

St Mary's Church, Bitton



**Morning Prayer
for Lent**

To support public health management during the COVID 19 emergency, the Church of England has suspended all public acts of worship. As a consequence, there will be no public services in any of the benefice churches until further notice.

This order of service is being circulated with Focal Point in April 2020 and will be used by our Vicar, Jeremy Andrew, in daily prayers at 8.00am each morning. He invites you to use this service at that time of day, in your own home, as a separate but collective act of worship, if you wish and through digital media if it proves possible to set up.

St Mary's will be open on Saturdays and Sundays for individual prayer and contemplation, but not for services.

Morning Prayer for Lent

Preparation

O Lord, open our lips

**and our mouth shall proclaim
your praise.**

Hear our voice, O Lord,
according to your faithful love,

**according to your judgement
give us life.**

*This or another prayer of
thanksgiving is said:*

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.

*A suitable hymn, or A Song of
Penitence is sung*

1. Have mercy on me, O God,
in your great goodness; ♦
according to the abundance of
your compassion blot out my
offences.

2. Wash me thoroughly from
my wickedness ♦ and cleanse
me from my sin.

3. For I acknowledge my
faults ♦ and my sin is ever before
me.

4. Against you only have I
sinned ♦ and done what is evil in
your sight,

5. So that you are justified in
your sentence ♦ and righteous in
your judgement.

6. Cast me not away from
your presence ♦ and take not
your holy spirit from me.

7. Give me again the joy of
your salvation ♦ and sustain me
with your gracious spirit;

8. Then shall I teach your ways to the wicked ♦ and sinners shall return to you.

9. Deliver me from my guilt, O God, the God of my salvation, ♦and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

Psalm 51.1-5, 12-15

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.

This opening prayer may be said

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

Silence is kept.

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

Psalmody

A psalm is said

Canticle: The Song of Manasseh

Refrain:

Full of compassion and mercy and love is God, the Most High, the Almighty.

1. Lord almighty and of our ancestors, ♦you who made heaven and earth in all their glory:

2. All things tremble with awe at your presence, ♦ before your great and mighty power.

3. Immeasurable and unsearchable is your promised mercy, ♦ for you are God, Most High.

4. You are full of compassion, long-suffering and very merciful, ♦and you relent at human suffering.

5. O God, according to your great goodness, ♦you have promised forgiveness for repentance to those who have sinned against you.

6. The sins I have committed against you ♦ are more in number than the sands of the sea.

7. I am not worthy to look up to the height of heaven, ♦

because of the multitude of my iniquities.

8. And now I bend the knee of my heart before you, ♦ imploring your kindness upon me.

9. I have sinned, O God, I have sinned, ♦ and I acknowledge my transgressions.

10. Unworthy as I am, you will save me, ♦ according to your great mercy.

11. For all the host of heaven sings your praise, ♦ and your glory is for ever and ever.

Manasseh 1a, 2, 4, 6, 7a, b, 9a, c, 11, 12, 14b, 15b

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.

Full of compassion and mercy and love is God, the Most High, the Almighty.

Scripture Reading

One or more readings are read

The reading(s) may be followed by a time of silence.

A suitable song or chant, or a responsory in this or another form, may follow

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;

O my God, in you I trust.

You are the God of my salvation,

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

In you I hope all the day long.

O my God, in you I trust.

Remember, Lord, your compassion and love,

for they are from everlasting.

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;

O my God, in you I trust.

from Psalm 25

Gospel Cantic

The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah) is said,

Refrain:

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

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.

Refrain:

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Prayers

A PRAYER FOR ALL THOSE AFFECTED BY CORONAVIRUS

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy.

Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Let us pray to the Lord, who is our refuge and stronghold.

For the health and well-being of our nation, that all who are fearful and anxious may be at peace and free from worry:

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the isolated and housebound, that we may be

alert to their needs, and care for them in their vulnerability:

Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For our homes and families, our schools and young people, and all in any kind of need or distress:

Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For a blessing on our local community, that our neighbourhoods may be places of trust and friendship, where all are known and cared for:

Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray, to the mercy and protection of God.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silence may be kept.

The Collect of the day is said

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not

into glory before he was crucified:

mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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.

The Lord's Prayer is said

Trusting in the compassion of God, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

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.

The Conclusion

May God our Redeemer show us compassion and love. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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