

# Morning Prayer

at home with your  
Parish Church

in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS  
KINGS HEATH

## Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2025

*Sunday next before Lent*

### Preparation

*You may wish to mark your time of worship by arranging a table with a cloth, a candle and your Bible, or anything, such as flowers, that makes it a special reflective space.*

*Music: click on the links to hear and join in the music. Click stop at the end of each.*

**HYMN** *We pause to remember this past week marked the third anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine.*

#### [Peace, perfect peace, in this dark world of sin](#)

1. Peace, perfect peace, in this dark world of sin?  
The blood of Jesus whispers peace within.
2. Peace, perfect peace, with sorrows surging round?  
In Jesus' presence naught but calm is found.
3. Peace, perfect peace, with loved ones far away?  
In Jesus' keeping we are safe, and they.
4. Peace, perfect peace, our future all unknown?  
Jesus we know, and he is on the throne.
5. It is enough: earth's struggles soon shall cease,  
and Jesus call us to heav'n's perfect peace.

*(words: Edward Henry Bickersteth; music: George Thomas Caldbeck & Charles Vincent)*

*At home, we pause to remember those gathered in Church who, in turn remember us.*

*We take this time, united in 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 find new ways to serve God.*

## Prayers of Penitence

*We confess:*

Almighty God, long-suffering and of great goodness: I confess to you, I confess with my whole heart my neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments, my wrong doing, thinking and speaking: the hurts I have done to others, and good I have left undone. O God, forgive me, for I have sinned against you; and raise me to newness of life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*We keep silence, then pray:*

May almighty God who forgives all who truly repent have mercy upon us, pardon us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## The Word of God

OLD TESTAMENT READING Exodus 34:29-end

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterwards all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

PSALM 99 *If you are able, you might stand to read this psalm aloud.*

The LORD is king; let the peoples tremble!  
He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!  
The LORD is great in Zion;  
he is exalted over all the peoples.  
Let them praise your great and awesome name.  
Holy is he!  
Mighty King, lover of justice,  
you have established equity;  
you have executed justice  
and righteousness in Jacob.  
Extol the LORD our God;

worship at his footstool.  
Holy is he!

Moses and Aaron were among his priests,  
Samuel also was among those who called on his name.  
They cried to the LORD, and he answered them.  
He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud;  
they kept his decrees,  
and the statutes that he gave them.

O LORD our God, you answered them;  
you were a forgiving God to them,  
but an avenger of their wrongdoings.  
Extol the LORD our God,  
and worship at his holy mountain;  
for the LORD our God is holy.

#### GOSPEL READING Luke 9:28-36

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

#### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*We stand and turn to look in the direction of Church, to emphasise our gathering around a precious, shared story:*

**We declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ:**

**Christ died for our sins  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he was buried;  
he was raised to life on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
afterwards he appeared to his followers,  
and to all the apostles,  
this we have received and this we believe. Amen.** (cf 1 Corinthians 15:3-7)

# Prayers

We pray THE COLLECT for the Sunday next before Lent

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

We pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**All: Our Father in heaven...**

## FOR REFLECTION

*Transfiguration can happen both ways. I wonder if you have seen a face transfigured with sorrow as someone takes in devastating news.*

*I wonder if you have seen someone glowing with life and joy. Perhaps you've caught sight of someone in the street who looks so happy and confident that you wonder what news they have received that day. Perhaps you have encountered someone for whom you need a word like "radiant". Psalm 34 says, "look to the Lord and be radiant." The most radiant people, like Moses, probably don't realise they are. After all, self-consciousness or self-justification can be very distorting of beauty.*

*When Moses came down from the mountain, the people were intimidated by their sense of his holiness and radiance. Spend some time thinking about whether you ever feel a touch jealous of someone else's beauty or confidence. Can that feeling be turned into something more life-giving, perhaps through thanksgiving?*

*When Jesus' face, and indeed whole self, even clothing, shone with the glory of heaven the disciples were amazed and then when cloud covered them, Luke tells us, they were terrified. There was something about the loss of control and the scale of elation and wonder that they found disorientating. Usual anchors of reliable senses appraising the world were uprooted. The appearance of two ancient authority figures had scrambled even their sense of the ordinary progress of time. For a brief period they inhabited a realm where their usual measures didn't work. No wonder they didn't say anything when they went down the mountain. How could they make sense of it?*

*But when they looked back to this event after the death and resurrection of Jesus, with that lens, they could see and understand what was going on. This was not a moment of unreality. It was a moment of the most intense reality. It was a time when they saw in high definition what they could see every ordinary day in the person of Jesus: One with authority akin to Moses and Elijah; One who brought heaven to earth; One who brought the past and future to the present; One in whom God affirmed the beauty of humanity.*

*While we may be impressed that Jesus hangs out with such towering figures as Elijah and Moses, we can be moved that he nonetheless wanted his friends with him. This gives us something to pray for the people who seem untouchably powerful or authoritative: that they find the ordinary companionship they need in order to remain grounded and whole.*

*As we return our gaze from Jesus' transfiguration to our ordinary world, perhaps we can wonder, not at why someone is radiant, but rather why the radiant beauty of every human is so often suppressed or distorted. Jesus and the disciples heard the profound affirmation of his heavenly Father. Consider if there is anyone with whom you relate who you can affirm and encourage. Perhaps saying "well done," or expressing some pleasure you take in them might help that radiance re-emerge.*

*We turn our reflection into PRAYERS:*

Pray for any whom you see as downcast, or whose human beauty seems eclipsed by worry or who, being in an inappropriate role, their humanity seems distorted.

Picturing Jesus with Moses and Elijah, we pray for all positions of authority and leadership, that they may seek wise counsel and retain humility while having the confidence to bear the weight of office. We ask that God send them the companions and remind them of the examples they need to keep judgement sound and perception clear.

We pray for Bishop Esther, consecrated on Thursday, becoming our new Bishop of Aston.

We pray for Tariro as she prepares to take primary responsibility as Priest for Ascension Stirchley and Cotteridge Church.

As we pray for those who are unwell, we might find some of them surprise us with radiant faith, courage and dignity in the face of illness. For some we might pray that they be given moments of affirmation amidst their trials.

Among those who are unwell we pray for John Watling, Gill Parkin and Helga McKiernan.

Among those who have died, trusting they enjoy the unbounded glory of heaven, we remember John Wesson, Sheila Berry and Lesley Pitt.

HYMN [Father, Lord of all creation](#)

1. Father, Lord of all creation,  
ground of Being, Life and Love;  
height and depth beyond description  
only life in you can prove:  
you are mortal life's dependence:  
thought, speech, sight are ours by grace;  
yours is ev'ry hour's existence,  
sov'reign Lord of time and space.
2. Jesus Christ, the Man for Others,  
we, your people, make our prayer:  
help us love – as sisters, brothers –  
all whose burdens we can share.  
Where your name binds us together  
you, Lord Christ, will surely be;  
where no selfishness can sever  
there your love the world may see.

3. Holy Spirit, rushing, burning  
wind and flame of Pentecost,  
fire our hearts afresh with yearning  
to regain what we have lost.  
May your love unite our action,  
nevermore to speak alone:  
God, in us abolish faction,  
God, through us your love make known.

*(words: Stewart Cross;  
music: Cyril Vincent Taylor)*

*Imagining all whom we miss, we pray for each other:*

**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.**

**Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England**

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