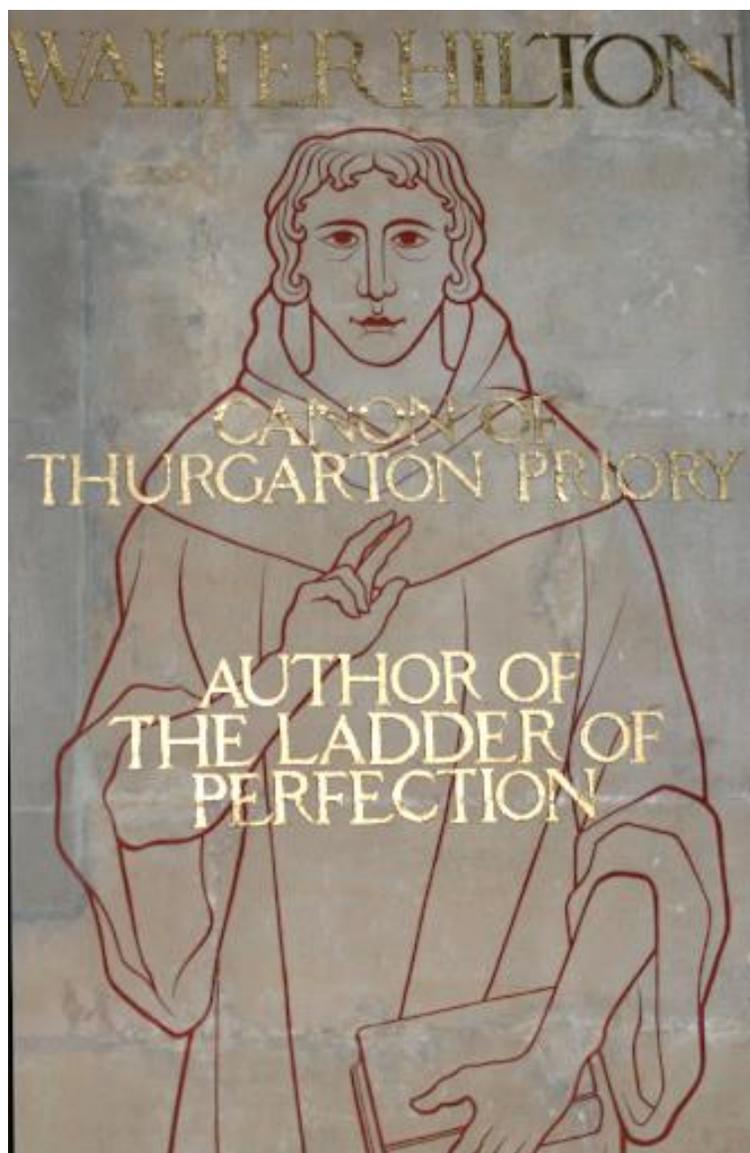


Walter Hilton

Tuesday 24 March 2020

- All the Bible readings come from the *New Revised Standard Version*.
- The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration have been included at the end rather than in situ because many following the service will be in isolation and unable to celebrate the sacrament.
- The hymn is a Youtube link. Please hover the mouse over the link, press Ctrl and then return.



*Image of Walter Hilton
from Thurgaston Priory*

HYMN For all the saints, who from their labours rest
(please click on this link to hear the hymn)

The welcome

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

All Amen.

The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

The Preparation

**All Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.’

And the second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

All Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Jesus said to his apostles,
'You are my friends if you obey my commandment.'
Therefore, let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments
and to live in love and peace with all.

All **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

There is no Gloria during Lent

The Collect for Walter Hilton

Gracious God, we give you thanks
for the life and work of Walter Hilton,
and other hermits and mystics,
who, passing through the cloud of unknowing, beheld your glory.
Help us, after their examples,
to see you more clearly and love you more dearly,
in the Name of Jesus Christ our Saviour;
who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns,
one God, for ever and ever.

All Amen.

First reading

A reading from the book of Job

Then Job answered: 'How you have helped one who has no power! How you have assisted the arm that has no strength! How you have counselled one who has no wisdom and given much good advice! With whose help have you uttered words, and whose spirit has come forth from you? The shades below tremble, the waters and their inhabitants. Sheol is naked before God, and Abaddon has no covering. He stretches out Zaphon over the void, and hangs the earth upon nothing. He binds up the waters in his thick clouds, and the cloud is not torn open by them. He covers the face of the full moon, and spreads over it his cloud. He has described a circle on the face of the waters, at the boundary between light and darkness. The pillars of heaven tremble, and are astounded at his rebuke. By his power he stilled the Sea; by his understanding he struck down Rahab. By his wind the heavens were made fair; his hand pierced the fleeing serpent. These are indeed but the outskirts of his ways; and how small a whisper do we hear of him! But the thunder of his power who can understand?' *Job 26:1-14*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Second reading

A reading from St Paul's Letter to the Romans.

O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

'For who has known the mind of the Lord?

