

Morning Prayer
22nd December - 4th Sunday of Advent
(We will be following this in our own homes at 10.30am)

Please read these words out loud, or in your heart.

Preparation

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

Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heaven.
You, Christ, are the King of glory, the eternal Son of the Father.
Alleluia.

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

*Silence may be kept, to ask forgiveness of our sins
and to seek God's strength for our life of service.*

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.

The Word of God

Old Testament Reading: Micah 5:1-5a

Marshal your troops now, city of troops,
for a siege is laid against us.

They will strike Israel's ruler
on the cheek with a rod.

² 'But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times.'

³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in labour bears a son,
and the rest of his brothers return
to join the Israelites.

⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.
⁵ And he will be our peace

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

New Testament reading: Luke 1:39-45

³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favoured, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfil his promises to her!'

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

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

- 1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;
he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.
- 2 From this day all generations will call me blessed;
the Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is his name.
- 3 He has mercy on those who fear him,
from generation to generation.
- 4 He has shown strength with his arm
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,
- 5 Casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.
- 6 He has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
- 7 He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,
to remember his promise of mercy,

8 The promise made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Luke 1.46-55

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.

Prayers

Please offer your own prayers following these suggestions, if you wish, with the response below:

- ¶ *for the day and its tasks*
- ¶ *for the world and its needs*
- ¶ *for the Church and her life*
- ¶ *for this Christmas to be a time of great blessing*

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Silence may be kept.

Lord God, we give you thanks and praise
for the angel Gabriel and the message he brought to Mary.
We thank you for her acceptance, her obedience and her joy.
We rejoice that through Mary our Saviour came to dwell among us.
May we learn the obedience of Mary, serving you with joy
and accepting Jesus into our lives.
We rejoice that you are her God and our God:
you are her Father and our Father.
Help us to know that as you came to Mary you come to us
and through us your will can be done.
Amen.

David Adam

Collect

God our redeemer,
who prepared the blessed virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;

who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Trusting in the compassion of God,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us
"Our Father, who art in heaven ..."
The Lord's Prayer is said

The Conclusion

May God the Father, who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son,
give us grace to prepare for eternal life.
May God the Son, who comes to us as Redeemer and Judge,
reveal to us the path from darkness to light.
May God the Holy Spirit, by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ,
help us bear the fruits of holiness.

Michael Perham

Let us go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

*Our services take place today at:
Grewelthorpe (Holy Communion) and Kirkby Malzeard (Carol Service) at 10.30 am;
Winksley (Carol Service) at 4.00 pm;
Mickley (Carol Service) at 6.00 pm.*

Everyone from across the benefice (and beyond) is welcome at all services.