

## *Morning Prayer 16 March*

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all  
**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 seek the forgiveness of our sins, and to pray for the needs of the world, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may give ourselves to the service of God.

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

Let us worship the Lord.  
**All praise to his name.**

Blessed are you, God of compassion and mercy, to you be praise and glory for ever. In the darkness of our sin, your light breaks forth like the dawn and your healing springs up for deliverance. As we rejoice in the gift of your saving help, sustain us with your bountiful Spirit and open our lips to sing your praise. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

### *Opening Hymn: 330 God Is Here*

1 God is here! As we his people  
meet to offer praise and prayer,  
may we find in fuller measure  
what it is in Christ we share.  
Here, as in the world around us,  
all our varied skills and arts  
wait the coming of his Spirit  
into open minds and hearts.

2 Here are symbols to remind us  
of our lifelong need of grace;  
here are table, font and pulpit;  
here the cross has central place.  
Here in honesty of preaching,  
here in silence, as in speech,  
here, in newness and renewal,  
God the Spirit comes to each.

3 Here our children find a welcome  
in the Shepherd's flock and fold,  
here, as bread and wine are taken,  
Christ sustains us, as of old.  
Here the servants of the Servant  
seek in worship to explore  
what it means in daily living  
to believe and to adore.

4 Lord of all, of Church and Kingdom,  
in an age of change and doubt,  
keep us faithful to the gospel,  
help us work your purpose out.  
Here, in this day's dedication,  
all we have to give, receive:  
we, who cannot live without you,  
we adore you, we believe!

### ***Penitence***

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled against him. *Daniel 9: 9*

Let us then renounce our wilfulness and ask his mercy by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**O God, our loving Father in heaven, we confess that we have sinned against you; we have broken your commandments; we have often been selfish, and we have not loved you as we should. For these, and all our sins, forgive us, we pray: through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### ***Prayer for Pardon***

May the God of love bring us back to himself, forgive us our sins, and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Your word is a lantern to my feet  
**and a light upon our path.**

c.f. Psalm 119: 105

O Lord, your word is everlasting:  
**it stands firm for ever in the heavens.**

c.f. Psalm 119: 89

Let us then receive the word of the Lord.  
**so may the light of your presence shine into our hearts.**

## ***The First Reading- Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18***

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, ‘Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.’ But Abram said, ‘O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?’ And Abram said, ‘You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.’ But the word of the LORD came to him, ‘This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.’ He brought him outside and said, ‘Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.’ Then he said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be.’ And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, ‘I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.’ But he said, ‘O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?’ He said to him, ‘Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.’ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, ‘To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ***The Psalm: Psalm 27***

1 The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? ♦

**The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?**

2 When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, ♦

**they stumbled and fell.**

3 Though a host encamp against me, my heart shall not be afraid, ♦

**and though there rise up war against me, yet will I put my trust in him.**

- 4 One thing have I asked of the Lord and that alone I seek: ♦  
**that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,**
- 5 To behold the fair beauty of the Lord ♦  
**and to seek his will in his temple.**
- 6 For in the day of trouble he shall hide me in his shelter; ♦  
**in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me and set me high upon a rock.**
- 7 And now shall he lift up my head ♦  
**above my enemies round about me;**
- 8 Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation with great gladness; ♦  
**I will sing and make music to the Lord.**
- 9 Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call; ♦  
**have mercy upon me and answer me.**
- 10 My heart tells of your word, ‘Seek my face.’ ♦  
**Your face, Lord, will I seek.**
- 11 Hide not your face from me, ♦  
**nor cast your servant away in displeasure.**
- 12 You have been my helper; ♦  
**leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.**
- 13 Though my father and my mother forsake me, ♦  
**the Lord will take me up.**
- 14 Teach me your way, O Lord; ♦  
**lead me on a level path, because of those who lie in wait for me.**
- 15 Deliver me not into the will of my adversaries, ♦  
**for false witnesses have risen up against me, and those who breathe out violence.**
- 16 I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord ♦  
**in the land of the living.**
- 17 Wait for the Lord; be strong and he shall comfort your heart; ♦  
**wait patiently for the Lord.**

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.**

### ***The Second Reading- Philippians 3: 17 - 4: 1***

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things.

