



**The Benefice of
Harden, Wilsden, Cullingworth, Denholme
9 March 2025**

The First Sunday of Lent

Welcome

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

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
and also with you.

**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.'

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.
Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Penitence

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.

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by
the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted
by the devil. Let us confess our sins remembering before God the
times when we have fallen from temptation into sin.

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love:

Fill us with your Spirit.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith:

Fill us with your Spirit.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust:

Fill us with your Spirit.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

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. **Amen.**

The Collect

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer,
that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Old Testament Reading: **Romans 10:8-13**

But what does it say?
'The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart'
(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess
with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God
raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with
the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and
so is saved. The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be
put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek;
the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on
him. For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be
saved.'

Thanks be to God for the gift of His holy word

The Gospel: **Luke 4:1-13**

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by
the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by
the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they
were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son
of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' Jesus
answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone."' Then
the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the
kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give
their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me,

and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."'"

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you",

and

"On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Thanks be to God for the gift of His Holy Word

Reflection with Alison

As I was leaving warm spaces at Wilsden last Monday, I had quite a few bags and things in my hands, and my car keys in my mouth, when a kind gentleman asked if I would like help and could he carry anything for me? But, my response was, 'no I'm fine, thank you. I can manage'... then I realised I had a number of doors to get through before attempting to open my car so realised the sensible thing would be to accept help rather than rely on my own strength.

I wonder how often you do the same, feel laden down but refuse offers of help? I think it is our pride that stops us from admitting we could do with a hand.

From the very beginning, humanity has struggled with wanting to be in control. In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve chose their own

wisdom over God's, and we continue to do the same today. We like to think we can handle things on our own, forgetting that true strength comes from surrendering to God.

As we step into the season of Lent, we are invited into a time of reflection, prayer, and renewal. This Sunday's readings remind us of the power of faith and the importance of trusting in God, even in the face of temptation.

In Luke 4:1-13, we see Jesus led into the wilderness, where He is tempted by the devil. He faces hunger, power, and the temptation to test God—but each time, He responds with Scripture, standing firm in His trust in the Father. His example teaches us that when we are tested, we too must rely on God's Word and not on our own strength.

Paul's words in Romans 10:8-13 offer us another source of encouragement. He reminds us that salvation is near: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Lent is not just about giving things up—it is about drawing closer to God, recognizing that our hope and salvation come from Him alone.

As we begin this Lenten journey, let us ask ourselves: Where are we being tempted to rely on our own strength instead of trusting in God? How can we use this season to deepen our faith and renew our hearts? May we walk through the wilderness of Lent with confidence, knowing that God's love and mercy are always near.

Wishing you a blessed and prayerful Lent.

The Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ his 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 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.**

Prayers of Intercession with Astrid Hansen

Most holy Lord, you were tempted, as we are; give us the strength to stand against evil. Keep us firm in times of trial and temptation; make us resolute in obeying your will and in seeking your kingdom; give us strength to stay true to you and proclaim your salvation.

**Lord, in you we trust,
you are our refuge and strength.**

Lord we pray for many troubled places in the world, known or unknown to us: for Gaza, the West Bank, all of Israel and the surrounding countries, Lord guide their leaders to a just, compassionate and lasting solution, for Ukraine, for an end to

fighting, death and destruction, on lasting and acceptable terms; for Sudan where conflicting armies devastate and destroy their own land and people. We give thanks for the steadfast faith of our Christian brothers and sisters there.

**Lord, in you we trust,
you are our refuge and strength.**

We pray for our own government in a country where we have so many blessings but still so many problems, and for the newly elected government in Germany facing changing patterns of power in Europe. We pray for all in positions of authority throughout the world and who make far reaching decisions, that none misuse their powers.

**Lord, in you we trust,
you are our refuge and strength.**

We pray for the communities to which we belong, the churches and villages of Cullingworth, Denholme, Harden and Wilsden, and for those who minister among us. Lord, we pray for friends and neighbours, those with anxieties about their families or their health, the lonely, those adjusting to the loss of someone dear, people around us whose needs we know and those we may not know, though none are unknown to you.

**Lord, in you we trust,
you are our refuge and strength.**

For all we bring before you today and for ourselves, we pray Lord be with us to guide us, within us to strengthen us, around us to protect us and before us to lead us, this day and always. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Final Responsory

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are you, Lord our God:
through your Son Jesus Christ
you have known our pain and show us your mercy.

**Surely he has born our griefs;
he has carried our sorrows.**
He was despised, he was rejected;
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.
**Surely he has born our griefs;
he has carried our sorrows.**
He was pierced for our sins,
bruised for no fault but ours.
**Surely he has born our griefs;
he has carried our sorrows.**

The Blessing

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among us, and remain with us always.
Thanks be to God. Amen.