are the King of glory ▪ **the eternal Son of the Father.**

8 When you took our flesh to set us free, ▪ **you humbly chose the Virgin’s womb.**

9 You overcame the sting of death ▪ **and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.**

10 You are seated at God’s right hand in glory ▪ **we believe that you will come to be our judge.**

11 Come then, Lord and help your people ▪ **bought with the price of your own blood.**

12 And bring us with your saints ▪ to glory everlasting.

SECOND READING **Isaiah 50: 4-9a**

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter 50 beginning at verse 4

4 The Lord God has given me  
   the tongue of a teacher,[\*](javascript:void(0);)  
that I may know how to sustain  
   the weary with a word.  
Morning by morning he wakens—  
   wakens my ear  
   to listen as those who are taught.  
5 The Lord God has opened my ear,  
   and I was not rebellious,  
   I did not turn backwards.  
6 I gave my back to those who struck me,  
   and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;  
I did not hide my face  
   from insult and spitting.

7 The Lord God helps me;  
   therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint,  
   and I know that I shall not be put to shame;  
8   he who vindicates me is near.  
Who will contend with me?  
   Let us stand up together.  
Who are my adversaries?  
   Let them confront me.  
9 It is the Lord God who helps me;  
   who will declare me guilty?  
All of them will wear out like a garment;  
   the moth will eat them up.

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

THE SONG OF CHRIST’S GLORY **Philippians 2: 6 – 11** *page 132*

**Christ Jesus was in the form of God, but he did not cling to equality with God. He emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, and was born in our human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him, and bestowed on him the name above every name. That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth; and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Hear the Passion of our Saviour Christ, according to St Matthew

*N1---* When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.  Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him

*P1 ---*Are you the King of the Jews?

*J1---*:You say so.

*N2---* But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer.

*P2 ---*: Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?

*N3---* But Jesus gave Pilate no answer, not even to a single charge, so that Pilate was greatly amazed.

  Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. **16** At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas.  So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them:

*P3 ---*:Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?

*N4---* For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests and elders had handed Jesus over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him,

*PW ---*Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.

*N5 ---*  Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed.

*P4 ---*: Which of the two do you want me to release for you?

*All 1*Barabbas

*P5 ---*: Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?

*All 2*Let him be crucified!

*P6 ---*:Why, what evil has he done?

*N6 ---* But they shouted all the more,

*All 3*Let him be crucified!

*N7 ---* So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying,

*P7 ---*:I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.

*All 4*His blood be on us and on our children!

*N8 ---* So Pilate released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying,

*S1 ---* Hail, King of the Jews!

*N9 ---*They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head.  After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull),  they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots;  then they sat down there and kept watch over him.  Over his head they put the charge against him, which read,

*P8 ---*:This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.

*N10 ---*Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.

*N11 ---*In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,

*Bystanders* He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him.  He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said,

*J2 ---* I am God's Son.

*N12 ---*The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice,

*J3 ---* My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

*N13 ---*When some of the bystanders heard it, they said: This man is calling for Elijah.

*N14 ---*At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.

*N15 ---*Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split.  The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised.  After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said,

*C1 ---* Truly this man was the Son of God!

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you

**and also with you.**

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**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.**

VERSICLES AND RESPONSES

Show us your mercy, O Lord,

**and grant us your salvation.**

O Lord, guide and defend our rulers

**and grant our government wisdom.**

Let your ministers be clothed with righteousness

**and let your servants shout for joy.**

O Lord, save your people

**and bless those whom you have chosen.**

Give peace in our time, O Lord,

**and let your glory be over all the earth.**

O God, make clean our hearts within us

**and renew us by your Holy Spirit.**

THE COLLECTS LENT 5

Almighty and everlasting God, who, in your tender love towards the human race, sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: Grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

LENT EVERY SUNDAY

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

COLLECTS OF MORNING PRAYER ORDER 2

Go before us, Lord, in all our doings, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works, begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name and finally, by your mercy, attain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being: we humbly pray you that your Holy Spirit may so guide and govern us, that in all the cares and occupations of our daily life, we may never forget your presence but may remember that we are always walking in your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYERS AND THANKSGIVINGS

Let us pray:

*Saffron:* Neither Pilate nor Herod could find fault with Jesus.

Help each of us to behave with such integrity that not even our enemies can find fault.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Simon and Joseph, Mary and John became part of your Church in Jerusalem.

Bring into your Church today a varied company of people, to walk with Christ in the way of his passion and to find their salvation in the victory of his cross.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Simon from Cyrene was forced to carry the cross for your Son.

Give us grace to always to be ready to share the burdens of those we meet.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Your Son watched the soldiers gamble to share his clothes.

Transform the hearts of those who make themselves rich by using and abusing other people.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Your mother and her friends stayed with you in your suffering; they brought spices to anoint your body.

Watch with all who care for the sick and comfort the dying: those at home, and in hospitals, our care workers, nurses and doctors. Bless all whose labour makes their work possible.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

The thief, who was crucified with Jesus, was promised a place in your kingdom.

Give pardon and hope, healing and peace to all are near to death.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

From the cross Jesus entrusted Mary his mother and John his disciple to each other’s care.

Help us also to care for one another and fill our homes with the spirit of your love.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

The centurion was astonished to see your glory in the crucified Messiah.

Open the eyes of those who do not know you to see in your Son the true meaning of life and death.

Joseph of Arimathea came to take your Son’s body away.

Give hope and faith to the dying and bereaved, and gentleness to those who minister to them.

GOING OUT AS GOD’S PEOPLE

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you, this night and for evermore. **Amen.**