

# Opening Prayer

**Bishop's Study Day**

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

# Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Your word is a lantern to our feet  
**and a light upon our path.**

Blessed are you, Lord our God.

How sweet are your words to the taste,  
sweeter than honey to the mouth.

How precious are your commands for our life,  
more than the finest gold in our hands.

How marvellous is your will for the world,  
unending is your love for the nations.

Our voices shall sing of your promises  
and our lips declare your praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

# Psalm 119.9-16

How shall young people cleanse their way  
to keep themselves according to your word?

**With my whole heart have I sought you;  
O let me not go astray from your commandments.**

Your words have I hidden within my heart,  
that I should not sin against you.

**Blessed are you, O Lord; O teach me your statutes.**

With my lips have I been telling of all the judgements of your mouth.

**I have taken greater delight in the way of your testimonies  
than in all manner of riches.**

I will meditate on your commandments and contemplate your ways.

**My delight shall be in your statutes and I will not forget your word.**

# Reading: Luke 4.16-21

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

When Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down.

The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Lord.**

# Intercessions

Let us pray to God,  
by whose word we are taught to pray.

Almighty God, keep the Church faithful to the truth revealed in holy scripture. Enrich your people with the word of Christ, for unity of purpose and for witness to the world.

Lord, in your mercy - **hear our prayer.**

Make the glory of your word shine throughout the world, to be a light to all people. Bless those who work to make your word known among the nations.

Lord, in your mercy - **hear our prayer.**

Protect our brothers and sisters in places where to attend a gathering such as this would be to risk arrest or violence. Be their support in times of trouble and their defence against hostility.

Lord, in your mercy - **hear our prayer.**

Guide and enable us to spread the good news of salvation among our communities. We give thanks for those in our ministry teams who read the Bible in public worship, who lead study groups and training courses, and pray that, through the study of the Scriptures, your word may find a home in the hearts of your people.

Lord, in your mercy - **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Lord,  
grant to us that loving your holy word,  
we may adorn it with obedient and Christlike lives;  
to the glory of your name.

**Amen.**

# The Collect

Blessed Lord,  
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:  
help us so to hear them,  
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them  
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,  
we may embrace and for ever hold fast  
the hope of everlasting life,  
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

# The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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.**

# The Conclusion

The Word of life which was from the beginning  
**we proclaim to you.**

The darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining;  
**the Word of life which was from the beginning.**

That which we heard, which we saw with our eyes,  
and touched with our hands,  
**we proclaim to you.**

For our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**The Word of life which was from the beginning we proclaim to you.**

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**