

Sunday 20 February 2022

The Second Sunday before Lent



Sermon © Pete Haslam.

Prayers of intercession © Jo Monk.

Liturgy © 2000 The Archbishops' Council.

Bible readings © the publishers of the NRSV translation.

- The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration appear at the end.
- The hymns are YouTube links. Hover the mouse over each link, press Ctrl and then return.
- To see service transcripts from previous weeks, please visit the page, <http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/resources/index.htm>

Introduction and welcome

HYMN 1 **Holy, holy, holy**

(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.

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life.

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.

The Gloria

This Gloria is sung to the tune of 'Cwm Rhondda'. Click [here](#) for the tune.

All Glory be to God in Heaven,
Songs of joy and peace we bring,
Thankful hearts and voices raising,
To creation's Lord we sing.
Lord we thank you, Lord we praise you,
Glory be to God our King:
Glory be to God our King.

Lamb of God, who on our shoulders,
Bore the load of this world's sin;
Only Son of God the Father,
You have brought us peace within.
Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy,

**Now your glorious reign begin:
Now your glorious reign begin.**

**You O Son of God are Holy,
You we praise with one accord.
None in heav'n or earth is like you,
Only you are Christ the Lord.
With the Father and the Spirit,
Ever worshipped and adored:
Ever worshipped and adored.**

The Collect for the Second Sunday before Lent

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things,
now and for ever.

All Amen.

First reading

A reading from the First Book of Moses called Genesis

God rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created:

In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground—then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.' So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said,

'This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
this one shall be called Woman,
for out of Man this one was taken.'

Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. The man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-25

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Second reading

A reading from the Revelation of St John the Divine

I looked, and there in heaven a door stood open! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, 'Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.' At once I was in the spirit, and there in heaven stood a throne, with one seated on the throne! And the one seated there looks like jasper and cornelian, and around the throne is a rainbow that looks like an emerald. Around the throne are twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones are twenty-four elders, dressed in white robes, with golden crowns on their heads. Coming from the throne are flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and in front of the throne burn seven flaming torches, which are the seven spirits of God; and in front of the throne there is something like a sea of glass, like crystal.

Around the throne, and on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with a face like a human face, and the fourth living creature like a flying eagle. And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and inside. Day and night without ceasing they sing,

‘Holy, holy, holy,
the Lord God the Almighty,
who was and is and is to come.’

And whenever the living creatures give glory and honour and thanks to the one who is seated on the throne, who lives for ever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall before the one who is seated on the throne and worship the one who lives for ever and ever; they cast their crowns before the throne, singing,

‘You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honour and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created.’ *Revelation 4*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

HYMN 2 Holy, holy, holy (we lift our hands before you) ([click to hear the hymn](#))

Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

All Glory to you O Lord.

One day Jesus got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, ‘Let us go across to the other side of the lake.’ So they put out, and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A gale swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. They went to him and woke him up, shouting, ‘Master, Master, we are perishing!’ And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. He said to them, ‘Where is your faith?’ They were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, ‘Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?’ *Luke 8:22-25*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

In today's reading from Revelation, St John describes the throne of our Father and the grandeur that awaits all who worship Him. Verses 8–11 tell us that the four 'living creatures' worship the Lord without ceasing and the 'twenty four elders' cast their crowns before Him while singing their song of worship.

True worship is not only what takes place on a Sunday morning, but what happens in our lives 24/7. Worship is a relationship with God; it is not an event that takes place when we come together, for example in a church or chapel. It extends past any circumstances we are going through. We give Him praise for who He is and not only for what He can do for us.

Genuine worship will change your life forever! Worship is a lifestyle. But worship will only change your life if it does not become mechanical and forced. It has to be from the heart. Praise is expressed not only in song but in deeds and action. We do not know what people have experienced outside these doors, but I know what they can experience when they open up their hearts to the God of the universe that created them, loves them, and will take care of them. As Jeremiah 29:11 says, 'For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.' So when we understand that God has a plan for us, we understand that He has 'our best interests at heart' and will not 'abandon us' in hard times. We have the potential of seeing the supernatural operate in our lives ... corporately and individually.

When God's Spirit touches our spirit, He will lead us to worship.

Psalms 100 gives us a look at what worship is. Worship involves entering into the presence of God with thanksgiving and praise. It is recognising who God is. It is not fitting God into our schedule but fitting our schedule around God. When we do that, we realise that worship is 24/7 wherever we are and no matter what we are going through. We realise that it is not all about us but it is all about Him.