But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

***Hymn: 611 Christ Be Beside Me***

1 Christ be beside me, Christ be before me,  
Christ be behind me, King of my heart.  
Christ be within me, Christ be below me,  
Christ be above me, never to part.

2 Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,  
Christ all around me, shield in the strife.  
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,  
Christ in my rising, light of my life.

3 Christ be in all hearts thinking about me,  
Christ be on all tongues telling of me.  
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me,  
in ears that hear me, Christ ever be.

***The Holy Gospel- Luke 13: 31-35***

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke:

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, ‘Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.’ He said to them, ‘Go and tell that fox for me, “Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem.” Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.” ’

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### *The Sermon*

#### *Collect of the Word*

God of our ancestors, whose chosen servant Abraham was given faith to obey your call and go out into the unknown: endow your Church with such faith that we may follow you with courage: for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen**

#### *Hymn: 566 Fight The Good Fight*

1 Fight the good fight with all thy might!  
Christ is thy strength, and Christ thy right;  
lay hold on life, and it shall be  
thy joy and crown eternally.

2 Run the straight race through God's good grace,  
lift up thine eyes, and seek his face;  
life with its path before us lies;  
Christ is the way, and Christ the prize.

3 Cast care aside, lean on thy guide;  
his boundless mercy will provide;  
trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove  
Christ is its life, and Christ its love.

4 Faint not nor fear, his arms are near;  
he changeth not, and thou art dear;  
only believe, and thou shalt see  
that Christ is all in all to thee.

#### *The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***The Prayers of the People***

We pray to the Lord for courage to give up other things and to give ourselves to him this Lent.

Give your Church the courage to give up her preoccupation with herself and to give more time to your mission in the world. [We pray for ...] May the blood and water flowing from the side of Jesus bring forgiveness to your people and help us to face the cost of proclaiming salvation.

Lord, meet us in the silence,  
**give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give your world the courage to give up war, bitterness and hatred, and to seek peace. [We pray for ...] May the shoulders of the risen Jesus, once scourged by soldiers, bear the burden of political and military conflict in our world.

Lord, meet us in the silence,  
**give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give us the courage to give up quarrels, strife and jealousy in our families, neighbourhoods and communities.

[We pray for ...] May the presence of the risen Jesus, his body once broken and now made whole, bring peace and direction as we live with one another.

Lord, meet us in the silence,  
**give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give us the courage to give up our selfishness as we live for others, and to give time, care and comfort to the sick.[We pray for ...] May the wounded hands of Jesus bring his healing touch, and the light of his presence fill their rooms.

Lord, meet us in the silence,  
**give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give us the courage to give up our fear of death and to rejoice with those who have died in faith. [Especially we hold ... in our minds.] May the feet of the risen Lord Jesus, once nailed to the cross, walk alongside the dying and bereaved in their agony, and walk with us and all your Church through death to the gate of glory.

Lord, meet us in the silence,  
**give us strength and hear our prayer, here and in eternity. Amen.**

### *The Collect of the Day*

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth that they may return to the way of righteousness: Grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**

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**

### *The Lord's Prayer*

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, we are bold to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven: hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

### *Closing Hymn: 643 Be Thou My Vision*

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
thou my best thought in the day and the night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,  
I ever with thee, and thou with me, Lord;  
thou my great Father, and I thy true heir;  
thou in me dwelling, and I in thy care.

3 Be thou my breast-plate, my sword for the fight;  
be thou my armour, and be thou my might;  
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower,  
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

4 Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,  
thou mine inheritance through all my days;  
thou, and thou only, the first in my heart,  
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art!



5 High King of heaven, when the battle is done,  
grant heaven's joy to me, O bright heaven's sun,  
Christ of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

*A Thanksgiving*

Let us give thanks to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

For the love of our Father, the maker of all, the giver of all good things,  
let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

For Jesus Christ our Saviour, who lived and worked among us,  
let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

For his suffering and death on the cross and his resurrection to new life,  
let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

For his rule over all things and his presence in the world,  
let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

For the Holy Spirit, the giver of life, who teaches us and guides us,  
let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

For the grace of the Spirit in the work of the Church and the life of the world,  
let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

We go into the world  
**to walk in God's light,**  
**to rejoice in God's love**  
**and to reflect God's glory.**

*Closing Prayer*

The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless us and keep us. **Amen.**

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**