

Easingwold with Raskelf



Lent

Hymn Forty days and forty nights

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m5Nq4YXlcX8>

In the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.

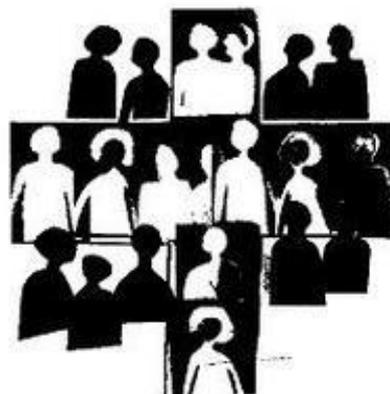
Amen

The Lord be with you,

And also with you.

Prayer of Preparation

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**



Prayers of Penitence (*sit or kneel*)

The Commandments or the Summary of the Law.

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: The first commandment is this:
'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'
The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'
There is no other commandment greater than these.
On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

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.

Lenten Prose

**Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:
for we have sinned against thee.**

To thee, Redeemer, on thy throne of glory: lift we our weeping eyes in holy
pleadings: listen, O Jesu, to our supplications. **R**

O thou chief cornerstone, right hand of the Father: way of salvation, gate of life
celestial: cleanse thou our sinful souls from all defilement. **R**

God, we implore thee, in thy glory seated: bow down and hearken to thy
weeping children: pity and pardon all our grievous trespasses. **R**

Sins oft committed, now we lay before thee: with true contrition, now no more
we veil them: grant us, Redeemer, loving absolution. **R**

Innocent captive, taken unresisting: falsely accused, and for us sinners
sentenced, save us, we pray thee, Jesu, our Redeemer. **R**

Absolution

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

The Collect

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

The Ministry of the Word

Reading

1 Peter 3.18-22

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

All Glory to you, O Lord.

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.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

Who do we think of when we think of Jesus? We think of the Son of God, the King of Kings, Majesty part of the triune with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit, these are all good answers but they concentrate on the divine side of Christ. We know that Christ was fully divine and he was fully human but how often do we think of the human side of Jesus?

John's Gospel chapter 1 tells us that "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us", God was not pretending to be human, he was human. The early chapters of the Bible demonstrate his human side more than the later ones; we have his earthly genealogy -a seed of David, we hear of how he was born of a human mother, and that he had brothers and sisters. We also know that he was obviously very human in his appearance, just think of the woman at the well, all that she saw was a Jewish man, and someone who she should hate. So, there was nothing special about the way that he looked. Even after the resurrection, his earthly appearance was very human, Mary mistook him for the gardener and if we think of the road to Emmaus, the two companions chatted away as if they were talking to an ordinary stranger.

What was Jesus as a human being like as a person? From stories in the Bible we can see that he was definitely human; he was hungry and ate - Jesus was criticised for eating and drinking with sinners, he became tired and fell asleep on a boat and on the cross, he felt pain.

He also showed human emotions, he had compassion, on those who were troubled, he was grateful to Mary for pouring nard over his feet, and he felt grief when his friend Lazarus died.

As a child he grew up, initially learning from his parents and then from those around him. He didn't always do as his parents wanted, we have all been there with our own parents, but he had learned the valuable lesson of standing up for himself. He had friends who supported him, and he supported them, he was a sociable human being.

Even though he was divine, not everybody liked him, the Pharisees and the Sadducees tried to trick him and even one of his so-called friends sold him to the authorities.

Through all of these he grew up and matured, he learned to deal with his critics and awkward people, as learned how to be a friend and how to treat people.

How was God present in Jesus' humanity? Our Gospel reading today gives us a clue. One question that this text poses is, why did Jesus get baptised? He was fully divine, he didn't need to be baptised? Baptism is about turning away from what is wrong and being cleansed from our sins, Jesus was the perfect human, he didn't need to repent. Jesus' baptism signified publicly that He was

committed to honouring the promises that he had made to his Heavenly Father.

