

## A Short Act of Worship, Sunday 28 February 2021

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

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.

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

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

*Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison.*

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:*

Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

*(Mark 8: 31-end)*

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

Oh God, you search me, and you know me. All my thoughts lie open to your gaze  
When I walk or lie down, you are before me: ever the maker and keeper of my days.

You know my resting and my rising. You discern my purpose from afar,  
and with love everlasting, you besiege me: in every moment of life or death, you are.

Before a word is on my tongue, Lord, you have known its meaning through and through.  
You are with me beyond my understanding: God of my present, my past and future, too.

Although your Spirit is upon me, still I search for shelter from your light.  
There is nowhere on Earth I can escape you: even the darkness is radiant in your sight.

For you created me and shaped me, gave me life within my mother's womb.  
For the wonder of who I am, I praise you: safe in your hands, all creation is made new.

*(Psalm 139 adapted by Bernadette Farrell)*

*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 ...

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through 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