

O Lord, open our lips

and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Hear our voice, O Lord, according to your faithful love,

according to your judgement give us life.

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;

A broken and contrite heart God will not despise.

Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion,

And acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

Psalm 51: 17

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Make me a clean heart , O God, And renew a right spirit within me:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy spirit from me:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Almighty God,

Who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you,

Pardon and deliver you from all our sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,

And keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessed are you, God of compassion and mercy,

to you be praise and glory for ever.

In the darkness of our sin,

your light breaks forth like the dawn

and your healing springs up for deliverance.

As we rejoice in the gift of your saving help,
sustain us with your bountiful Spirit
and open our lips to sing your praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

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

Silence is kept.

**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

Psalmody Psalm 25: 1-10

**Your paths, O Lord, are love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant**

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust;

do not let me be put to shame;

do not let my enemies exult over me.

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;

let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. **R**

Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation;

for you I wait all day long. **R**

Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

according to your steadfast love remember me,

for your goodness' sake, O LORD! **R**

Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.
All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

For your name's sake, O LORD,
pardon my guilt, for it is great. **R**

**Your paths, O Lord, are love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant**

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.

First Reading Genesis 9: 8-17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

Canticle

Full of compassion and mercy and love is God, the Most High, the Almighty.

- 1 Lord almighty and God of our ancestors,
you who made heaven and earth in all their glory:
- 2 **All things tremble with awe at your presence,
before your great and mighty power.**
- 3 Immeasurable and unsearchable is your promised mercy,
for you are God, Most High.
- 4 **You are full of compassion, long-suffering and very merciful,
and you relent at human suffering.**
- 5 O God, according to your great goodness,

you have promised forgiveness for repentance
to those who have sinned against you.

**6 The sins I have committed against you
are more in number than the sands of the sea.**

7 I am not worthy to look up to the height of heaven,
because of the multitude of my iniquities.

**8 And now I bend the knee of my heart before you,
imploring your kindness upon me.**

9 I have sinned, O God, I have sinned,
and I acknowledge my transgressions.

**10 Unworthy as I am, you will save me,
according to your great mercy.**

11 For all the host of heaven sings your praise,
and your glory is for ever and ever.

Manasseh 1a,2,4,6,7a,b,9a,c,11,12,14b,15b

**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.**

Full of compassion and mercy and love, is God, the Most High, the Almighty.

Reading Mark 1: 9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

A time of silence.

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; **O my God, in you I trust.**

You are the God of my salvation, **To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.**

In you I hope all the day long. **O my God, in you I trust.**

Remember, Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;

O my God, in you I trust.

from Psalm 25

Gospel Canticle

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

- 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.**

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Address

Prayers

God of our salvation **We trust in your promise.**

God of grace, your Kingdom draws near to us in your Son.

Increase in your Church trust in the fulfilment of your promises

Help us to live more closely to the prompting of your Spirit,

Assure us of your presence as we keep Lent together.

Fill our hearts with the joy of your good news announced to us.

God of our salvation **We trust in your promise.**

God of grace, prophetic witness led to John being arrested.

Be with all who courageously make a stand for justice and liberty

We remember all who are held captive unjustly, those imprisoned by human trafficking,

All who speak out to give a voice for those who are otherwise unheard.

God of our salvation **We trust in your promise.**

God of grace, you set the world in a universe of awesome wonder.

Awaken all people to the urgent need to work against climate breakdown

Give wisdom to those with power to make changes and help us to see

The necessity to live simply.

God of our salvation **We trust in your promise.**

God of grace, in the wilderness your Son had to face the limits of humanity.

Hold in your tender care all who suffer or are at the limits of their resources.

We pray especially for all suffering in hospitals, all health care staff and support staff,

All who care for family or friends in their homes and for the staff and residents of Woodlands, Queens Court and all care homes.

God of our salvation **We trust in your promise.**

God of grace, in baptism we are united with Christ's death and resurrection. In this hope we commend to you all who have died, remembering with love Anne Cox and Tony Dove and others known to us. May we too come to the joy of your kingdom.

Merciful Father: **Accept these prayers
For the sake of your Son Our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Silence may be kept.

Collect for the First Sunday of Lent

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.**

Trusting in the compassion of God,
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

Christ give us grace to grow in holiness,
To deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow him;
And the blessing of God almighty, the Father and the Son
And the Holy Spirit be among us and remain with us
And all those for whom we pray this day and always.

Amen

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.