



Sunday 29 March

CMS Gift Day

PREPARATION

Leader The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

Leader This is the day that the Lord has made.
All **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Hymn **560 Praise my soul the king of heaven**

<p>Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; to His feet thy tribute bring; ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who like thee His praise should sing?</p>	<p>Father-like He tends and spares us; well our feeble frame He knows; in His hands He gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes.</p>
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Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise Him! Praise Him!

Praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favour
to our fathers, in distress;
praise Him still the same for ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.

Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise Him! Praise Him!

Glorious in His faithfulness.

Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise Him! Praise Him!

Widely as His mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore Him;
ye behold Him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before
Him;
dwellers all in time and space.

Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise Him! Praise Him!

Praise with us the God of grace.

Henry Francis Lyte (1793–1847)

Introduction

Leader We have come together in the name of Christ
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,
to hear and receive God's holy word,
to pray for the needs of the world,
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins,

that by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

Confession

All Lord God, we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore to us the joy of your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Absolution *(we are reminded that God forgives all who repent)*

Leader May the Father of all mercies cleanse *us* from *our* sins,
and restore *us* in his image to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect – *fifth Sunday in Lent*

Leader Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **AMEN**

Video of Malcolm Prichard, CMS Mission Partner

See Notes and News for more information



Offering to CMS

See Notes and News for information on how to give

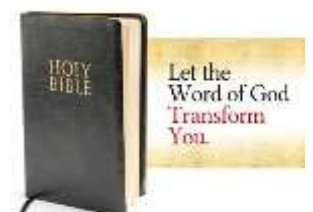
THE WORD OF GOD

Bible readings

Luke 18:35-43

³⁵As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging.

³⁶When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening.



³⁷They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by."
³⁸He called out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"
³⁹Those who led the way rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"
⁴⁰Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him,
⁴¹"What do you want me to do for you?" "Lord, I want to see," he replied.
⁴²Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has healed you."
⁴³Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God.

Hebrews 11:1-3

¹Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.
²This is what the ancients were commended for.
³By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

Sermon – Rev Sam Waako (*We explore God's word together*)

Jesus accepts those calling for mercy

We are continuing our sermon series this Lent, from Luke's gospel, looking at Jesus journey to Jerusalem and ultimately to the cross, focusing on those that Jesus met and accepted, even when they were rejected by many. So far, we have heard that Jesus accepts; the sinners and the lost, those who come in humility, both in their daily lives and in prayer, we have also heard that Jesus accepts the little children, and last Sunday in our first ever virtual service on mothering Sunday, we heard that Jesus accepts the persistent in prayer. And this morning, the encounter between Jesus and the blind man from Luke 18.35-43, is a continuation of that persistency. From Mark's gospel, we know this blind man is Bartimaeus, his persistency in crying/shouting out all the more when he was being told to be quiet, is what gets him Jesus' attention. Persistency in prayer and Faith is what we need more of at this very challenging time for all of us. This blind beggar took hope in the messiah, He shamelessly cried out for Jesus' attention, hence why Jesus said, 'that it was his faith that allowed him to see.' Jesus heard and accepted his cry for mercy. Just like the blind beggar, the whole world is in a desperate situation, but no matter how desperate it is or gets, we can and should persist in calling out to Jesus in faith. His word promises that He will help us. Hebrews 11.1 describes Faith as, "...confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." The beginning point of faith is believing in God's character ~ He is who He says He is. And the end point, is believing in God's promises ~ He will do what he says.

What I also find fascinating about this encounter is that, even when Jesus can clearly see that this man is blind, Jesus still asks him in vs4, “what do you want me to do for you?” I believe by Jesus asking the man what he wants, He is asking him to put his desires into words. Hence why the blind man says, ‘Lord, let me receive my sight.’

Right now, we all have fears, worries, anxieties, many are in a state of panic... and rightly so. But how about we turn all these into prayer. Put them into words and bring them before God. That’s what faith is all about.

Conclusion

Last week, the Archbishops of York and that of Canterbury put out a message calling for a day of Prayer (22nd March). One of the platforms this message was on was Facebook. It was rather shocking and disappointing to see some of the comments on this post mocking the idea of prayer...which for me is equivalent to those who were rebuking the blind man to be quiet! But the Good news is that God hears and accepts our cries for mercy (help), because He is a God of compassion. So let us be encouraged to shout out for Mercy at this time.

Hymn 1100 Open the eyes of my heart, Lord

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord,
open the eyes of my heart.

I want to see You,
I want to see You.

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord,
open the eyes of my heart.

I want to see You,
I want to see You.

*To see You high and lifted up,
shining in the light of Your glory.
Pour out Your power and love,
as we sing, ‘Holy, holy, holy.’*

Repeat verse & chorus

Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy, holy,
holy, holy, holy, I want to see You.
Holy, holy, holy . . .

Paul Baloche © 1997 Integrity’s Hosanna! Music

Creed

(We declare our faith)

All

**I believe in God the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Testimony by Martin Maguire – new Parish Befriender

Pastoral befrienders course is what it says it is, identifying people in need, people who are in need of some TLC in their life, helping them in whichever way you can, without getting emotionally involved, whilst keeping an open and non-judgemental approach, if we are unable to help we then need to find out where we can guide them for help. Listening is the key.

