

You may wish to light a candle and have some reflective music playing in the background

Preparation

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.
In your resurrection, O Christ,
let heaven and earth rejoice. Alleluia.

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation,
to you be praise and glory for ever.
As once you ransomed your people from Egypt
and led them to freedom in the promised land,
so now you have delivered us from the dominion of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your risen Son.
May we, the first fruits of your new creation,
rejoice in this new day you have made,
and praise you for your mighty acts.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us:
so let us celebrate the feast,
**not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness:
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.**

1 Cor 5.7b, 8

Christ once raised from the dead dies no more:
death has no more dominion over him.

**In dying he died to sin once for all:
in living he lives to God.**

See yourselves therefore as dead to sin:
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6.9-11

**Christ has been raised from the dead:
the first fruits of those who sleep.**

For as by man came death:
by man has come also the resurrection of the dead;

**for as in Adam all die:
even so in Christ shall all be made alive.** *1 Corinthians 15.20-22*

**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.**

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

Pause for reflection as you offer the day to God.

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.**

Psalm and Bible Reading – see appendix for daily readings

Response to Psalm

**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.**

Responsory

Death is swallowed up in victory.

Where, O death, is your sting?

Christ is risen from the dead,
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Death is swallowed up in victory.

The trumpet will sound and the dead shall be raised.

Where, O death, is your sting?

We shall not all sleep,
but we shall be changed.

Death is swallowed up in victory.

Where, O death, is your sting?

from 1 Corinthians 15

Prayers

Almighty and everlasting God,
we thank you that you have brought us safely
to the beginning of this day.
Keep us from falling into sin
or running into danger;
order us in all our doings
and guide us to do always
what is righteous in your sight;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us
from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Pause and pray for:

- *The Queen, our Government and all making decisions that impact our nation and beyond*
- *Individuals and their needs*
- *The poor and oppressed*
- *All who are sick or bereaved*
- *All affected medically or financially by Coronavirus*
- *Churches and their response*
- *All involved with St Wilfrid's in any way*
- *Christians who are persecuted for their faith*

The Lord's Prayer

**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 Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,
and keep us in eternal life. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Copyright acknowledgement

Common Worship: material included in this service is copyright
© The Archbishop's Council 2000, 2006.

Psalm and Bible Reading – 4 – 8 May

Monday 4 May

Psalm 103

Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits –

who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

**who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,**

who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.

He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel:

**the Lord is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.**

He will not always accuse, nor will he harbour his anger for ever;

**he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.**

For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;

**as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.**

As a father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him;

**for he knows how we are formed,
he remembers that we are dust.**

The life of mortals is like grass, they flourish like a flower of the field;

**the wind blows over it and it is gone,
and its place remembers it no more.**

But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him,
and his righteousness with their children's children –

**with those who keep his covenant
and remember to obey his precepts.**

The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.

**Praise the Lord, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding,
who obey his word.**

Praise the Lord, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will.

Praise the Lord, all his works everywhere in his dominion.

Praise the Lord, my soul.

Luke 2:41-52

Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company, they travelled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, 'Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.'

Tuesday 5 May

Psalm 48

Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise,
in the city of our God, his holy mountain.

**Beautiful in its loftiness, the joy of the whole earth,
like the heights of Zaphon is Mount Zion, the city of the Great King.**

God is in her citadels; he has shown himself to be her fortress.

**When the kings joined forces, when they advanced together,
they saw her and were astounded; they fled in terror.**

Trembling seized them there, pain like that of a woman in labour.

You destroyed them like ships of Tarshish shattered by an east wind.

**As we have heard, so we have seen in the city of the Lord Almighty,
in the city of our God: God makes her secure for ever.**

Within your temple, O God, we meditate on your unfailing love.

**Like your name, O God, your praise reaches to the ends of the earth;
your right hand is filled with righteousness.**

Mount Zion rejoices, the villages of Judah are glad
because of your judgments.

Walk about Zion, go round her, count her towers,

consider well her ramparts, view her citadels,
that you may tell of them to the next generation.

**For this God is our God for ever and ever;
he will be our guide even to the end.**

Luke 3:1-14

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar – when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene – during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

‘A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
“Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.
Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low.
The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth.
And all people will see God’s salvation.”’

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptised by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our father.” For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The axe has been laid to the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.’

‘What should we do then?’ the crowd asked. John answered, ‘Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.’

Even tax collectors came to be baptised. ‘Teacher,’ they asked, ‘what should we do?’ ‘Don’t collect any more than you are required to,’ he told them.

Then some soldiers asked him, ‘And what should we do?’ He replied, ‘Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely – be content with your pay.’

Wednesday 6 May

Psalm 119.73-80

Your hands made me and formed me;
give me understanding to learn your commands.

**May those who fear you rejoice when they see me,
for I have put my hope in your word.**

I know, Lord, that your laws are righteous,
and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me.

**May your unfailing love be my comfort,
according to your promise to your servant.**

Let your compassion come to me that I may live, for your law is my delight.

**May the arrogant be put to shame for wronging me without cause;
but I will meditate on your precepts.**

May those who fear you turn to me, those who understand your statutes.

**May I wholeheartedly follow your decrees,
that I may not be put to shame.**

Luke 3:15-22

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. John answered them all, ‘I baptise you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.’ And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of his marriage to Herodias, his brother’s wife, and all the other evil things he had done, Herod added this to them all: he locked John up in prison.

When all the people were being baptised, Jesus was baptised too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: ‘You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.’

Thursday 7 May

Psalm 56

Be merciful to me, my God, for my enemies are in hot pursuit;
all day long they press their attack.

**My adversaries pursue me all day long;
in their pride many are attacking me.**

When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.

**In God, whose word I praise – in God I trust and am not afraid.
What can mere mortals do to me?**

All day long they twist my words; all their schemes are for my ruin.

They conspire, they lurk, they watch my steps, hoping to take my life.

Because of their wickedness do not let them escape;
in your anger, God, bring the nations down.

**Record my misery;
list my tears on your scroll – are they not in your record?**

Then my enemies will turn back when I call for help.
By this I will know that God is for me.

**In God, whose word I praise, in the Lord, whose word I praise –
in God I trust and am not afraid. What can man do to me?**

**I am under vows to you, my God;
I will present my thank-offerings to you.**

For you have delivered me from death and my feet from stumbling,
that I may walk before God in the light of life.

Luke 4:1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.'

Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Man shall not live on bread alone."'

The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, 'I will give you all their authority and splendour; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be yours.'

Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down from here. For it is written:

“He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully;
they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot
against a stone.”

Jesus answered, 'It is said: "Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

Friday 8 May

Psalm 54

Save me, O God, by your name; vindicate me by your might.

Hear my prayer, O God; listen to the words of my mouth.

Arrogant foes are attacking me;

ruthless people are trying to kill me – people without regard for God.

Surely God is my help; the Lord is the one who sustains me.

Let evil recoil on those who slander me; in your faithfulness destroy them.

I will sacrifice a freewill offering to you;

I will praise your name, Lord, for it is good.

You have delivered me from all my troubles,

and my eyes have looked in triumph on my foes.

Luke 4:14-30

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

‘The Spirit of the Lord is on me,

because he has anointed me

to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners

and recovery of sight for the blind,

to set the oppressed free,

to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, ‘Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.’

All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. ‘Isn’t this Joseph’s son?’ they asked.

Jesus said to them, ‘Surely you will quote this proverb to me: “Physician, heal yourself!” And you will tell me, “Do here in your home town what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.”’

‘Truly I tell you,’ he continued, ‘no prophet is accepted in his home town. I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed – only Naaman the Syrian.’

All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.