

## Living the Word

### I Peter 2.2-10

In this passage, Peter is reminding the exiled converts in Asia Minor that they, like the wandering Hebrews before them, can take comfort in the knowledge that a place has been prepared for them by God. Though they are presently suffering the injustices of the world that they once claimed as their own, Peter reminds them that even now in these dark moments the Holy Spirit is working to usher in the heavenly kingdom. Peter's words remind us that we all have been called into the fellowship of Christ. Through baptism we have been accepted in to a new family, the royal household. The household of God is the place where we Christians find security and nourishment. It is this household of fellowship and sacrament which sustains and equips us for our earthly pilgrimage, through times of joy as well as times of suffering and injustice. It ultimately helps us to be conformed to Jesus – to be ready to claim the place that has been prepared for us.

## Saints & Heroes

### St John of Beverley

John of Beverley was an English bishop in the kingdom of Northumbria. Little is known about St John, other than he was diligent in visiting his clergy and people, considerate towards the poor, and enthusiastic to the training of his students. Much of what we know about St John comes to us from the writings of the Venerable Bede, whom he ordained both as deacon and priest. Due to his failing health, John retired as Bishop of York to his monastery in Beverley around the year 717. He died on 7th May 721. St John's Banner was incorporated into the standard of the Norman archbishop, Thurstan, who took the banner with him to the Battle of the Standard in 1138. There, the Scots were repelled, and the victory, against serious odds, was considered a miracle. The cult of St John of Beverley grew, and such was the regard for the intercession of St John, and the blessings received in battle from his banner, that by the mid-thirteenth century, the levy for military service for the royal armies expected from the town of Beverley was just one man, providing he brought with him the banner of St John.

## The Truth



Truth. My truth. Your truth. Opinions all of equal worth and value. We live in a time and an age where the idea of individual truth is sacrosanct, where everyone has the right to an opinion – it is a brave person indeed who would challenge such a narrative. Yet, faithfulness to Christ and our mother Holy Church means dying to self and accepting her doctrines and teachings. Holy Church holds up to us eternal truths that fly in the face of the prevailing culture that says truth is relative to the individual and their feelings on any given day. We as Christians should rejoice that we can build our lives not on the ever changing 'truths' of society, but instead upon the steadfast rock and anchor of Jesus Christ, who is the same today, as he was yesterday, and will be tomorrow. Jesus, the only begotten of the Father, the Word made Flesh, is the only eternal truth; rejoice in that knowledge and place your trust in him.

### O Sing Unto the Lord

One of the great English poets, Edmund Spenser (1552-99), is perhaps best known for his great allegorical poem in six books, *The Faerie Queene*, dedicated to Queen Elizabeth I. Spenser was born in London and educated at The Merchant Taylors' School. The hymn *Most glorious Lord of life, that on this day* was a love sonnet, probably written to Elizabeth Boyle, whom he married in 1594. The sonnet sequence was a common literary form of the period. This hymn is unusual in using the Easter story as a reason for loving one another, but its rare beauty makes it a valuable addition to devotional poetry. The problems of fitting a fourteen-line English sonnet to a hymn tune have been solved by the tune Farley Castle by Henry Lawes, written for psalms that were in an unusual metre. There are also notable anthem settings of the words by Armstrong Gibbs, William Harris and John Rutter.