Worship becomes a response to what God has already done for us. We enter into worship, and can do so in a variety of ways and in a variety of places. Persecuted Christians in other parts of the world are being tortured and yet continue to praise God. People are able to battle terminal diseases with hope and assurance because their hearts are centred on Christ.

Sometimes we need to 'stop the merry-go-round and get off the world.' To do so means believing the promises of God. We may need to allow God to take the negatives and turn them into positives. We ask God to enable us to worship Him, which may require that we take our problems or negative feelings and ask God to deal with them. We all know people who to seek to put us down and make us feel worthless (if we let them). We may need to distinguish between what is in front of

now rather than what will be eternal later. But Godly, life changing worship takes place when you don't feel like it, but you are determined that you will worship God no matter what!

Worship is a discipline, so we must be determined that, no matter what, we will not rob God of his praise and we will not let the devil steal the joy that God desires for our life.

How can we live our lives and bring honour and glory to God and how, in the midst of our own circumstances, can we keep praise on our lips? Instead of yelling back at a person who is annoying us or causing us to be uncomfortable, we can say a prayer for them. Maybe they are going through something we have no idea of. So we pray for that person who has just cut us with their words, asking God to give us strength to live the life that is pleasing to Him, even when every part of us wants to lash out back or shut down because of someone else. Living worship is staying so close to the Lord that we do not let the actions of others take us to a place we know is not healthy.

In worship, we respond to God and we focus on Him! Most of us struggle with worship because it is not built into our day and our lifestyle- most of the time it is squeezed out by circumstances. We can worship God anywhere—in the park, on a boat, in the forest—but there is something special about corporate worship that will draw us to the Spirit of the living God! We draw strength from corporate worship.

Worship then becomes more than a song, it becomes a relationship, and a pursued relationship with God becomes a lifestyle. Beatle-mania became idol worship when singing the songs became worship to the singer. We can worship things and people in the world, but worship ordained by God is worship unto Him: that moment the Spirit of God touches the human spirit and allows us to go to a realm with God that is like nothing else we can imagine.

In heaven there is worship, and this life is just a preview of what is ahead. I am not sure that we will be worshipping like the Cherubim and the elders, crying out Holy, Holy, Holy, and throwing down our golden crowns before His throne – that's just a poetic image—but we will worship God and we will experience all the promises of heaven and it will be a beautiful place where we can spend eternity with our God. AMEN.

The Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
the source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

All We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

All This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers of intercession

In prayer and worship, let us pray for Christ's Church.

Lord in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

We pray that your Church may worship you in spirit and in truth, so that your kingdom will come on earth as in heaven. Help us to listen to you when the world clamours in our ears, to reach out for that still, small voice of calm and to follow where it leads.

Lord in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are persecuted for their faith: those who worship in secret and in fear and those who are in prison for their attempts to follow you. May your love and grace surround them, and may they know that they are loved and prayed for, whatever they are going through.

Lord in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

We give thanks that we are free to worship you and to spread your Word through our lives. We pray that we will be faithful to that calling, however hard it sometimes feels.

Lord in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are struggling at the moment: for families worried about the future as the cost of living rises; for those who are unemployed or have jobs that do not pay a living wage; for those who are exploited and see no hope for a better future. Give them hope and courage for whatever they have to face and help us to reach out to them in Your name.

Lord in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

We pray for the sick and for those who care for them. In a moment of silence, we remember those known to us and pray for your healing mercy and grace in their lives.

Lord in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

We lift to you those who have passed from this life to the next and who now stand before your throne and worship you in heaven. We remember especially our sister Joan Platt and our brother Cyril Brathwaite, whose funerals occur very soon. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Merciful Father,

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

The peace

Peace to you from God our heavenly Father.

Peace from his Son Jesus Christ who is our peace.

Peace from the Holy Spirit, the Life-giver

The peace of the Lord be always with you,

All And also with you.

HYMN 3 Come Holy Ghost!
Veni sancta spiritus

(please click on this link to hear the hymn)

(please click on this link to hear the hymn)

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below

The Dismissal

The peace of God which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God the Almighty:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with you now and remain with you always.

All Amen.

HYMN 4 All creation worships you (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

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.

Father, you made the world and love your creation.
You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.
His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death.
And so we gladly thank you,
with saints and angels 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 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 our creator,
by your gift
the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise,
and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:
may we who have been nourished at your table on earth
be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross
and enjoy the delights of eternity;
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.