Renewing HOPE
Pray • Serve • Grow

Edited by the Rt Revd Karen Gorham
and the Revd Canon Tom Clammer.

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God our Father,
renew our hope.
By the Holy Spirit’s power
strengthen us to pray readily,
serve joyfully
and grow abundantly
rejoicing in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.
Guidance

- This material, which follows the story of St Luke’s Gospel through Lent, is designed for use either individually at home or in a small group. It could also be used for a short time of prayer together in church each day during Lent.

- You may wish to use this as a framework for reading all of Luke’s Gospel during Lent.

- Read the short passage of Scripture and then leave a period of at least a few minutes of silent reflection. After each of the following sections (REFLECT, PRAY, ACT) also leave a short time of silence.

- The overall time for this could be from five or ten minutes to as much as half an hour.

- You may like to light a candle during the prayer time as a focus for attention and prayer.

- Some actions are practical while others are primarily reflective. They help us make the connection between prayer and daily living.

- You may find it helpful to incorporate the daily reflections in a short act of worship. At the end of this booklet we have provided a shorter form of the Daily Office, (the prayers that the Church says together morning and evening), to help with this. The material is optional and can be used as flexibly as required.
Introduction to the selections from the Gospel of Luke

Dividing the Gospel according to Luke into bite-sized chunks for a devotional resource like this has proved to be considerably more complicated than was the case last year with the Gospel according to Mark. This is the case not only because Luke is a considerably longer text, but also because some of his most famous passages consist of parables of considerable length. An editorial decision has therefore been made to omit most of these parables, and instead to include other sections of the gospel. It is recognised that this is not the only way of dividing this gospel into small passages, and those who wish to might find benefit in reading the entire gospel at some point during Lent, in order to contextualise the passages that have been selected.

Tom Clammer

Ash Wednesday - 6th March

Read: Luke 1:1-4
Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed.

Reflect: ‘... an orderly account... so that you may know the truth...’ Lent is an orderly time. 40 simpler days to work out what matters
through taking on prayer, fasting, being generous and giving to others. That is orderliness with room for surprises. 40 days is really 46 days because Sundays are extra, the first day of the week, the resurrection and a new order. For us the order in these days will include the discipline of reading, reflecting, praying and acting together. Christ who is the way, truth and life beckons us along towards the joy of God’s new order in Easter.

**Pray:** Most holy God, when we come to you fearing that truth condemns us, show us that truth is one with love in your Word made flesh, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Act:** Order your life so that you have time each day to read, reflect and pray together.

*Nicholas Holtam, Bishop of Salisbury.*

**Thursday 7th March**

**Read:** Luke 1:39-42
In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb’.

**Reflect:** One of the most exciting events in a pregnancy is feeling the first tentative movements of the baby in the womb. The first gentle flutterings give way to stronger, even painful, kicks as the baby grows. Imagine Elizabeth’s surprise as John ‘leapt’ in her
tummy – somersaulted for joy – when he sensed Jesus’ presence! Do our hearts leap with joy when we think about Our Lord?

**Pray:** For all expectant mothers and for the safe delivery of their children. Give thanks for the work of midwives and obstetricians. Pray especially for those whose babies have died before or just after birth and for those who support them.

**Act:** If you knit, does your local hospital need specialist baby clothes/shawls for poorly babies?

*Jane Lloyd, Chaplain at Poole Hospital.*

**Read:** Luke 2:1-7
All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**Reflect:** Two ordinary people made to travel, sign forms, jump though the hoops of bureaucracy. But they have a unique story to tell, and from them comes the One whose story will make sense of all our stories: Jesus is himself the treasure at the heart of the stories he will tell, the priceless treasure buried in an apparently ordinary field (see Matthew 14.44).
**Pray:** Lord, help me to see, hear, know, and treasure others as you do, and never let me try to set limits to what your grace can do.

**Act:** Picture the faces of two people you see in your routines – across a counter or in the street. Do something that will let you hear a bit of their story.

*R. Titley, Canon Treasurer, Salisbury Cathedral.*

**Saturday 9th March**

**Read:** Luke 2:21  
After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

**Reflect:** The naming of a child is a very special and significant event. As Jesus’ parents take him to be circumcised as required by the law, they name him. Only the name that is given is not one that they found in a book of baby names. It is not the most popular name for boys in the year 0! It is the name that was spoken to Mary by Gabriel in that astonishing Annunciation. It is a name so full of meaning and purpose – Jesus – Saviour, Rescuer. It shows God’s initiative towards humanity, doing for us what we could not do for ourselves, releasing us from captivity. What a privilege to proclaim the name of Jesus to a broken world!

**Pray:** Heavenly Father, Thank you for sending us a Rescuer; for the gift of Jesus. Thank you that by this name above all other names, we can be saved. Help us to be sensitive to opportunities to speak of him and to share the Good News that we carry, in Jesus name.
**Act:** Think of situation in your own life, and in our nation and the wider world, which needs a Saviour, or where release from captivity is needed. Lift them to God and pray in the powerful name of Jesus.

