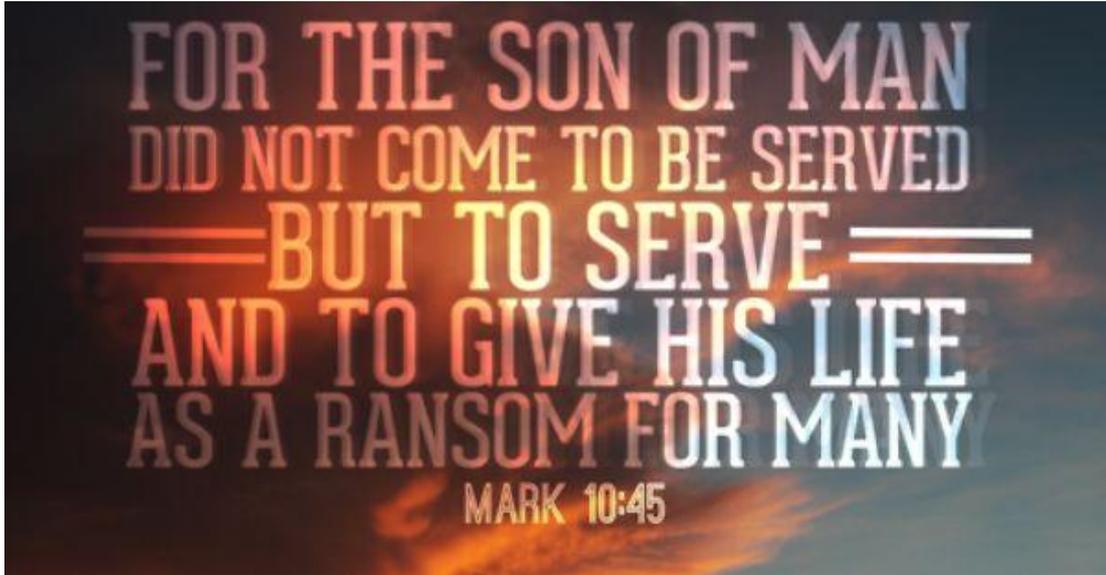


Written Service of the Word – Trinity 20
For all the Church Family



Gathering to worship God

Let us worship God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

This is the day that the Lord has made.
We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Words of welcome

Let us come together to be still,
to be known, loved, and held by God our creator,
to be thankful for all that God gives us,
to be healed and restored, that in our worship
today joy and gladness may refresh and renew us Amen

Saying sorry to God

Confession

God our Father,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins.
For turning away from you,
and ignoring your will for our lives;
Father, forgive us: save us and help us.
For behaving just as we wish,
without thinking of you;
Father, forgive us: save us and help us

For failing you by what we do
and think and say;
Father, forgive us: save us and help us.

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you
by temptations in the world about us;
Father, forgive us: save us and help us.

For living as if we were ashamed to belong to your Son;
Father, forgive us: save us and help us.

We say these words

**Blessed is the Lord for he has heard the voice of our
prayer; therefore shall our hearts dance for joy
and in our song we will praise our God.**

We say together the Gloria

All **Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the
Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the
Father. Amen.**

Collect, the prayer of the week is said.

God, our light and our salvation:
illuminate our lives, that we may see your
goodness in the land of the living, and looking on
your beauty may be changed into the likeness of
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hearing and responding to the Word of God

First Reading Isaiah 53.4-end

Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases;
we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.
But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have all turned to our own way,
and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.
By a perversion of justice he was taken away.
Who could have imagined his future?
For he was cut off from the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people.
They made his grave with the wicked
and his tomb with the rich,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain.
When you make his life an offering for sin,
he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;
through him the will of the Lord shall prosper.
Out of his anguish he shall see light;
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.
The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.
Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;
because he poured out himself to death,
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.
This is the word of the Lord - Thanks be to God

Second Reading Hebrew 5.1-10

Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not presume to take this honour, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you'; as he says also in another place, 'You are a priest for ever, according to the order of Melchizedek.'

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

This is the word of the Lord Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading Mark 10.35-45

Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, who was, and who is, and who is to come, the Almighty. Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark. Glory to you, O Lord

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, 'Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.' And he said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' And they said to him, 'Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.'

But Jesus said to them, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?' They replied, 'We are able.' Then Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.'

When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, 'You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

Thought of the week from Roots resources

Beavers have been locally extinct in the UK for many years but, recently, they have been reintroduced in just a few locations as an ecological experiment. Beavers work as a community, creating a lodge and dam that provides their family space and shelter. And in felling trees and making dams, they change the landscape, creating new wetland habitats for themselves, and for plants and other animals in the surrounding countryside. They bring new light and space and improve water quality. Of course, not everyone wants their land flooded or trees cut down, so they have their detractors too. It will be interesting to see how the experiment works out in years to come.

Leaving aside those ecological arguments and details, the broad description of beavers at work might be a helpful analogy for the gathered church. The church provides a place for a family, a community, to gather and shelter. Church members are called to serve and transform their local neighbourhood, flooding the area with God's unconditional love, bringing the light of Christ into people's lives, and improving the quality of those lives.

