



Daily readings, reflections and prayers for Monday 4 – Sunday 10 May

Our Daily Worship this week takes the same form for both these written notes and our online Daily Worship. We are following the Lectionary gospel readings and so working through the early chapters of Luke. The Psalm is also listed and an abridged form of Morning Prayer from Common Worship for the season of Easter starts these Notes, which you could use each day with variations as you choose.

Morning Prayer for the Easter Season

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, 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. Amen

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*

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.

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 Psalm listed for each day)

Canticle

- 1 I will sing to the Lord, who has triumphed gloriously, the horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.
- 2 The Lord is my strength and my song and has become my salvation.
- 3 This is my God whom I will praise, the God of my forebears whom I will exalt.
- 4 The Lord is a warrior, the Lord is his name.
- 5 Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in power: your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy.
- 6 At the blast of your nostrils, the sea covered them; they sank as lead in the mighty waters.
- 7 In your unfailing love, O Lord, you lead the people whom you have redeemed.
- 8 And by your invincible strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling.
- 9 You will bring them in and plant them, O Lord, in the sanctuary which your hands have established.

Exodus 15.1b-3,6,10,13,17

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.

In your unfailing love, O Lord, you lead the people whom you have redeemed. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading (please see the Gospel Reading from Luke for each day)

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.

The Lord is risen from the tomb who for our sakes hung upon the tree. Alleluia.

Prayers

Intercessions are offered

¶ *for the day and its tasks*

¶ *for the world and its needs*

¶ *for the Church and her life*

The Collect

God of life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection has delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Lord's Prayer is said

The Conclusion

May the risen Christ grant us the joys of eternal life. Amen

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

Monday 4 May

Psalm 103

Gospel Reading: Luke 2. 41-end

Reflection:

The primary purpose of this scene (complete with possibly sulky teenager and harassed mother) is to show the young man, Jesus', extraordinary mastery of the Torah, evidenced by the discussion he had entered into with the Rabbis. But Luke doesn't spare us the personal side of the story – the family interactions - as indeed he doesn't in a later story (Luke 8.21). There are definite echoes when Jesus suggests his family are those not through blood ties but those who hear and practice the Word of God.

Whatever the arguments on the way back to Galilee that is the place to which the family return, although Mary can be left in no doubt that things are never going to be the same again and there will be a mixture of blessing and heartache in store.

Can you think of a time when you have been shown that the future will be a mixed bag of blessing and difficulty or when you became a Christian did you realise that things were going to change for you? How did you approach this? Were you able to trust in the God who loves you and find comfort in his promises to you? (Deut 3.16)

Prayer:

For the day and its tasks; the world and its needs

The people of God, that they may proclaim the risen Lord

Your own private prayers – including for front line staff and for adequate resourcing for them to do their jobs safely.

Tuesday 5 May

Psalm 139

Gospel Reading: Luke 3. 1-14

Reflection:

Luke pinpoints the beginning of John's ministry very clearly in history with reference to the rulers at the time but the geography is left pretty vague – 'in the desert' or more often 'in the wilderness'. But what is clear is that John is preaching a prophetic message of redemption – the need to turn around from current sinful behaviour and attitudes of mind and heart. John is very definitely looking forward but is encouraging his listeners to make small but profound changes in their present – share your clothes and your food with someone in need. He tells tax collectors (perhaps Matthew among them) not to collect more than they should and warns soldiers not to abuse their power by extorting money or falsely accusing others but instead to be content with what they have.

Jesus Christ will come into this same geography and forward-looking time in history with an equally practical approach to life. That stems from his incarnation – his becoming one with us. Jesus fulfils the old prophets and invites us into a new future. In his everyday dealing with people, he shows us how to live.

Prayer:

For the day and its tasks; the world and its needs

God's creation, that the peoples of the earth may meet their responsibility to care

Your own private prayers including for those in our church family and for those who are isolated.

Wednesday 6 April

Psalm 135

Gospel Reading: Luke 3. 15-22

Reflection:

In this reading we are introduced to the adult Jesus, but it is almost in passing. There is the first record exchange between the crowds and John as to whether he is the Messiah or Christ (both mean 'anointed one'). John shows himself to be the faithful forerunner as he leaves the crowd in no doubt that he is not fit even to tie the shoe laces of he who is to come. That must have left a lasting impression on his hearers and left them expectant and hungry for more; but not everyone. Herod, the local ruler, took exception to John's preaching and put him in prison. But as the 'warm-up' act is silenced so the main act takes the stage, not centre stage, but he has arrived on the scene.

This scene includes the wonderful presence of the Triune God– the voice of God the Father, the baptism of God the Son and the blessing of God the Holy Spirit and those powerful words 'This is my child whom I love, with whom I am well pleased'. Imagine God saying that to you today (and into the coming days) over and over again. Amen

Prayer:

For the day and its tasks; the world and its needs

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 you receive and can share.