Or who has been his counsellor?'

'Or who has given a gift to him,
to receive a gift in return?'

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory for ever. Amen. I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. *Romans 11:33–12:2*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

All Glory to you O Lord.

Jesus said, 'You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.' *Matthew 5:43–48*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

I worry sometimes. Every day of my life I pray the Lord's Prayer, and yet the world never seems to get better. My friends and relatives pray the Lord's Prayer, and yet the Kingdom never seems to come on earth as it is in Heaven. Why? My atheist friends taunt me sometimes, saying, 'Did it work, then?' Did this God of yours answer your prayer? I used to get quite down, until I realised what the Lord's Prayer was saying, and what it isn't saying.

The Lord's Prayer is not principally about changing the world, changing the Superpowers and the Unions and the Government. The chief focus of the Lord's Prayer is *us*. At the beginning of Genesis — it's in Genesis chapter 2 — we read of when God made the first man and woman. And it says this: 'male and female He made them, in the image and in the likeness of God.' the problem is that after the Fall, we may have retained the image of God — we have a spiritual side — we have lost the likeness of God. We lost the perfection that was there at the inception of the human race.

The Lord's Prayer is not a magic incantation, 'Please God, change the World!' It's a request, a begging request, asking Him, 'Please change me.' When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we start by recognising that God is the source of this change. We pray to a God who is holy. His very essence is holy to the point where his very name sums him up: Our Father in heaven, 'Holiness is your name.' And, as Hebrew's tells us, without holiness no-one can see the Lord.' all things.

Only when we have recognised this God of immense holiness, placing Him on high where He belongs, only then can we look at ourselves. It's a relational thing. Now — only now—do we start to pray of ourselves. And even now, we are praying for God's way not our own: we pray this in code: we pray for the Kingdom to come on earth, as it is in Heaven.' I don't know if you saw The trooping of the Colour last year? Seeing this vast battalion made me realise the power she holds. But what struck me was the way the soldiers were preparing everything for her. They'd been practising for weeks, we are told. This earthly monarch inspires that much dread. And yet our Father in Heaven is also a King — after all, what's the point of calling it a Kingdom if there is no King? In this Kingdom of His, His servants hold Him in respect, infinite respect. True servants will do anything for *this* King. Perhaps at the heart of the Lord's Prayer, then, we are asking that we too might have a correct perspective: that God might be like this to us. I love the phrase in the *Book of Common Prayer*, God is 'power infinite.' And when His Kingdom comes in our lives, we will acknowledge

Him as such. He will be King indeed on earth — or at least the small patch we call ourselves — just as it is in Heaven.

It's a strange thing to contemplate. When we pray this prayer, asking God to bring heaven down to earth, we're actually asking for a transplant, like a new kidney: God inserts a small slice of Heaven into our lives, into our souls, into our way of doing and being. We're asking that our way of being can be God's way of us.

The Lord's Prayer isn't a catch-all prayer but it does identify ways in which we can and must change: firstly, we will become less acquisitive. His Spirit living in us will change our attention from material things and cause us to look toward Him. The symptom is that we will stop planning ahead, and start thinking merely of our day to day needs. That's why we talk of *daily* bread—a conscious allusion to the Israelites in the wilderness who lived on manna.

Secondly, we will find ourselves changing in relation to others. We will forgive, and find ourselves willing to accommodate the characters of others. Our blood pressure will go down as we realise we can actually like and thence love the people around us, because we've forgotten what a so-and-so they were last year. And this forgiveness allows us to be forgiven by God.

And thirdly, we will see temptation for what it is: the interface between the Kingdom of God and the realm of darkness. As God progressively takes over, so the powers of evil loses that power, and we become God's through and through.

Today in the Church calendar we remember Walter Hilton who wanted so much to be Godly that gave away everything in order to receive everything. And we're invited to do the same, albeit in a way that is customised to our contexts. When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we do not pray for the world to change; we pray for something more immediate and thrilling. We pray that *we* might change. We pray that we might be enabled to see Him as He is: Holy, high and lifted up. He *is* Holy. We pray that we God might be enabled we might change so as to accommodate his holiness in our lives: we pray for the Kingdom. That means asking for God' Holy Spirit to come into our lives and turn us around. And the fruit of this prayer is that we do change—if we are sincere—the sin of materialism and lack of trust goes, and we can think merely of daily bread. The sin of pride goes as we forgive, and enable people to become our friends. And the sins of temptation lose all their power. In this way, The Kingdom comes because the King can take His place, enthroned in our lives.

Prayers of intercession

United in the company of all the faithful
and looking for the coming of the kingdom,
let us offer our prayers to God, the source of all life and holiness.

Merciful Lord, strengthen all Christian people by your Holy Spirit
that we may live as a royal priesthood
and a holy nation to the praise of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Lord, in your mercy.

All Hear our prayer.

Bless *N* our bishop and all ministers of your Church
that, by faithful proclamation of your word,
we may be built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets
into a holy temple in the Lord.