St Peter's Church has been my Church of choice for almost 35 years, when I walked through the doors I was taken back by its simplicity, beauty and peacefulness.

During the years worshiping here, I have met some truly wonderful people, who stepped up to save me when in 1995 my life was ripped into pieces.

In January I was sacked from a job I loved, on the 25th my Mum died on her birthday, in September my Dad passed away of a broken heart, then in late October my then wife left me for another man.

I was on my own with 3 children, my life was at its lowest, I was so depressed I thought of committing suicide, when an angel walked into my life, and helped me turn my life around.

Since then my life has just gone from rubbish to awesome, I have 3 amazing children, 3 outstanding grandsons, the most beautiful caring wife who loves me and I love her.

The Cox family, Eric, Brenda, Helen and Stephanie, have taken me and all my baggage into their lives, it had its moments, we have God and lots of love in our lives, we are surviving.

As a befriender I never want anyone to go through what I have been through, if I can help them before they get down, so when your down, stop digging, look up for the light and love of God.

2020 has been a challenging year for us all, since Monday 23 March and the government's enforced self-isolation, since then God has shone his light on us all and bathed us in sunshine, which makes us all feel better.

I have been in the garden for 5 days, which has been amazing, reflecting on all that good in the world, watching spring busting into colour and brightening our world.

I look forward to being with you all again soon and celebrating the future together. God bless you all.

During my course I was asked to write a Psalm here it is.

*On my journey through life,
With its trouble and strife,
Through good times and bad,
I've been happy and sad,
I have God by my side
I'll let him be my guide.
Keeping love in my heart,
While I play my part.*

*He gives me directions on where to go,
Working in God's love,
I know I will grow,
As we journey together,*

*No matter the weather,
To make a better tomorrow.
Helping others with their sorrow.
While you supply our needs,
We will sow your seeds.*

*The past is the past
Thanks to God, it can never last,
As we leave darkness behind,
Keep God in our mind,
Give thanks for all He has done,
We'll give love to the three in one,
The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

PRAYERS

Prayers of Intercession

At this time of great concern across the world let us pause.....

Let us put aside our cares and worries for a moment and draw closer to God....

Think for a moment of something you can thank God for right now.



Father God, so often we pray for the things that we want or hope for. And sometimes we forget that we have so much to thank you for. So we thank you for loving us so much, that you sent your one and only Son to rescue us. We thank you for your good gifts, not that we deserve them, but given to us by your grace, through your Love, Faithfulness and Generosity. Help us to always be joyful in your presence, secure in the knowledge that you are looking after us. Thank you Father!
Lord in you mercy.....**hear our prayer.**

Father God, we pray for our mission partner Malcolm Pritchard who works for CMS in a theological college in Uganda and leads the English church at Christ Church in Gulu.

Uganda is in partial lockdown, the theological college and church are shut. Father God we pray for Malcolm as he experiences the loneliness of lockdown in a distant country far from his family. We pray you will help him cope with the anxieties this must produce.

Malcolm is also recovering from a bladder cancer operation. It was caught early and the indications are good, so Father God we pray that he will

continue to get better and that he will remain in good health. We ask that he will be able to rejoice in the knowledge of your loving presence and be comforted by your love.

Lord in your mercy.....**Hear our prayer.**

Father God, our world is a fragile place and we are a fragile people. We bring before you all the countries and people affected by the Corona virus. We pray that this threat to people everywhere will be defeated, so that we can all be free from the fear of this disease!

We pray for our country and our town and our church.

We pray Father for wisdom for the authorities, doctors and health service staff.

We pray your hand of protection on all those front-line medics who are treating the sick.

We pray for insight for those researching this disease.

We pray for the frightened, the sick and the bereaved.

Help us to trust you Lord and not to be fearful!

Help us Lord to help others and bring your love to them in this time of need.

Lord in you mercy.....**hear our prayer.**

Each one of US is known to God by name. He knows US and He loves US. So let us think about anyone we know who is not happy at the moment, anyone who is sad, unwell, or anxious and anyone who has contracted Covid-19. Bring them to God now .

We pray for: Peter & Eileen Bliss, Pat Moorse, Zoe Squilachi in hospital, Sarah & Mark Grubb, Joan Deacon, Mary Baker, Pearl Spiller and others. Lord in your mercy...**Hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer

Leader As our Saviour has taught us so we pray.

**All 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.**

CONCLUSION

Notices – see Notes and News

Hymn **582 Rock of ages cleft for me**

Rock of ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in Thee;
let the water and the blood,
from Thy riven side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure,
cleanse me from its guilt and
power.

Not the labour of my hands
can fulfil Thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears for ever flow,
all for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring,
simply to Thy cross I cling;
naked, come to Thee for dress,
helpless, look to Thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly;
wash me, Saviour, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
when mine eyes shall close in
death,
when I soar through tracts
unknown,
see Thee on Thy judgement throne;
Rock of ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in Thee.

Augustus Montague Toplady (1740–78)

Blessing

Leader The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself,
the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service,
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

The Grace

All **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
Be with us all evermore. Amen.**

Worshipping ▶ Loving ▶ Sharing ▶ Growing