_Sarah Pix, Team Rector, Hampreston Benefice._

**Sunday 10th March - Lent 1**

**Read:** Luke 2:33-35
The child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, ‘This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed - and a sword will pierce your own soul too’.

**Reflect:** This is an amazing intergenerational moment: child, his parents, and old and faithful Simeon. Sometimes the future can be hard to accept, but nonetheless, needs to be lived out. In Gethsemane, Jesus prayed, “If it is your will, take this cup from me; yet, not my will, but yours be done”. The truth is that in accepting God’s will - and in following Christ - we journey in confidence, knowing he has gone before us.

**Pray:** Lord, you know my concerns, and my hopes. Guide and strengthen me, and help me to accept your will in my life.

**Act:** When you pray, go ahead and pray honestly. God understands our weaknesses. Jesus understands our human struggles.
Monday 11th March

Read: Luke 2:48-49, 52
When Jesus’ parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, ‘Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.’ He said to them, ‘Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?’ And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour

Reflect: A child is the most precious being. A child is often the most surprising being. Being a parent is often the source of significant worry. The child feels secure, the parent not, seeing with the wider vision of human experience. Jesus is no ordinary child though, both fully human and divine. Jesus is not lost. He is in his Heavenly Father’s care. We are too. To know that is wisdom. To seek is to find.

Pray: Father, when we feel lost, help us to place our trust in you in the Way of the unique Christ Child. May we too share in amazement and wonder as we search for your truth amidst the confusion of this life and feel secure in your house. May we find freedom from anxiety in trusting in your loving care.

Act: Offer affirming words of encouragement to others, especially youngsters and young parents, both at ‘home’ and ‘away’.

Andrew Rowland, Rector, Wimborne Minster and the Northern Villages.
Tuesday 12th March

Read: Luke 3:15-16
As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, ‘I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire’.

Reflect: One day at work at The South Canonry, I answered the phone. ‘Who’s speaking?’ I asked. ‘Justin Welby’ came the reply. It can be hard to remain ‘filled with expectation’ all the time. In our routine work, our expectations can become low. Although we may not answer the phone to the Archbishop every day, lots of other equally loved children of God do ring. Do I always remain conscious of that?

Pray: Loving Father, you look on us through eyes of love. Help me to look on those whom I encounter today as you look on me.

Act: When the phone rings, remember that on the other end of the line is a much loved sister or brother in God’s family.

Tony Monds, Chaplain to Bishop Nicholas.

Wednesday 13th March

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the
Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased’.

**Reflect:** The gift of the Holy Spirit enables us through adoption to be ‘beloved’ in God. It also empowers us to go out and share that same love with the world.

**Pray:** Heavenly Father, in Jesus’ name we ask for a fresh outpouring of your Holy Spirit. Help us to grow in our experience of your love, forgiveness and healing. Challenge our contentment to stay as we are. Renew our vision of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, that through our words and the way we live, others may be drawn to his way.

**Act:** How can we help others through the way we live our lives to feel beloved and drawn to Jesus who embraced all?

*Richard Hancock, Rural Field Officer for Dorset & Priest-in-Charge of the Handley Benefice.*

**Thursday 14th March**

**Read:** Luke 4:1-4

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.’ Jesus answered him, ‘It is written, “One does not live by bread alone”.'
Reflect: Many of us give up something we like for Lent in order to model Christ’s resistance of temptation in the wilderness. However, just ticking off the 40 days until we can eat chocolate or drink wine again would be to miss the point completely, as the devil does in the passage. We are more than simply slaves to our bodies. Rather, as Christ points out, we are spiritual beings too, sustained by the word of God.

Pray: Dear Lord, help us to see beyond earthly temptations and to appreciate fully that Jesus is the Bread of Life that our hearts yearn for.

Act: Tell others why you are making a small physical sacrifice in Lent and what it’s all for. Share your faith with them and encourage them to worship God with you.

Sarah Keen, Programme Manager, Rural Hope.

Friday 15th March

Read: Luke 4:14-15
Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

Reflect: Jesus ministered in the power of the Holy Spirit throughout his time on earth. He gives us a model for our Christian lives whether we are involved in Sunday services or contributing to our community or workplace. It can be very tempting to press on in our own strength but, if we allow him, the Holy Spirit will guide us and help us to see things from God the
Father’s perspective, perhaps giving fresh insights or new ways forward.

**Pray:** Holy Spirit, help us to be aware of your prompting and leading today.

**Act:** In the midst of the activities of your day, pause for a few moments. Take some deep breaths and acknowledge the Holy Spirit’s presence within you.

*Shirley Williams, LLM Christ Church, Creekmoor.*

**Saturday 16th March**

**Read:** Luke 4:28-30
When they heard Jesus, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

**Reflect:** My father, a farmer, had a strong personal and private faith, seeing God in the beauty of his creation. Contrast this with a young man whose faith and love for God tumbled out of his mouth, and oozed through his pores! It is a challenging to share truths of our faith with people in this present climate. We fear that we will not have the words to say, or that people will mock our seeming ‘naivety’. Jesus spoke challenging words in the synagogue and many were filled with discomfort at the truth he spoke. God’s presence and power though, saved him from death.
**Pray:** Heavenly Father, give us the confidence and words to share our faith, without fear of what people will think.

