



## Daily readings, reflections and prayers

**Mon 29 June – Sun 5  
July**

### Morning Prayer

O Lord, open our lips **and our mouth shall  
proclaim your praise.**

In your resurrection, O Christ, **let heaven and  
earth rejoice. Alleluia.**

#### *A prayer of thanksgiving*

Blessed are you,  
the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
for you have blessed us in Christ with every  
spiritual blessing.

You chose us in Christ before the foundation of  
the world and destined us for adoption as your  
children.

In Christ we have the forgiveness of sins, an  
inheritance in your kingdom, the seal of your  
Spirit, and in him we live for the praise of your  
glory.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

#### *This opening prayer may be said*

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 Daily Psalm (please see the daily listing)**

#### **Scripture Reading**

#### **Gospel Canticle**

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.

#### **Prayers**

*Intercessions are offered (see daily  
suggestions) including*

- ¶ *for the day and its tasks*
- ¶ *for the world and its needs*
- ¶ *for the Church and her life*

#### **The Collect**

God our saviour,  
look on this wounded world  
in pity and in power;  
hold us fast to your promises of peace  
won for us by your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen

*The Lord's Prayer is said*

#### **The Conclusion**

Let us bless the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

## Monday 29 June

John 21. 15-22

Psalm 71

*Reflection: Today we remember the apostles Peter and Paul or just Peter in the Church's calendar. Many of us have a soft spot for Peter - the impetuous, reliable, trusting, non-trusting friend to Jesus, displaying the mix of emotions and actions which we may feel ourselves to have in our relationship with Christ.*

*Here we read of Jesus' generous re-instatement of Peter – a three-fold opportunity to affirm his allegiance which mirrors Peter's three-fold denial of Jesus in the events leading up to the Crucifixion.*

*Then there's the potential rivalry between the apostle 'who Jesus loved' – John and Peter on whom the church was built. Isn't it comforting to know that because Jesus lived a human life he is all too aware of our human foibles and so our small mindedness will come as no surprise to him. That's not to condone our behaviour when we allow self-centred feelings to dictate how we act and what we say but it does remind us that Jesus will intercede for us with the voice of experience.*

### **Prayer:**

The people of God, that we may proclaim the risen Lord by word and action, without human frailty impeding us  
Your own private prayers – including for the shops and businesses of the Parish as they prepare to be open under the new restrictions.

## Tuesday 30 June

Psalm 73

Luke 15. 11-end

*Reflection: It is fitting that we reflect on Psalm 73 the day after we thought about St Peter. For this Psalm starts out in such confident voice but then all too quickly it is as if the Psalmist looks at the world around him and his faith begins to look wobbly. We are led to think of Peter*

*bravely setting out to walk across the water to Jesus and all too quickly getting anxious and beginning to sink! (Matt 14. 22-33) For it seems to the Psalmist after his initial outburst of faithful praise that those who are not trusting in God are doing far better than him – carefree, with good health and no struggles. None of what he was seeing made sense to the Psalmist. That is, until we get to verse 17. Then he enters the sanctuary of God and things fall into place.*

*He has wisely taken himself off to a place which would give him more of the divine perspective and this helps him to understand the final destiny of the wicked. They are not to be admired or envied for they will perish. The Psalmist knows now that it is good to stay close to God and to rely faithfully on the God of strength. Perhaps we are tempted sometimes to look at others and admire all they have but when we do that we are looking for (and admiring) the wrong things.*

### **Prayer:**

For God's creation, that the peoples of the earth may meet their responsibility to care and turn back from greedy ways of living.  
Your own private prayers including for those in our church family and for those who are isolated.

## Wednesday 2 July

Psalm 77

Luke 16. 1-18

*Reflection: This seems a peculiar example for Jesus to be setting for his listeners in the parable of the shrewd manager. Realising that his days are numbered in his master's employment the servant seeks to store up favours (at his master's expense) which he will be able to call on at a later date. What is commendable about this? It may help if we understand that the lending of money at interest was forbidden so many people got round this by lending in kind – wheat or oil or other commodities. So what the servant may have been writing-off was effectively the illegally obtained interest, rather than an*

amount of the debt. This may help us in our attitude to the story.

*But the bigger question is what do we do with bits of the Bible that we don't like? How do we deal with passages – especially of Jesus' teaching - which upset our 21<sup>st</sup> century sensitivities?*

*Do we despair and find an easier passage, do we reach an answer which is at odds with Jesus' identity and other teachings, do we find an answer which lets us off the hook of some of the tougher demands which Jesus made on his followers or do we admit we don't know and sit with that uncertainty and pray for the Holy Spirit to give us understanding?*

**Prayer:**

Those in despair and darkness that they may find the hope and light of Christ  
Your own private prayers giving thanks for the blessings which we receive and can share.

