

**Evensong (BCP) – Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February**  
**First Sunday of Lent**

Opening Sentence

Beloved, we are come together in the presence of Almighty God and of the whole company of heaven to offer unto him through our Lord Jesus Christ our worship and praise and thanksgiving; to make confession of our sins; to pray, as well for others as for ourselves, that we may know more truly the greatness of God's love and shew forth in our lives the fruits of his grace; and to ask on behalf of all such things as their well-being doth require.

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

*A general Confession to be said of the whole Congregation after the Minister, all kneeling.*

**ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, We have offended against thy holy laws, We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, And we have done those things which we ought not to have done, And there is no health in us: But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us miserable offenders; Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults, Restore thou them that are penitent, According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu our Lord: And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.**

*The Absolution or Remission of sins to be pronounced by the Priest, standing: the people still kneeling.*

May the Almighty and merciful Lord grant unto you pardon and remission of your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*Cantor (sung).* O Lord, open thou our lips.

*Answer.* **And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.**

*Cantor.* O God, make speed to save us.

*Answer.* **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

*Here, all standing up, the Cantor shall say,*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

*Answer.* **As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.**

**Amen.**

*Cantor.* Praise ye the Lord.

*Answer.* **The Lord's Name be praised.**

*Then shall be said the Psalm.*

**Psalm 119:17-32**

- 17 O DO well unto thy servant : that I may live, and keep thy word.  
18 Open thou mine eyes : that I may see the wondrous things of thy law.  
19 I am a stranger upon earth : O hide not thy commandments from me.  
20 My soul breaketh out for the very fervent desire : that it hath always unto thy judgements.  
21 Thou hast rebuked the proud : and cursed are they that do err from thy commandments.  
22 O turn from me shame and rebuke : for I have kept thy testimonies.  
23 Princes also did sit and speak against me : but thy servant is occupied in thy statutes.  
24 For thy testimonies are my delight : and my counsellors.  
25 MY soul cleaveth to the dust : O quicken thou me, according to thy word.  
26 I have acknowledged my ways, and thou heardest me : O teach me thy statutes.  
27 Make me to understand the way of thy commandments : and so shall I talk of thy wondrous works.  
28 My soul melteth away for very heaviness : comfort thou me according unto thy word.  
29 Take from me the way of lying : and cause thou me to make much of thy law.  
30 I have chosen the way of truth : and thy judgements have I laid before me.  
31 I have stuck unto thy testimonies : O Lord, confound me not.  
32 I will run the way of thy commandments : when thou hast set my heart at liberty.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

**Hymn: Lord Jesus, think on me** *sung by St Martin's Voices*

- 1 Lord Jesus, think on me,  
and purge away my sin;  
from earthborn passions set me free,  
and make me pure within.
- 2 Lord Jesus, think on me,  
with care and woe opprest;  
let me thy loving servant be,  
and taste thy promised rest.
- 3 Lord Jesus, think on me,  
amid the battle's strife;  
in all my pain and misery  
be thou my health and life.
- 4 Lord Jesus, think on me,

nor let me go astray;  
through darkness and perplexity  
point thou the heavenly way.

5 Lord Jesus, think on me,  
when flows the tempest high:  
when on doth rush the enemy  
O Saviour, be thou nigh.

6 Lord Jesus, think on me,  
that when the flood is past,  
I may the eternal brightness see,  
and share thy joy at last.

*Synesius of Cyrene (or Crete) 375-430, tr Allen WChatfield (1808-96) and others  
Mnoeo Christe*

*Then a Lesson of the Old Testament.*

### **Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7**

15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup>And the LORD God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; <sup>17</sup>but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

3Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; <sup>3</sup>but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die." ' <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; <sup>5</sup>for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' <sup>6</sup>So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

*And after that Magnificat (or the Song of the Blessed Virgin Mary).*

**MAGNIFICAT (SUNG)** *Luke 1*

MY soul doth magnify the Lord :  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded :  
the lowliness of his hand-maiden.

For behold, from henceforth :  
all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me :  
and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him :  
throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm :  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat :  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things :  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel :  
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :  
and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :  
world without end. Amen.

*Then a Lesson of the New Testament.*

### **Luke 13:31-end**

31 At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' <sup>32</sup>He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup>Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem." <sup>34</sup>Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I

desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup>See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord." '

*And after that Nunc dimittis (or the Song of Simeon).*

**NUNC DIMITTIS (SUNG) Luke 2.29**

LORD, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :  
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen :  
thy salvation;

Which thou hast prepared :  
before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles :  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :  
and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :  
world without end. Amen.

*Then shall be said or sung the Apostles' Creed, by the Minister and the people standing.*

**The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth:  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
Born of the Virgin Mary,  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
Was crucified, dead, and buried:  
He descended into hell;  
The third day he rose again from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven,  
And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;**

From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
The holy Catholick Church;  
The Communion of Saints;  
The Forgiveness of sins;  
The Resurrection of the body,  
And the Life everlasting.  
Amen.

*And after that these Prayers following, all devoutly kneeling: the Minister first pronouncing with a loud voice,*

*Minister.* The Lord be with you.

*Answer.* **And with thy spirit.**

*Minister.* Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Answer.* **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Then the Minister and people shall say the Lord's Prayer with a loud voice.*

**OUR Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.**

*Then the Cantor standing up shall sing,*

*Cantor.* O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

*Answer.* **And grant us thy salvation.**

*Cantor.* O Lord, save the Queen.

*Answer.* **And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**

*Cantor.* Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

*Answer.* **And make thy chosen people joyful.**

*Cantor.* O Lord, save thy people.

*Answer.* **And bless thine inheritance.**

*Cantor.* Give peace in our time, O Lord.

*Answer.* **Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.**

*Cantor.* O God, make clean our hearts within us.

*Answer.* **And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

*The First Collect at Evening Prayer*

ALMIGHTY and merciful God, of whose only gift it cometh that thy faithful people do unto thee true and laudable service: Grant, we beseech thee, that we may so faithfully serve thee in this life, that we fail not finally to attain thy heavenly promises; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Second Collect at Evening Prayer*

O GOD, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

*The Third Collect, for Aid against all Perils*

LIGHTEN our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*Intercessions, concluding with*

THE grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. **Amen.** *2 Corinthians 13.*

**Hymn: Jesu, lover of my soul** *sung by St Martin's Voices*

- 1 Jesu, lover of my soul,  
let me to thy bosom fly,  
while the gath'ring waters roll,  
while the tempest still is high:  
Hide me, O my Saviour, hide,  
till the storm of life is past;  
safe into the haven guide,  
O receive my soul at last.
- 2 Other refuge have I none,  
hangs my helpless soul on thee;  
leave, ah, leave me not alone,  
still support and comfort me.  
All my trust on thee is stayed,  
all my help from thee I bring;  
cover my defenceless head  
with the shadow of thy wing.
- 3 Plenteous grace with thee is found,

grace to cover all my sin;  
let the healing streams abound,  
make and keep me pure within.  
Thou of life the fountain art,  
freely let me take of thee,  
spring thou up within my heart,  
rise to all eternity.

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

*Homily*

*Blessing*

*Here endeth the Order of Evensong.*