**Act:** Commit to speak to one person about your faith this advent.

*Penny Joyce, Retired Pioneer Minister and Ministry 4 Mission advocate.*

**Sunday 17th March – Lent 2**

**Read:** Luke 4:40-41
As the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various kinds of diseases brought them to Jesus; and he laid his hands on each of them and cured them. Demons also came out of many, shouting, ‘You are the Son of God!’ But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Messiah.

**Reflect:** ‘...he laid hands on each of them’ - could not the Son of God have healed them all at once? Of course he could, but he didn’t because each person was important to him, and each one came with their own need. Bishop Morris Maddocks explained Christian healing as, ‘Jesus meeting people at the point of their deepest need.’
Many stand in need of healing today but are too proud to ask. Jesus still waits with, now wounded hands outstretched, having borne the sin and suffering of the world.

**Pray:** Lord Jesus, lay your hands on me and those I bring to you.

**Act:** As you pray, picture Jesus laying hands on you and those you bring to him.
Monday 18th March

Read: Luke 5:8-11
Simon Peter fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, ‘Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!’ For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, ‘Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.’ When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Reflect: Place yourself in Simon Peter’s shoes. You’re amazed when confronted with the reality of Jesus’ power and authority. Your knees give way in the light of God’s holiness and your own sinfulness. Yet Jesus calls, commands and commissions you to join his mission. Obediently, joyfully, you respond leaving your boat on the beach. You leave everything behind to begin a new life as a disciple of Jesus.

Pray: Lord, thank you I don’t have to be afraid. Please give me faith to leave behind those things that prevent me from fully following you.

Act: What do I need to leave behind in order to faithfully follow Jesus today?

Craig Ryalls, Rector of St Paul’s, Salisbury.

Tuesday 19th March – St Joseph the Worker
Jesus went out and saw a tax-collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, ‘Follow me.’ And he got up, left everything, and followed him.

Reflect: Two surprises - and a challenge!
The first surprise for the people was that Jesus calls a tax collector - a socially unacceptable person. The second for me is the simplicity of Levi’s response.
Are there areas of our lives or people around us that feel excluded? What would it mean for them and us to ‘leave everything’ and follow Jesus?

Pray: God of surprises, you invite me to get up and follow you. I welcome your challenge.

Act: We all make choices about who is included in our lives and communities. My role with the diocese is about helping us together to make choices about our collective efforts. Today, let’s take one small step to include someone who seems excluded.

David Pain, Diocesan Secretary.

Wednesday 20th March

The Pharisees and scribes said to Jesus, ‘John’s disciples, like the disciples of the Pharisees, frequently fast and pray, but your disciples eat and drink.’ Jesus said to them, ‘you cannot make wedding-guests fast while the bridegroom is with them, can
you? The days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days’.

**Reflect:** As a village priest it is a privilege to be part of many family celebrations. Images of weddings, bridegrooms and feasts are often used by Jesus to point to the fullness of life in God’s kingdom. Mediterranean weddings last days not hours; they are open to all. Do we see our Christian lives as a celebration or a chore? Do others in our communities see that the invitation from God is open to all, not just a few?

**Pray:** That we might welcome the living God into our lives each day and recognise the joy of life in all its fullness.

**Act:** Look for opportunities to invite others to be part of the celebrations of the local Christian community.

*S Simon Weeden, Team Rector, Whitton Team Ministry.*

**Thursday 21st March**

**Read:** Luke 6:13-16
When day came, Jesus called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, and James, and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Simon, who was called the Zealot, and Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

**Reflect:** Jesus calls his people into active service, to become messengers of the Kingdom. Here twelve are called to be apostles, those who are sent. St Luke emphasises that many are called...the
seventy sent out in pairs, the women who financed and supported the group and many individuals, with differing talents and personalities. We too are called into his service. I give particular thanks for the ministry of retired clergy but the challenge is to us all. We all have something to offer.

**Pray:** Lord, I offer myself into your service,  
Show me what I can do for you and give me the will to do it.

**Act:** Thank someone for an act of love or service.  

*Ann Philp, Clergy Retirement Officer.*

**Friday 22nd March**

**Read:** Luke 6:20-22  
Jesus looked up at his disciples and said:  
‘Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the kingdom of God.  
‘Blessed are you who are hungry now,  
for you will be filled.  
‘Blessed are you who weep now,  
for you will laugh.  
‘Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man’.

**Reflect:** All of these scenarios Jesus gives are situations in which you would expect to feel completely disempowered, low and hopeless. Instead Jesus challenges us to see the reality of life with God. We are heirs of an incredible hope, and a joy which even the toughest of times cannot extinguish. Serving the homeless this
passage comes to life: Jesus can be found in those with nothing, whom society reject, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**Pray:** Lord Jesus help me to know afresh the love, joy, peace and hope to which I have been called as I trust in you.