This was the start of Jesus' ministry, so this was important, He was setting an example for us all to follow. As the Bible says, He needed to be Baptised to "fulfil all righteousness" and if Jesus needed to do this then so do we. At our baptism we are baptised in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and following his example which unites us with Christ.

After his baptism, Jesus was taken to the desert to be tempted by the Devil. Not many people go without food for forty days but some do as part of their Lent fasting. At the end of this time the body is weak, lack of vitamins would mean that if he cut himself, he would not heal as quickly and at night-time he would feel the cold. Jesus would have suffered. Jesus was at one of his lowest point and then he was tempted. We are given very few details in Mark's Gospel about how he was tempted, other Gospel writers gave us those details. They tell us that his human side of hunger was used to tempt him, "turn these stones into food!" Jesus resisted. Next, His faith was tested about how much he trusted God, and finally His obedience to follow God was tested. Again, Jesus resisted.

From this we can see that there is nothing wrong in being tempted, it is how we react to it. Jesus was tempted in every way that we are, he knew and understood what it was like to be fully human.

Jesus' human side overcame temptation, and this is an example for us all. On a daily basis we are tempted, and this influences our thoughts; we can't like everyone, especially if they have hurt us, how are we tempted to think about them? Lent brings further self-chosen temptations into our lives. If we look at how Jesus overcame his temptations then it can help us with ours. Matthew's Gospel tells us that God was behind all of his rationale to resist temptation and through this God's glory shone through; at his baptism, Mark tells us that God said, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased," at the end of the temptations, Jesus said "and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

The time is here for us all to repent and believe in the Good News, this message isn't just for the people of the day. God's voice could be heard saying that, "this is my Son," but now the son was ready, His human side was thoroughly tested, He was the perfect example to us all, He showed that God is for us now.

Sometimes we think that we can leave God out of some or all parts of our lives and that we are managing quite well without Him, but we do not know what is around the corner. We have a God who knows and understands what we are going through. He will understand how we feel at this present moment in time, especially as we are in lockdown as He was in the wilderness for forty days, this sociable human being was without human contact. We have a God who

understands us and is a friend to us, is an example to us, he even died on the cross for our sins. He is still there for us, all we have to do is put our trust in Him.

The Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.**

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

With confidence and trust let us pray to the Father.

For the one holy catholic and apostolic Church ...

let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion,

in your mercy hear us.

For the mission of the Church,

that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel
to the ends of the earth,
let us pray to the Father.
Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

For those preparing for baptism [and confirmation] ...
and for their teachers and sponsors,
let us pray to the Father.
Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

For peace in the world ...
that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow
among nations and peoples,
let us pray to the Father.
Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer ...
for refugees, prisoners, and all in danger;
that they may be relieved and protected,
let us pray to the Father.
Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

For those whom we have injured or offended,
let us pray to the Father.
Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

For grace to amend our lives and to further the reign of God,
let us pray to the Father.
Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

In communion with all those who have walked in the way of holiness ...
let us pray to the Father.
Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

God our Father,

in your love and goodness
you have taught us to come close to you in penitence
with prayer, fasting and generosity;
accept our Lenten discipline,
and when we fall by our weakness,
raise us up by your unfailing mercy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Peace

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us
access to his grace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All And also with you.

Blessing

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your
cross, and follow him; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen

Notices

Church Warden – it doesn't seem long since the last APCM but it will be held
in May. Alizon Leese will have completed her stint as church warden and so
we will be looking for a volunteer for this very important role. If you are
interested in this role, please speak to Margaret.

“The Children's Society are inviting urgent donations to support vulnerable
children and young people who have suffered particularly during the present
pandemic and lockdown. An article giving details will appear in the Parish
Magazine, but in the interim, Ian (Peel) would be pleased to hear from you if
you wish to know more”

Hymn Guide O thou great Redeemer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ofp6rdAgRrY>

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

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