**Thursday 2 July**

Psalm 78. 1-39  
Luke 16. 19-end

*Reflection: We know the parable of Dives (the Rich Man) and Lazarus well. We have great poverty and great wealth described and perhaps we relax as we read Jesus telling this story because neither of those extremes represents us.*

*The rich man seems decent enough. Although he is guilty of earthly blindness to Lazarus' plight, he still cares enough for his family not to want them to suffer the same hellish fate as he is enduring, after his request for help for himself has been turned down. It is not an unreasonable request to warn his family but 'Abraham' will not take pity and refuses this request too.*

*But it is only when things have turned for the worse that Dives begins to look around himself and to really see. He has been guilty of overlooking what was before him for so long. His failure to see is often matched by ours and our inability to believe that a simple gesture can make all the difference. It wouldn't have cost*

*Dives anything he couldn't have afforded to help Lazarus but he just didn't see it.*

*This parable is one of the most telling examples of the topsy-turvyness of God's kingdom where the last shall be first and the first last; where those without earthly hope will be rewarded richly.*

**Prayer:**

Those in fear of becoming ill from whatever cause, especially those in our local Care Homes  
Your own private prayers including the schools and nurseries in the Parish.

**Friday 3 July**

Psalm 92  
John 11. 1-16

*Reflection: It's a busy week for apostle celebrations this week! Today we remember St Thomas and in the New Testament Lectionary reading specified for Morning Prayer today we turn to the story of the other Lazarus and his being raised from the dead by Jesus.*

*But the Psalm also provides us with rich pickings on this day of celebration and a link to the NT reading. This is a psalm of rejoicing and gratitude. Thanks is given for God's great works and profound wisdom. The palm tree and the cedars of Lebanon are both employed as images to represent the flourishing of those who into old age remain vibrant and faithful.*

*However it is in verse 2 that the link can be made with Thomas. We are reminded that it is good to proclaim God's love in the morning and his faithfulness at night. It reminds us that even in times of darkness when we are restless and in need of peace, we should acknowledge God. How often do problems at night feel amplified and overwhelming? It is with the coming of the new day that right vision is restored. So too as Lazarus is in the tomb we know that Jesus will bring all back into the light and Thomas is there to encourage all the other apostles to be with Jesus on that journey.*

**Prayer:**

For those who will be returning to work next week in the hospitality industry and those businesses in the Parish.

Your own private prayers including prayers of thanksgiving that Jesus is the Light of the World and shines his light in to the dark corners of the world and our lives.

**Saturday 4 July**

Psalm 76

Luke 17. 11-19

*Reflection: With time away to celebrate with St Thomas yesterday, the Lectionary passes over the opening verses of chapter 17 leaving, as the NIV puts, it 'Sin, Faith and Duty' to one side and we alight upon another story of miraculous healing – this time 'Ten healed of leprosy'.*

*This story surely has a fresh resonance for us in these days. We know in a new way about staying away from others, lest we infect them with disabling disease. We get that 'they stood at a distance' and had to speak loudly to be heard across the social distancing void.*

*We fear too that the poor display of gratitude would also be mirrored today. Out of ten healed men, only one returned to praise God . . . and that man a Samaritan. The foreigner already knew what it was like to be the odd one out - the unpopular (but in reality more likely hated) outsider. Yet he is the one who Jesus upholds as the faithful man who has acted well.*

*Here is another 'Good Samaritan' for us to admire and emulate. Luke doesn't suggest that the other leprous men were any less cured but they were less grateful. The Samaritan is told by Jesus to 'Rise up' with its overtones of resurrection to a new life. Christ's gift was for all - Jew and foreigner alike. Jesus looked at the heart and not the skin colour.*

**Prayer:**

Our country as new rules come into force today lifting previous restrictions: for those having to

implement them and that people will continue to act responsibly and stay safe.

**Sunday 5 July**

Psalm 145

Zechariah 9. 9-12

*Reflection: Our readings today are both exultant and joyful. The one from Zechariah is often heard on Palm Sunday with its prophetic telling of the events of Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey or colt. Peace is promised, freedom for captives. Perhaps we are reminded of the promises of Jesus - to proclaim freedom for prisoners, recovery of sight for the blind, release for the oppressed and the year of the Lord's favour. (Luke 4. 18-19)*

*In turn our response might be the words of Psalm 145. This is a Psalm of inclusivity and all – encompassing praise. In the opening verses we are reminded that through time, 'ever and ever', 'everyday' and throughout the generations there will be praise. Then later in the Psalm (from verse 9) the repetition of 'all' confirms that over-reaching and all powerful nature of God's glory and the praise and thanks which is due.*

*You may have got used to not being able to worship in church on a Sunday – that may all be changing. But today we are invited to reflect on the unchanging characteristics and acts of God and to put aside our temporary discomforts or disappointments and to 'praise his holy name for ever and ever'. Why not sing a hymn of praise which is a favourite for you. You may not be able to do that for a while in church but there's nothing to stop you at home!*

**Prayer:**

For all who are struggling with broken relationships and family tensions.

Your own private prayers including confession of your sins and prayers for yourself and your loved ones.