Thursday 7 April

Psalm 118

Gospel Reading: Luke 4. 1-13

Reflection:

In this time of Easter our reading plunges us back into Lent – perhaps we thought we had done with that for another year! But as we expect this to be the day on which we hear when and how the lock-down may be partially lifted, perhaps it is a good time to think of us still in exile in a lonely wilderness. That is Jesus' fate for 40 days (the number '40' being used in the Bible to denote any long time).

The last of the three temptations has the devil taking Jesus to Jerusalem, a place to which Jesus' whole ministry and life will lead. For Jesus, Jerusalem would be a place of crisis, loss, pain and ultimately death. In preparation for that journey, Jesus' time in the wilderness allowed him mental space, free from distraction, where he could attend single-mindedly to the voice of God and confront his own inner demons.

Perhaps in this period of self-isolation you feel that you have been occupying such a time. May it have given you the opportunity to draw close to God to equip you for the rest of your journey wherever that may lead you.

Prayer:

For the day and its tasks; the world and its needs

Those in fear of death, that they may find faith through the resurrection

Your own private prayers including for those who are suffering from domestic abuse in any of its forms.

Friday 8 April

Psalm 33

Gospel Reading: Luke 4. 14-30

Reflection:

We're back, once again, on Jesus' home territory, Nazareth, where he has lived and played and grown up and worked. This is the backdrop for the launching of his ministry. With breath-taking nerve he declares himself to be the fulfilment of the prophecy in the book of Isaiah. At first it all seems to go well. They seem to be proud of their home-grown talent. But then Jesus takes it a step further. . . a step too far. Can you imagine the headlines in the local daily newspaper the next morning . . . "Local boy shocks synagogue faithful"! The reason why Jesus' fellow worshippers were outraged was because Jesus told them that the message of salvation which he was bringing (and for which they had waited long) would not be heard in Israel for 'No prophet is accepted in his home town.'

How often are we guilty, perhaps individually or corporately, of failing to hear words intended for us? We are blinded by prejudice or negativity perhaps we think we know better or are mistrustful of the speaker. But for whatever reason, we dismiss what we are told out of hand. We are right to be discerning about who we listen to and what we believe but we should be open to the possibility that God can speak to us through what may seem unlikely messengers.

Prayer:

For the day and its tasks; the world and its needs

Prisoners and captives

Your own private prayers including prayers of thanksgiving for the celebration of Easter this year even in such altered circumstances

Saturday 9 May

Psalm 34

Gospel Reading: Luke 4. 31-37

Reflection:

For many people the stories of Jesus performing miraculous healings, whilst an amazing display of his power, present us with difficulties today. Perhaps we struggle with the idea of miraculous physical healings at all in an age when we are now quicker to see someone who is 'not like us' as being differently-abled rather than disabled. Then there are the miraculous healings of those who are suffering a lack of mental or emotional well-being. The gospels describe some of these in terms of demon possession and some churches still do so too. Others today are more guarded and so don't quite know what to do with the stories of Jesus healings. But what we do know is that the authority which Jesus commanded was without question such that even the demon itself attested to Jesus' divine origins and this authority.

Also, don't overlook the detail which Luke provides to us. He tells us that the demon came out 'without injuring the man'. It is easy to overlook this and indeed Mark does not include it in his version of events. But Luke, ever the caring physician, wants us to be assured that Jesus's display of power was not without risk and that the welfare of the individual was as important as the battle with spiritual forces.

Prayer:

For the day and its tasks; the world and its needs

The leaders of our nation and in local government and those in authority with the power to make decisions which affect the lives of so many.

Your own private prayers including confession of your sins.

Sunday 10 May

Psalm 23

Gospel Reading: Luke 4. 38-44

Reflection

This story may bring a wry smile to our lips as we read about the widow who is miraculously healed so is then fit enough to serve a meal to the hungry men! But this is another story of Jesus reaching out to others with his power to heal and this time making it personal – in Simon Peter's home. It is easy to forget that the disciples had lives and families before they met Jesus and to appreciate the sacrifices which their families must have made, when their menfolk chose to follow the itinerant preacher.

Jesus is now bombarded by so much need – so many people seeking healing through his outstretched hands. Capernaum was likely to become overrun with his ministry and so he kept on the move to ensure that he would meet with more people and spread his message wider. But before this happened, Jesus needed to re-charge his batteries. So he did what he always did, which was to go to a solitary place and to pray.

Whether you are an introvert or an extrovert – whether you get your energy from other people or in quietness there is in each of us a God-shaped hole which needs filling. When did you last take some real time to be filled with God's presence, perhaps with his healing power, and be solitary with your Lord and Maker?

Prayer:

For the day and its tasks; the world and its needs

All who are struggling with broken relationships

Your own private prayers including for yourself and your loved ones