**Act:** Donate some food or clothes to a Food Bank or homeless project.

*Jane Palmer, Assistant Curate, Trowbridge with Keevil.*

**Saturday 23rd March**

**Read:** Luke 6:24-26

‘But woe to you who are rich,
   for you have received your consolation.
‘Woe to you who are full now,
   for you will be hungry.
‘Woe to you who are laughing now,
   for you will mourn and weep.
‘Woe to you when all speak well of you,
   for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets’.

**Reflect:** The point Jesus is making through these woes isn’t that the riches in themselves are wrong, or that having enough to eat and enjoying some of the luxuries of life and being happy are wrong. Jesus is warning against looking to the pleasures and rewards of the world as our goals in life and putting all our energies into gaining these goals. Jesus grieves over lives where this world is everything. Jesus made a similar point when he said “What shall it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, and lose his soul?”
**Pray:** Lord help us to have an eternal and Christ-like perspective when thinking of our wants and needs and to be generous with all you have given us.

**Act:** Do you know someone struggling to make ends meet or know of a food bank or ministry that support those in need? What things of this life can you let go of to support the needs of others?

*Lorraine Dobbins, Team Vicar, Littlemoor, Weymouth.*

**Sunday 24th March – Lent 3**

**Read:** Luke 6:27-31
Jesus said, ‘Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you’.

**Reflect:** Jesus says, give to everyone who begs.
Begging became a criminal offense in Poole last autumn even though many of us wrote letters and signed petitions. Beggars can now be given a £100 fine which they have no means of paying and which shows complete lack of care or compassion for those whose only crime is to be poor.

*Give* to everyone who begs, Jesus says. They beg for money but they are also begging to be shown some small acts of love and kindness.
Pray: Jesus help me to find forgiveness for those who can only see beggars as rubbish to be cleared off our streets.

Act: Think about what more God might be asking us to do, in order to give compassionate help to those who beg.

*Pat Southgate, Chair of Routes to Roots Christian Action on Homelessness.*

Monday 25th March - Feast of the Annunciation

Jesus said, ‘Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back’.

Reflect: Most of our morality comes from some kind of annunciation: being our personal response to the claims upon us of another person. Each week, in encountering others, we have a thousand opportunities to decide ‘how do I react?’ ‘How do I multiply the good and minimise the bad?’ How, in other words, do I open my day to the grace of God abounding toward me?

Pray: Thank you, gracious God, for your immeasurable love and forgiveness. This day, may I not act from a lack of holiness, but give freely from all I have received in Christ, through your Spirit at work in me.
Act: If you spend time online, give thought to how you might counteract the escalating bitterness found in public conversation.

Andrew Rumsey, Bishop of Ramsbury.

Tuesday 26th March

Read: Luke 6:47-49

Jesus said, I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my words, and acts on them. That one is like a man building a house, who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock; when a flood arose, the river burst against that house but could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who hears and does not act is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the river burst against it, immediately it fell, and great was the ruin of that house’.

Reflect: We all know the story well – and the Sunday school song! Perhaps our familiarity makes us think smugly of ourselves to presume we are building on the rock. But Jesus says whoever hears my words and acts on them is like that. If we are really truthful are we putting all of Jesus’ teaching into action or just the bits that we find easier?

Pray: Lord help me not only to hear your word, but let it so grow in my heart that it affects all that I do, and that others may see you through me.

Act: What words of Jesus do you need to put into action today?

Lucy Holt, Rector, St James Poole.
Wednesday 27th March

Read: Luke 8:1-3
Jesus went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Herod’s steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their resources.

Reflect: There is a difference between a storyteller and a communicator. A storyteller reveals the conclusion at the end of their story, while the communicator starts with this news. Based on this, Jesus was a story teller par excellence, waiting to reveal all to the very end.

Pray: Lord, in today’s secular focused world, despite the work of generations of communicators, it’s the story itself that is missing from the lives of many. Help us to be re-storytellers, revealing your good news to those who have not heard it before.

Act: Think of just someone you might tell the story to. A work colleague, neighbour, family member. Find the time to sit over a cuppa or a meal. Be a re-storyteller this Lent.

Carole Peters-King, Diocesan Director of Communications.

Thursday 28th March

Read: Luke 8:5-8
‘A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on
the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold.’ As he said this, he called out, ‘Let anyone with ears to hear listen!’

**Reflect:** Imagine that you are a farmer. Could you sow that seed better? Can you cultivate the area better? Perhaps get rid of the stones and weeds. Perhaps plough the soil deeper to receive the seeds.

**Pray:** Loving Lord, we pray for all those people who grow things. For farmers who grow crops – for churches who grow disciples. We pray for all who grow to fruition in your love and nurturing.

**Act:** Plant a sunflower seed in a large pot with suitable compost and moisten. Keep in a warm, well-lit place. Watch it grow and marvel at its growth. Remove any weeds that appear. Watch it produce that wonderful, big flower head. Be prepared to re-pot if necessary!