Last year, during the pandemic lockdowns, many people found new purpose in spending more time outside, finding or creating green spaces for reflection or recreation, or growing food in gardens and allotments. Others assisted in delivering food and supplies to those in isolation and financial need, whether directly or through food banks. In many places church communities, often in partnership with others, have been at the heart of this service. Maybe it is too soon to know what things have changed for ever – doors permanently opened; new and lasting ventures begun – but certainly the question has been posed.

And evolving needs may require us to change the way we think about our church buildings. After all, church did not stop when the buildings were closed! But now that we have them back, should we be looking at new ways to use these buildings? Can we make more use of them – open them up – as a place for worship, prayer and reflection, of course, but also as centres of care and hospitality in our community. To return to the beaver analogy: new habitats for young and old and everyone in between!

And what about those good old beavers? Well, the first experimental projects have been successful, and the beavers are still beavering away. Now they are to be introduced in other locations. May it be so with our endeavours as God's community. May our lives be surrendered into God's loving purposes, and may God's love be revealed more and more.

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?**

**We believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?**

**We believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?**

**This is the faith of the Church.
We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession – Mary

Let us pray

Dear Lord we pray for all who are disciples of Jesus today. We pray that God's Holy Spirit will pour into our hearts a love for each other that transcends human pride, ambition and selfishness. We pray that we may be true to your example of selfless giving and service.

Remove far from us those things which cause hurt to others. Plant seeds of joy and peace that love might grow and be shown as we live in harmony with all.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

Dear Lord, the beauty that is in you, and of you, and from you, is beyond all our imagining. Your truth shines like a beacon to shed light on our journey. Your power is beyond our imagining. Show us your glory, shine it down on us here in Castle Bromwich, you want us to be a generous people offering our time, talents and money to your service. Guard us, Lord, from holding back when we should be letting go and honouring you with all we have. We pray for the work of our Church here and abroad, we give thanks for Rev Robin as he leads us today in worship and we give thanks for our Church Wardens and our PCC as they help guide us into the future.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

Dear Lord, we pray for our families and friends, our colleagues and neighbours. We pray that in loving and serving those around us we may be working with you to make the kingdom of heaven a reality in this community. Let us not take pleasure and find glory in the power we have over each other, we achieve most when we share the weight of authority amongst us, so that each may be empowered in your name.

We pray that in loving and serving those around us we may be working with God to make the kingdom of heaven a reality in this community, and today we pray for all those living in Woodford Avenue, please keep them safe and protect them in their daily lives.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

Dear Lord our world is facing many trials and tribulations We pray for all who are caught up in the midst of tragedy or disaster, those who have lost life and those working to save

it, those who are worried about people they love, those who will see their loved ones no longer, those in need of the peace, those who turn to you in the midst of turmoil, those who cry out to you in fear and in love, those in confusion and despair, those whose tears are yet to dry and those who are desperately in need of your unending love
As evenings grow dark and temperatures fall we remember those who have slipped through the welfare net and become homeless even in our own city. We pray for those who work with the outcasts of society to give some comfort, a listening ear or a word of hope.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

Loving God, we pray for all who bear the burdens of pain, bereavement, anxiety and depression. We pray that they may have an awareness of your presence and an understanding that you are bearing those burdens with them and always working towards their healing and wholeness.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

We remember with thankfulness and gratitude all those who have left their mark on our lives by giving us love and laughter, but who have now gone before us to be with Christ. We hold them in our hearts, knowing that you, Lord, hold them in yours.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

Lord Jesus, help us to follow you in our daily lives - and in so doing to serve our neighbour in all humility, knowing that we also serve you, we thank you that you are always more ready to hear our prayers and to respond to them, help us to become part of that response to others. Amen

Merciful Father accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Peace

God has made us one in Christ.
He has set his seal upon us,
and as a pledge of what is to come
has given us the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

The peace of the Lord be with us always Amen

We say the Lord's 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.

An act of Spiritual Communion

You may wish to find a space for prayer in front of a cross, a candle, or a special place.

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the bread of life and the one true vine. We believe that you are truly present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist.
We seek you. We worship and adore you. Since we cannot receive you in the Eucharistic bread and wine, We pray that you will come into our hearts and souls, that we may be united to you, by your all-powerful and ever-present Holy Spirit.

Let us receive you, and be nourished by you.
Become for us the manna in our wilderness, the bread of angels for our very human journey through time, a foretaste of the heavenly banquet, and solace in the hour of our death. We pray all this, trusting that you yourself are our Life, our Peace, and our everlasting Joy. Amen.

Continue to serve God during this difficult time

God our Father,
whose Son, the light unfailing,
has come from heaven to deliver the world from the
darkness of ignorance:

let these holy mysteries open the eyes of our
understanding that we may know the way of life,
and walk in it without stumbling;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

A sending out prayer

We go to serve the one who served us
by giving his life, by showing the way;
may Jesus guide us and be near us
as we leave this place today. Amen..

Go in the spirit of servanthood:
not to lord it over others,
but to serve, in the manner of our Lord.
And if suffering comes your way,
take courage; he suffered, too.
And if you are brought low, have faith; he was, too.
Follow him always, in all your ways.

Let us bless the Lord:
**Blessing, honour and glory be ours,
here and everywhere, now and for ever. Amen.**

Filled with the Spirit's power,
We go in the light and peace of Christ. Amen.

See videos and website for Martin's music

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