

# 2nd Sunday in Lent

28 February 2021

## Opening prayers

God is spirit.

Let us worship him in spirit and truth.

The Lord is with us.

Let us praise his name together.

Amen.

## Prayers of penitence

St Paul says

‘Be imitators of God;

love as Christ loved;

do not grieve the Holy Spirit;

put away all anger and bitterness,

all slander and malice.’

So let us confess our sins to God,

who forgives us in Christ.

## *Silence is kept*

We have not held out the word of life  
in a dark and twisted world:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We have failed to share our bread with the hungry:  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

We have closed our hearts to the love of God:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon us,  
pardon and deliver us from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,  
and keep us in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **Collect**

Almighty God,  
by the prayer and discipline of Lent  
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,  
and by following in his Way  
come to share in his glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **Readings**

**Gen 17.1-7,15-16**

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.'

God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

### **From the letter of Paul to the Romans 4.13-25**

The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, ‘I have made you the father of many nations’)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become ‘the father of many nations’, according to what was said, ‘So numerous shall your descendants be.’ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith ‘was reckoned to him as righteousness.’ Now the words, ‘it was reckoned to him’, were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

## Hymn

Will you come and follow me  
if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don’t know  
and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown,  
will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown  
in you and you in me?

Will you leave your self behind  
if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
should your life attract or scare,  
will you let me answer prayer  
in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see  
if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free  
and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean  
and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean  
in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide  
if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
to reshape the world around  
through my sight and touch and sound  
in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true  
when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
in you and you in me.

Watch a recording:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FPlVQEsMYUA&ab\\_channel=MuseTalkChristianNetwork](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FPlVQEsMYUA&ab_channel=MuseTalkChristianNetwork)

## **The Gospel**

### **Mark 8.31-38**

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit

them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?  
Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?  
Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this  
adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of  
Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory  
of his Father with the holy angels.'

Sermon by Matthew Bull

Prayers for the church and the world

*The response to each petition*

Lord, in the silence  
Hear our prayer

The Lords 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.

## Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks and praise for all God's gifts

*Silence is kept*

For birth and life and strength of body,  
for safety and shelter and food,  
we give you thanks:

**we praise your holy name.**

For sight and hearing and the beauty of nature,  
for words and music and the power of thought,  
we give you thanks:

**we praise your holy name.**

For work and leisure and the joy of achieving,  
for conscience and will and depth of feeling,  
we give you thanks:

**we praise your holy name.**

For grace and truth in Jesus Christ,  
for the gifts of the Spirit and the hope of heaven,  
we give you thanks:

**we praise your holy name.**

Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.



## The Peace

We are the body of Christ.  
In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.  
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace  
and builds up our common life.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

## Closing Prayers

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant,  
and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation:  
give us the courage to follow you  
and to proclaim you as Lord and King,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
**Amen.**

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord  
**We go in peace. Amen**