*Richard Kirlew, Dorset Rural Officer.*

**Friday 29th March**

**Read:** Luke 8:11-15
Jesus explained the parable: ‘The seed is the word of God. The ones on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root;
they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away. As for what fell among the thorns, these are the ones who hear; but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance’.

Reflect: Jesus encourages us never to lose heart when spreading the message of God's Kingdom. There will always be some seeds that fail, but the ones that do grow can produce an unexpectedly large crop. God is generous in his giving.

Pray: Lord, help us sow the seeds of growth for your church. May we never lose heart when our seeds fall on rocky ground, or among weeds. May our sowing of your word produce an abundant harvest for your church today.

Act: Spring is seed planting time. Most packets contain more than we need. Share your leftover seeds with a neighbour. Include in the envelope the growing instructions and the Parable of the Sower. Then pray. Repeat with another packet and neighbour!

Andrew Sinclair, Rector of Bratton, Edington & Imber, Coulston and Erlestoke.

Saturday 30th March

Read: Luke 8:16-17
‘No one after lighting a lamp hides it under a jar, or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a lampstand, so that those who enter may see
the light. For nothing is hidden that will not be disclosed, nor is anything secret that will not become known and come to light’.

Reflect: Light illuminates, it breaks the darkness and helps us to see. Light can guide, bring confidence and assurance. Jesus calls his followers to be light and salt. Without his presence our lives can become dark, we struggle, become lost and uncertain. It is also why he asks us show his light in how we live that others may know him for themselves.

Pray: Loving Lord, give me confidence to reflect the light of your love to other people. Show me where and when I can make a difference. Help me to be a light when situations are dark, remembering that you call us to act for you in this world.

Act: What opportunities arise today to reflect the light of Christ?

Jackie Molnar, Executive Director, Salisbury Cathedral.

Sunday 31st March – Lent 4, Mothering Sunday

Read: Luke 8:19-21
Then his mother and his brothers came to Jesus, but they could not reach him because of the crowd. And he was told, ‘Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you.’ But he said to them, ‘My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it’.

Reflect: Being a disciple isn’t always easy or straightforward. Our relationships change, we have brothers and sisters in Christ, who become family for us. But that can create tensions within existing relationships. That’s not the only way that as disciples we live
differently from the ways of the world. How we use our time, our talents and our resources are all subject to Jesus’ way of doing things. Sometimes this takes us outside our comfort zone. Living generously can be hard work and sacrificial. It’s easy to become discouraged, to want to take an easier way, to carry a lighter cross; but we don’t walk this way alone. Those sisters and brothers in Christ are there to encourage and help as we seek to discern and live God’s way in the world.

**Pray:** Father, thank you for the family of Jesus’ disciples. May we help each other to discern and live as we seek to be faithful disciples of your son Jesus Christ.

**Act:** How does the way you live show that you are a disciple of Christ. What one action could make your discipleship even more apparent? Who could help you along the way?

*Penny Sayer, Archdeacon of Sherborne.*

**Monday 1st April**

**Read:** Luke 9:1-5
Jesus called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. He said to them, ‘Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money - not even an extra tunic. Whatever house you enter, stay there, and leave from there. Wherever they do not welcome you, as you are leaving that town shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them’.
Reflect: Jesus gives us the power and authority both to heal and to hear his call to work for the Kingdom, taking the Good News in to our communities and the World. What is your role?

Pray: Lord, you chose the twelve disciples to carry out this ministry. We pray that you will reveal to us the tasks that you have for us, give us the wisdom to recognise them and the strength to carry them out.

Act: Listen for God’s voice; in reflection, in prayer and in what others might say to you. Are you being called to act or called to a ministry or a vocation, or to go as the disciples did and share the Good News of Christ?

Robert Shuler, Lay Chair, Heytesbury Deanery.

Tuesday 2nd April

Read: Luke 9:14-17
Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Make the crowd sit down in groups of about fifty each.’ They did so and made them all sit down. And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. And all ate and were filled. What was left over was gathered up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

Reflect: Jesus gave priority to the needs of this huge crowd when he really wanted time for quiet reflection with his disciples. For him, human needs came first.
Pray: Thank you, Lord, that we are all able to help others. Please help me to be aware of others’ needs and to show sensitivity in approaching them.

Act: Is there someone with whom you could share the love of Christ today?

Penny Haigh, Dorset Archdeaconry LPA Officer, Affpuddle.

Wednesday 3rd April

Read: Luke 9:22-23
Jesus said, ‘The Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.’ Then he said to them all, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me’.

Reflect: It’s not as if Jesus wanted to suffer but he said he ‘must’. It was his mandate from his Father. But death would not to be the end: he would ‘be raised’. He does not say ‘rise’. It will be the Father’s doing. Following Jesus means surrendering one’s ambitions and plans every day trusting in God. It may not lead to martyrdom, but it will not always be convenient.

Pray: Into your hands O Lord I commit this and every day. Help me to accept what it presents and to follow your lead in everything I do.

