

Say no to sin and yes to grace

WELCOME AND NOTICES

INTRODUCTION

Lent takes us on a journey. It is a journey that leads us from temptation and sin through grace to the fullness of life that we are promised by Jesus Christ. It is a journey that takes us from saying 'no' to temptation and sin and, through our saying 'yes' to grace, to the forgiveness that we are offered in Jesus Christ. Today we are urged, as we journey through this service, to see how we intend to say 'no' to temptation and sin but can often fall from what we intend to do. As we take this journey so we should see how the grace of God can transform our hearts and our lives. As we listen to the words of this service let us all begin saying 'no' to temptation and sin and 'yes' to following the road that Jesus has mapped out for us; a road, that through forgiveness, leads to the fullness of life.

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

Silence is kept

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

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.**

Lord, speak to us

That we may hear your word.

Move among us

That we may behold your glory.

Receive our prayers

That we may learn to trust you.

We have come together in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving and to seek forgiveness for our sins; that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may give ourselves to the service of God. **Amen.**

O Lord, open our lips

and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

Give us the joy of your saving help

and sustain us with your life-giving Spirit. Amen.

TEMPTATION AND SIN

First reading – Matthew 4:1-11 *Jesus is tempted in the wilderness*

The Ten Commandments

Hear these commandments which God has given to his people and examine your hearts.

I am the Lord your God: you shall have no other gods but me.

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

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

You shall not make for yourself any idol. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

You shall not dishonour the name of the Lord your God. You shall worship him with awe and reverence.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy. Christ is risen from the dead: set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on the earth.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Honour your father and mother. Live as servants of God; let us work for the good of all, especially members of the household of faith.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

You shall not commit murder. Live peaceably with all; overcome evil with good.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

You shall not commit adultery. Know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

You shall not steal. Be honest in all that you do, and care for those in need.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

You shall not be a false witness. Let everyone speak the truth.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

You shall not covet anything which belongs to your neighbour. Remember the words of the Lord Jesus: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' Love your neighbour as yourself, for love is the fulfilling of the law.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

REDEMPTION BY GRACE

Second reading – Romans 3:21-26 *Righteousness through faith*

Creed

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

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?

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?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn - Amazing grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come:
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

Words: John Newton (1725-1807)

THE INCOMPARABLE RICHES OF GOD'S GRACE

Third reading – Ephesians 2:1-10 *Made alive in Christ*

Confession

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds we have been healed. Let us confess our sins.

**Lord God, we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.**

We are sorry and repent.

Have mercy on us according to your love.

Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.

**Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Agnus Dei

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.

Absolution

May the Father forgive us by the death of his Son and strengthen us to live in the power of the Spirit all our days. **Amen.**

MERCY THROUGH FORGIVENESS

Fourth reading – Matthew 18:21-35 *The parable of the unmerciful servant*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Intercessions using the response:

Lord, meet us in the silence.

Give us strength and hear our prayer.

Concluding with 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.**

THE FULLNESS OF LIFE

Fifth reading – John 10:1-10 *The good shepherd and his sheep*

Canticle – Benedictus

Bless the Lord, the God of Israel, who has come to set us free.
He has raised for us a Saviour sprung from royal David's tree.
Through his prophets God had spoken of the hope the Christ would bring;
of his faithfulness and mercy let each generation sing.

Long ago God made a promise he would set his people free,
that in all our life and worship we might know true liberty,
to be holy, to be righteous in his sight throughout our days;
now this child will be a herald making ready all God's ways.

Let all people know salvation through forgiveness of their sin,
as our God in his compassion bids a shining dawn begin.
So may all who dwell in darkness see the shadows disappear
while he guides our feet in pathways where his peace is ever near.

To the Father be all glory with the Spirit and the Son,
as it was, is now and shall be while eternal ages run.

CONCLUSION

The Grace

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore. Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Concluding Voluntary

Prelude (*from* Prelude & Fugue in A minor), BWV 543 by J S Bach