
Lent 2 (25th February)

Lent 4 - Mothering Sunday (10th March)

Lent is the time of preparation for Easter when we focus on penitence, reflection and spiritual growth. Around the tenth century Lent came to be linked with Christ's forty days in the wilderness. Therefore it is a time when a renewal of commitment and simple worship are appropriate.

Opening Sentence

Psalm 51:17

My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, you God, will not despise.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

Opening Responses

O Lord, open our lips: **And our mouth shall 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.**

Opening Hymn

Lent 2: 'Immortal invisible, God only wise'. **Lent 4:** 'Jesus, good above all other'

Prayer of Preparation

Lord, direct our thoughts and teach us to pray. Lift up our hearts to worship you, in spirit and in truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled against him. Let us now call to mind our sins.

Silence is kept.

Let us admit to God the sin which always confronts us:

Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin. Renew a right spirit within us and restore to us the joy of your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May almighty God, who sent his Son into the world to save sinners, bring us his pardon and peace, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Collects

Lent 2: Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lent 4:** God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; 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 forever. **Amen.

Psalms

Lent 2: 105:1-6, 37-45 ***Lent 4:** 34:11-20*

Bible Readings

Lent 2: Mark 8:31-38 ***Lent 4:** Luke 2:33-35*

Address

Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God, but made himself nothing. Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness. He humbled himself and was obedient to death, even the death of the cross. Therefore, God has raised him on high, and given him the name above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Prayers

Let us pray for our own needs and for the needs of the world:

At the conclusion: Lord, meet us in the silence. **And hear our prayer.**

Remind us often Lord, when we are feeling proud, arrogant, beyond reproach, pleased with ourselves and self-sufficient in our ways, that for such as us you walked a road that took you to a cruel cross, and rose again to show us where we might look for rescue. **Amen.**

We sum up our prayers in the words that Jesus taught his disciples:

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.

A Song of Humility (Hosea 6: 1-6)

Come, let us return to the Lord who has torn us and will heal us. God has stricken us and will bind up our wounds.

After two days, he will revive us, and on the third day will raise us up, that we may live in his presence.

Let us strive to know the Lord; his appearing is as sure as the sunrise.

He will come to us like the showers, like the spring rains that water the earth.

‘O Ephraim, how shall I deal with you? How shall I deal with you, O Judah?’

Your love for me is like the morning mist, like the dew that goes early away.

‘Therefore, I have hewn them by the prophets, and my judgement goes forth as the light.

For loyalty is my desire and not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

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.

Prayer

God of compassion, through your Son Jesus Christ you have reconciled your people to yourself. As we follow his example of prayer and fasting, may we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Final Hymn

Lent 2: ‘In Christ alone’ **Lent 4:** ‘For the beauty of the earth’

Blessing

May Christ give us grace to grow in holiness, to deny ourselves, take up the cross and follow him; and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ, Amen.