Preparation

Give us, Father, a sense of your presence as we turn now to worship. Grant us gratitude as we remember your goodness, penitence as we remember our sins, and joy as we remember your love; and enable us to lift up our hearts in humble prayer and fervent praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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: Isaiah 62:1-5 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain guiet, till her vindication shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch. ² The nations will see your vindication, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will bestow. ³ You will be a crown of splendour in the LORD's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God. ⁴ No longer will they call you Deserted, or name your land Desolate. But you will be called Hephzibah (that is, My delight is in her), and your land Beulah (that is, Married); for the LORD will take delight in you, and your land will be married.

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

Frank Colquhoun

⁵ As a young man marries a young woman, so will your Builder marry you;
as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you.

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

New Testament reading: John 2:1-11

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ² and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, 'They have no more wine.'

⁴ 'Woman, why do you involve me?' Jesus replied. 'My hour has not yet come.'

⁵ His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'

⁶ Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from eighty to a hundred and twenty litres.

⁷ Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water'; so they filled them to the brim. ⁸ Then he told them, 'Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.' They did so, ⁹ and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realise where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside ¹⁰ and said, 'Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.'

¹¹ What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in 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.

<u>Prayers</u>

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

- 9 for the day and its tasks
- 9 for the world and its needs
- ¶ for the Church and her life
- ¶ for medics and social workers who are under such pressure at the moment

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Silence may be kept.

O good Jesus, Word of the Father and brightness of his glory, whom angels desire to behold: teach me to do your will, that, guided by your Spirit, I may come to that blessed city of everlasting day where all are one in heart and mind, where there is safety and eternal peace, happiness and delight, where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

after Gregory the Great

<u>Collect</u>

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; 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

Lord of light, shine on us; Lord of peace, dwell in us; Lord of might, succour us; Lord of love, enfold us; Lord of wisdom, enlighten us. Then, Lord, let us go out as your witness, in obedience to your command, to share the good news of your love for us in the gift of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Let us go in the peace of Christ. Thanks be to God. St Asaph Mothers' Union

Our services today take place at: Mickley (Holy Communion) at 9.00 am; Grewelthorpe (Methodist service) and Kirkby Malzeard (Holy Communion) at 10.30 am; Winksley (Plough Service with lunch) at 11.00 am; Aldfield (BCP Evening Prayer) at 6.00 pm.

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