

Morning Prayer
3rd November - 4th Sunday before Advent
(We will be following this in our own homes at 10.30am)

Please read these words out loud, or in your heart.

Preparation

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

Bless the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit:
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Splendour and majesty are yours, O God;
you are exalted as head over all.

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

*Silence may be kept, to ask forgiveness of our sins
and to seek God's strength for our life of service.*

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

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 119:1-8

- ¹ Blessed are those whose ways are blameless,
who walk according to the law of the LORD.
- ² Blessed are those who keep his statutes
and seek him with all their heart—
- ³ they do no wrong
but follow his ways.
- ⁴ You have laid down precepts
that are to be fully obeyed.
- ⁵ Oh, that my ways were steadfast
in obeying your decrees!
- ⁶ Then I would not be put to shame
when I consider all your commands.
- ⁷ I will praise you with an upright heart
as I learn your righteous laws.
- ⁸ I will obey your decrees;
do not utterly forsake me.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

New Testament reading: Mark 12:28-34

²⁸ One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, 'Of all the commandments, which is the most important?'

²⁹ 'The most important one,' answered Jesus, 'is this: "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." ³¹ The second is this: "Love your neighbour as yourself." There is no commandment greater than these.'

³² 'Well said, teacher,' the man replied. 'You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. ³³ To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.'

³⁴ When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Benedictus

- 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.

Prayers

Please offer your own prayers following these suggestions, if you wish, with the response below:

¶ *for the day and its tasks*

¶ *for the world and its needs*

¶ *for the Church and her life*

¶ *for God's hand to guide the results of the many elections taking place around the world at this time*

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Silence may be kept.

Grant us, O Lord, to know that which is worth knowing,
to love that which us worth loving,
to praise that which can bear with praise,
to hate what in thy sight is unworthy,
to prize what to thee is precious,
and, above all, to search out and to do
what is well-pleasing unto thee;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Thomas a Kempis

Collect

Almighty and eternal God,
you have kindled the flame of love
in the hearts of the saints who have gone before us:
grant to us the same faith and power of love,
that, as we rejoice in their triumphs,
we may be sustained by their example and fellowship;
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.

Trusting in the compassion of God,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us
"Our Father, who art in heaven ..."

The Lord's Prayer is said

The Conclusion

We believe that by his dying
Christ destroyed death for ever.
We have been crucified with Christ
and live by faith in the Son of God,
who loved us and gave himself for us.
May he send us out to glory in his cross,
and live no longer for ourselves but for him,
who died and was raised to life for us.

Let us go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

*Our services today take place at:
Mickley (BCP Holy Communion) at 9.00 am;
Grewelthorpe, Kirkby Malzeard (both Holy Communion) and
Winksley (Morning Worship) at 10.30 am;
Kirkby Malzeard (Benefice Service of Thanksgiving and Remembering) at 3.00 pm;
and Sawley (Family Service) at 4.00 pm.*

Everyone from across the benefice (and beyond) is welcome at all services.