Act: Do something that you have tried to avoid that will make someone’s life better.
Thursday 4th April

**Read:** Luke 9:46-48
An argument arose among the disciples as to which one of them was the greatest. But Jesus, aware of their inner thoughts, took a little child and put it by his side, and said to them, ‘Whoever welcomes this child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me; for the least among all of you is the greatest’.

**Reflect:** Jesus and this child are teaching the disciples. What is Jesus longing to teach us through the children we know?

**Pray:** Lord help us to be open to learning from the children in our families, in our schools and in our churches.

**Act:** Stop, listen, spend time with children you know. Learn from them.

*Lizzie Whitbread, Senior Adviser for Work with Children and Young People.*

Friday 5th April

**Read:** Luke 10:17-20
The seventy returned with joy, saying, ‘Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!’ Jesus said to them, ‘I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not
rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven’.

**Reflect:** A noise in the night is scary until you have identified it. The cat? An intruder? Identifying it helps you to respond. Jesus does this with evil: he gives it a name – here, ‘Satan’. He knows that, confronted by faithful prayer, evil loses its power. In my work, I often meet people who have had a brush with evil. Simple, genuine prayer is the best antidote. No dramatics needed!

**Pray:** Lord Jesus, present with us now in your risen power, enter into our bodies, minds and spirits. Protect us from all harm, and fill us with your healing and peace.

**Act:** Ask anyone you know who is troubled in body, mind or spirit if you might share this prayer with them.

> *Eric Woods, Rector of Sherborne.*

**Saturday 6th April**

**Read:** Luke 11:1-4

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.’ He said to them, ‘When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial’.
Reflect: Those opening words are striking. Place was important to Jesus – how often did he seek ‘a place apart’ to spend time in prayer with his Father? And how often do we? Or are maybe the words more important to us? There are very few here. Jesus is surely simply calling us to listen, to bask in the love of God, and to trust.

Pray: Father, help us to be still before you, to worship, to love, to forgive and experience your forgiveness – and to trust like a small child.

Act: Prayer is not difficult! Remind yourself of that today. Be free. ‘Be still, and know that I am God’. Listen and talk to your heavenly Father as you would a friend.

Joanna Abecassis, Rector, Bradford on Avon Holy Trinity, Westwood and Wingfield.

Sunday 7th April – Lent 5, Passion Sunday

Read: Luke 12:31b-34
‘Strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.
‘Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.’

Reflect: Anxiety about everyday life is a problem common to many people and is a symptom of the pressures that we live under today. We are too good at focusing on things that don’t really
matter and prioritising them above the people and things that do. These few verses challenge us to live by God’s values and priorities and to focus on him. If you were asked to say what was the real focus of your life – what would you say?

Pray: Gracious God, help us to free ourselves from the power of money and things and trust in you so that we are not afraid of the future.

Act: Value what you have already. Ask yourself if you really need to buy something else: more clothes, more books, more gadgets. Next time you pass someone selling the Big Issue buy one or consider making a regular donation to a charity supporting those in poverty.

Jill Hopkinson, Tutor in Rural Ministry, Sarum College.

Monday 8th April

Jesus said, ‘What is the kingdom of God like? And to what should I compare it? It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches’.

Reflect: What a surprise! When we think of a Kingdom, our imagination produces images of palaces, riches and splendour, built by kings. Now is the time to eliminate such preconceptions from our mind. The Kingdom of God is like a foundation stone or a mustard seed, which is already planted within us, but needs to grow into a Tree of Life, by ourselves through our spiritual journey.
**Pray:** King of Kings, help me to understand that I am fully responsible for my Tree of Life, that it is my choice to feed my mustard seed with water or to see it die, in every moment, in every action.

**Act:** Most of us have been conditioned to blame others for our shortcomings: parents, spouses, neighbours, media, politicians, weather etc – anything we can put the blame on! We never want to look at where the real problem is – ourselves. Let’s take full responsibility for everything that we experience in our lives – for our achievements, the quality of our relationships, the state of our health, our income, our feelings – everything! The Kingdom of God is a condition of our heart.

_Elena Oderstone, Lay member of the Bishop’s Council._

**Tuesday 9th April**

**Read:** Luke 15:8-10
Jesus said, ‘What woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, “Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.” Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents’.

**Reflect:** On something that you have found recently. Who did you share the good news with and how did you celebrate?
Pray: Dear Lord, help me pray for people who have experienced losses, material, physical or spiritual. I pray that you will help and guide them to seek and recover and to rejoice in their good fortune with friends and neighbours. Help me to feel the presence of the Angels of God in times of need and to rejoice in the nearness and support of God and the Holy Spirit.

Act: Reach out today. Is someone near you in need? Identify what you can do to help them and offer your support.

Nicky Irwin, Churchwarden and Lay Chair.

Wednesday 10th April

Read: Luke 17:20-21
Once Jesus was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was coming, and he answered, ‘The kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed; nor will they say, “Look, here it is!” or “There it is!” For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among you’.

