

A Short Act of Worship, Sunday 21 February 2021

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with us all.

*Drop, drop, slow tears, and bathe those beautiful feet
which brought from Heaven the news and Prince of Peace:*

Cease not, wet eyes, his mercy to entreat; to cry for vengeance sin doth never cease.

In your deep floods drown all my faults and fears; nor let his eye see sin, but through my tears.

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

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love: fill us with your Spirit.
Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith: fill us with your Spirit.
Christ, have mercy.

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust: fill us with your Spirit.
Lord, have mercy.

May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins, and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

God's Word:

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

(Mark 1: 9-15)

Take a few moments of silence to think about these words.

*Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us, for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing every blessing, if our God our Father be.*

*Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us: all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us, thou didst feel its keenest woe;
lone and dreary, faint and weary, through the desert thou didst go.*

*Spirit of our God, descending, fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
love with every passion blending, pleasure that can never cloy:
thus provided, pardoned, guided, nothing can our peace destroy.*

Our prayers

With confidence and trust let us pray to the Father.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel
to the ends of the earth.

For peace in the world ... that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow
among nations and peoples.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer ... for refugees, prisoners, and all in
danger; that they may be relieved and protected.

For those whom we have injured or offended
and for grace to amend our lives and to further the reign of God.

In communion with all those who have walked in the way of holiness.

God our Father, in your love and goodness you have taught us to come close to you in penitence
prayer and generosity; accept our Lenten discipline, and when we fall by our weakness,
raise us up by your unfailing mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A pause for silence prayer

Our Father in heaven, (or) Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be your name ... hallowed be thy name ...

Holy God, our lives are laid open before you: rescue us from the chaos of sin and through
the death of your Son bring us healing and make us whole in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.

God, who from the death of sin raised us to new life in Christ,
keep us from falling and set us in the presence of his glory;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always. Amen