

Morning Prayer
23rd February - 2nd before Lent
(We will be following this in our own homes at 10.30am)

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

Preparation

We praise you, O God,
we acclaim you as the Lord;
all creation worships you,
the Father everlasting.
To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,
the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Amen.

from the Te Deum

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

First Reading: Revelation 4

I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, 'Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.' ² At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. ³ And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne. ⁴ Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads. ⁵ From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God. ⁶ Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the centre, round the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and behind. ⁷ The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. ⁸ Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all round, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying:

"Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God Almighty,"
who was, and is, and is to come.'

⁹ Whenever the living creatures give glory, honour and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:

¹¹ 'You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second reading: Luke 8:22-25

One day Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let us go over to the other side of the lake.' So they got into a boat and set out. ²³ As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger.

²⁴ The disciples went and woke him, saying, 'Master, Master, we're going to drown!' He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. ²⁵ 'Where is your faith?' he asked his disciples.

In fear and amazement they asked one another, 'Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Benedictus

- 1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,
who has come to his people and set them free.
- 2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of his servant David.
- 3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us,
- 4 To show mercy to our ancestors,
and to remember his holy covenant.
- 5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
- 6 Free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.
- 7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
- 8 To give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of all their sins.

9 In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.68-79

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 all involved in our schools, as the second half of term begins*

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Silence may be kept.

God of illumination,
you call us beyond our imagining
to tasks beyond our powers.
Empower our service
and enlighten our worship
that we may know and proclaim
the light of the world.
Amen.

Joy Tetley

Collect

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
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.

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

O God, grant that always,
at all times and in all places,
in things both great and small,
we may do your good and perfect will,
and continue your faithful servants
to the end of our lives;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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

*Our benefice service of Holy Communion takes place today at
Winksley at 10.30 am.*

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