Reflect: The Pharisees weren't the only ones confused about the Kingdom of God. Jesus spoke about it often, but the disciples didn’t get it. In the end he had to spell it out for them in words that they would understand: salt and light, seeds dying in the earth and bearing much fruit, treasure buried in a field. Jesus said, ‘The Kingdom of God is within you.’ Wherever God’s people are, the Kingdom of God is to be found.

Pray: ‘Come, Lord and open in us the gates of your kingdom,’ especially in those residing, working and volunteering in our prisons.
**Act:** Look for the Kingdom of God in the unlikely places, the people you encounter today and in the circumstances of your life.

*Geoff Hebbern, Anglican Chaplain HMP The Verne, Portland.*

**Thursday 11th April**

**Read:** Luke 18:25-30
Jesus said, ‘it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.’
Those who heard it said, ‘Then who can be saved?’ He replied, ‘What is impossible for mortals is possible for God.’
Then Peter said, ‘Look, we have left our homes and followed you.’
And he said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not get back very much more in this age, and in the age to come eternal life’.

**Reflect:** An encounter with Jesus can provoke and disturb us as much today as it did many centuries ago. As we fearfully cling to possessions, jobs or even our ministry, will we trust in him to give us the courage to examine our lives and then address demanding, sometime intractable, questions about our priorities and loyalties? What do you need to relinquish to follow Jesus?

**Pray:** Lord, our Creator and Redeemer, forgive the poverty of my understanding and grant me the riches of your grace that I may live gently and generously on this earth.

**Act:** In the next week, give something to another that the recipient will cherish. When you do, see Jesus smile.
Debrah McIsaac, LLM and member of Bishop’s Council.

Friday 12th April

Read: Luke 18:31-34
Jesus took the twelve aside and said to them, ‘See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. For he will be handed over to the Gentiles; and he will be mocked and insulted and spat upon. After they have flogged him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise again.’ But they understood nothing about all these things; in fact, what he said was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said.

Reflect: How hard for Jesus’ disciples! How easy to criticise them with 2,000 years of hindsight! Following Jesus to Jerusalem would be their big moment after his successes in Galilee, but they deserted him. We know his greatest triumph – his Easter resurrection – was yet to come. Jesus spoke forcefully. If we had heard him, would we have followed him any better?

Pray: Lord God, thank you for enlightenment from knowing the past. Forgive us for our comfort in the present. Walk with us into the future, whatever it holds.

Act: What difficulty lies ahead? Write about it. Take it to church each time from Palm Sunday to Easter. Pray about it. Does it seem different when committed to the crucified and Risen Jesus?

Richard Havergal, Licensed Lay Minister, North Bradley, Southwick, Heywood and Steeple Ashton.
Read: Luke 18:35-43
As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard a crowd going by, he asked what was happening. They told him, ‘Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.’ Then he shouted, ‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!’ Those who were in front sternly ordered him to be quiet; but he shouted even more loudly, ‘Son of David, have mercy on me!’ Jesus stood still and ordered the man to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ He said, ‘Lord, let me see again.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Receive your sight; your faith has saved you.’ Immediately he regained his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, praised God.

Reflect: When life becomes hard, the way ahead unclear and hope is fragile, we often cry out with the blind man, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” We are perplexed and dismayed if our cry is met with silence and Jesus appears to pass us by. But the God who Jesus reveals never passes by. He is with us now, as always and nothing, not our sin, not our perplexity, not even death itself; nothing can separate us from his love.

Pray: Heavenly Father, open our eyes to your gentle loving presence and when faith and hope are fragile, hold us in the palm of your hand.

Act: Be Christ’s hands and ears and soothing voice for someone in need today.
Palm Sunday

As Jesus was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,
‘Blessed is the king
  who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven,
  and glory in the highest heaven!’
Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, ‘Teacher, order your disciples to stop.’ He answered, ‘I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out’.

Reflect: When you step into the new St Peter’s Academy, you are confronted with a boat surrounded by stones. These are decorated with pictures and words representing the first thoughts of children, staff and visitors. The stones ‘shout out’ about the joy of each person who painted them. When Jesus entered Jerusalem, opinions were divided. Thank God for those who recognised who he was. Praise God that when people do not acknowledge Christ, creation speaks of his glory.

Pray: Lord, help me to speak up, to bless your name and tell of your love; that others might be blessed.

Act: Who can you ‘shout out’ to today about Jesus? Let God and others hear your praise for he who came ‘in the name of the Lord’.
Monday of Holy Week

Read: Luke 20:45-47
In the hearing of all the people Jesus said to the disciples, ‘Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and love to be greeted with respect in the market-places, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honour at banquets. They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation’.

Reflect: The scribes’ behaviour raises the issue of how a sense of entitlement corrupts human behaviour. The scribes have lost any sense of perspective and become blind to their own frailty. Worse still they now seek only to exploit the frailty of others. How does this happen? Through wilful blindness or, as Jesus hints, do others collude in their rise to prominence?

Pray: For all those in positions of authority that they may remember the responsibility of role, seek the welfare of the weakest in society and stay alert to the pitfalls of power.

Act: On the next clear night look up at the stars and reflect on how small you are in the universe and how big you are in God’s heart.

