

A Service of the Word in Lent

Preparation

The Lord our redeemer be with you
and also with you.

Opening Prayer

God of our days and years, we set this time apart for you.
Form us in the likeness of Christ so that our lives may glorify you.
Amen.

Hymn

The Beatitudes

Let us hear our Lord's blessing on those who follow him.
Blessed are the poor in spirit,
 for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness,
 for they shall be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.
Blessed are those who suffer persecution for
 righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Prayer of Preparation

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your
Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily
magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Confession and Forgiveness

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: The first commandment is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled against him.

Let us then renounce our wilfulness and ask his mercy by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Against you, you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The president declares God's forgiveness

The Word

First Reading(s) – Epistle or Old Testament

Psalm 130 (or another psalm)

Out of the depths I have called to you, Lord.

Let your ears be open to hear my voice.

My hope is in God's word.

If you recorded all our sins who could come before you?

My hope is in God's word.

There is forgiveness with you: therefore you shall be feared.

My hope is in God's word.

My soul is longing for the Lord,
more than those who watch for daybreak.

My hope is in God's word.

O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy.

My hope is in God's word.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

My hope is in God's word.

Gospel

Hymn

Sermon

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.**

**Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.**

**He humbled himself and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.**

**Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Hymn

Intercessions

This response may be used:

Lord, meet us in the silence: **and hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.**

The Collect

Conclusion

Hymn

Final Prayer

God of compassion, through your Son Jesus Christ
you have reconciled your people to yourself.

As we follow his example of prayer and fasting, may we obey you
with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love; through Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

A service from New Patterns for Worship, adapted.

Compilation copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2002.