Lord, in your mercy.

All Hear our prayer.

Empower us by the gift of your Holy and life-giving Spirit
that we may be transformed into the likeness of Christ
from glory to glory. We thank you for the example of your servant Walter Hilton.
Lord, in your mercy.

All Hear our prayer.

Give to the world and its peoples the peace that comes from above,
that they may find Christ's way of freedom and life.
Lord, in your mercy.

All Hear our prayer.

Hold in your embrace all who witness to your love
in the service of the poor and needy;
all who minister to the sick and dying;
and all who bring light to those in darkness.

Lord, in your mercy.

All Hear our prayer.

Touch and heal all those whose lives are scarred by sin
or disfigured by pain,
that, raised from death to life in Christ,

their sorrow may be turned to eternal joy.

Lord, in your mercy.

All Hear our prayer.

Remember in your mercy all those gone before us
who have been well-pleasing to you from eternity;
preserve in your faith your servants on earth,
guide us to your kingdom,
and grant us your peace at all times.

Lord, in your mercy.

All Hear our prayer.

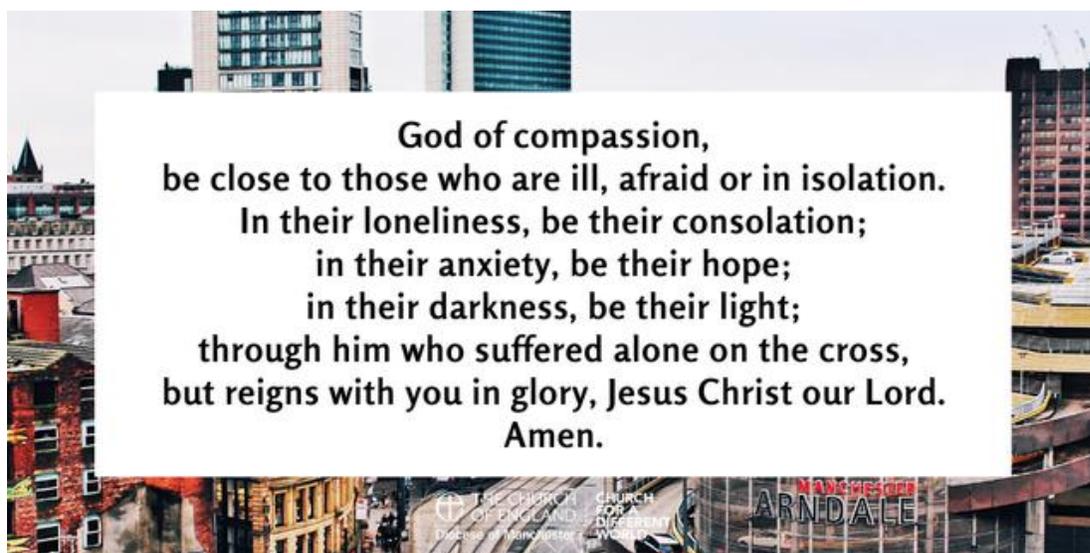
Hasten the day when many
will come from east and west, from north and south,
and sit at table in your kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy.

All Hear our prayer.

We give you thanks
for the whole company of your saints in glory, included Walter Hilton,
with whom in fellowship we join our prayers and praises;
by your grace may we, like them, be made perfect in your love.

All Hear our prayer.



All Amen.

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

The peace

May the God of peace sanctify you:
may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness
that you may be blameless before him
at the coming of our Lord Jesus with his saints.

The peace of the Lord be always with you:
All **And also with you.**

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below

The Dismissal

Jesus said, 'I have made your name known to those you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours.' *John 17:6-9*

May God,
who kindled the fire of his love in the hearts of the saints,
pour upon you the riches of his grace.

All **Amen**

May he give you joy in their fellowship
and a share in their praises.

All **Amen**

May he strengthen you to follow them in the way of holiness
and to come to the full radiance of glory.

All Amen

And the blessing of God the Almighty:

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now and remain with you always.

All Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Eucharistic Prayer (prayer E)

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy
that we should always sing of your glory,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
For you are the hope of the nations,
the builder of the city that is to come.
Your love made visible in Jesus Christ
brings home the lost,
restores the sinner
and gives dignity to the despised.
In his face your light shines out,
flooding lives with goodness and truth,
gathering into one in your kingdom
a divided and broken humanity.
Therefore with all who can give voice in your creation
we glorify your name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms

and bring us with Walter Hilton, St Barnabas and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All 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.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

**All Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink
in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

**All We do not presume
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him,
and he in us. Amen.**

Communion is distributed.

Prayer after Communion

God Most High,
whose handmaid bore the Word made flesh:

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Bible readings © The publishers of the NRSV translation
Sermon © Revd Dr Paul Monk

we thank you that in this sacrament of our redemption
you visit us with your Holy Spirit
and overshadow us by your power;
strengthen us to walk with Mary the joyful path of obedience
and so to bring forth the fruits of holiness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

**All Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.**