Lydia Cook, Rector, Okeford Benefice.

Tuesday of Holy Week
Read: Luke 21:1-4
Jesus looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. He said, ‘Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on’.

Reflect: On his way to the cross, is Jesus given courage by this poor widow in that he sees that his sacrifice will perhaps be recognised?

Pray: O God your treasury is made up of the tinkling gestures of kindness and cost that gives music to the language of faith. Protect us from the thrall of the impressive that we may notice the simple acts on which your Kingdom is built.

Act: Take two copper coins with you today and notice where and how the poor widow’s mite touches your day.

Mike Oates, Chaplain, Dorset HealthCare Trust.

Wednesday of Holy Week

Read: Luke 21:5-6
When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, Jesus said, ‘As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down’.

Reflect: After hearing this the disciples were desperate to know when this destruction would happen and what would be the signs. Jesus reassures us that none of that matters – we just need to
know that the Son of Man will return, being watchful and ready for when that time comes.

**Pray:** Lord, we pray for endurance in our waiting and obedience to follow you. In our watching and waiting, make our eyes expectant and our hearts full of faithfulness. When we face loss ourselves, or when all around us is in chaos, never let us lose sight of the God who loves and cares for us.

**Act:** Undertake every task that you do today anticipating the imminence of Jesus’ return.

*Debbie Albery, LPA and PA to the Bishop of Sherborne.*

**Maundy Thursday**

**Read:** Luke 22:47b-49
Judas approached Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him, ‘Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?’ When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, ‘Lord, should we strike with the sword?’ Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said, ‘No more of this!’ And he touched his ear and healed him.

**Reflect:** 2000 years on, what a recognisable scene. Very human emotions run high. The sting of betrayal made all the worse by its cloaking in a sign of love. A desire to defend so strong and immediate that it spills over. It’s the slave, the one with no voice, no guilt, no responsibility for events, who suffers. It’s the quiet hand of Christ that reaches out to heal in the moment of his deepest hurt.
Pray: Lord, when conflict flares, in our world, in our work, in our hearts, may our desire for justice meet your quiet touch of healing.

Act: The media and social media are often quicker to judge than reflect. Schools too: exams, inspection, assessment. Mental health can suffer. Today, stand back from the news and look for the vulnerable behind the headlines and statistics: the young, old or powerless. What would be Christ’s hand of healing?

Stella Wood, Chaplain, Godolphin School, Salisbury.

Good Friday

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun’s light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, ‘Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.’ Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, ‘Certainly this man was innocent’.

Reflect: ‘Hands that flung stars into space, to cruel nails surrendered’. Well sung but profound words from Graham Kendrick encapsulate the significance of Christ’s death. The reality and mystery of Good Friday cause us to ponder both humanity’s own unworthiness and God’s unconditional love; our unworthiness and God’s unconditional love; my unworthiness and God’s unconditional love.
**Pray:** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Act:** God shows his love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Let us then show our love for him by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

*cf Romans 5.8*

Karen Gorham, Bishop of Sherborne

**Holy Saturday**

**Read:** Luke 23:54-56

It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

**Reflect:** In the emptiness of grief we so often immerse ourselves in the practical, it feels reassuring to be doing something and so we can recognise the sorrow that is deeply woven into the actions of the women preparing the spices and ointments. Today our churches will be bare and silent because there are no words to fill the emptiness of the death of the Son of God. In this emptiness we are invited to just pause and be.

**Pray:** Lord Jesus, as we rest in the silence of this day, hold us as we turn from desolation to hope and from darkness to a glorious dawn.
Act: Find a church somewhere and very simply pause and spend some time in silence.

Andy Muckle, Assistant Curate of Gillingham and Milton-on-Stour.

Easter Day

Read: Luke 24:4-5
While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, ‘Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen’.

Reflect: What terrifies you?

It’s Easter Day. Christ is risen. You and I know that the women’s despair will be turned to hope.

But it is too soon for them. They have come to the place of the dead. And they have found...what?

Pray: Holy God, in the raising of your Son you dazzle us. We bow our faces before you, and pray that our fear might give way to faith in the One who is risen from the tomb.

Act: Enjoy the company of people who have faith in you. Notice the way their trust makes you feel. That’s what faith does with us. It dispels our fears. Not our doubts.

Nicholas Papadopulos, Dean of Salisbury.
A Brief Act of Worship

Gathering

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

*Do use the reading, reflection and prayer for today’s date at this point in the service. You might like to follow that with a profound period of silence.*

Canticle

After the silence, the Benedictus may be said (in the morning) or the Magnificat (in the afternoon or evening).

Benedictus

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, who has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets God promised of old to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us,
to show mercy to our ancestors,  
and to remember his holy covenant.  
This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
free to worship him without fear,  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.  
And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
To give his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of all their sins.  
In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.  

Luke 1: 68–79

Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;  
he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed;  
the Almighty has done great things for me  
and holy is his name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him,  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm  
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,  
casting down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.
He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,
to remember his promise of mercy,
the promise made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and his children for ever.

**Luke 1: 46–55**

*After either is said:*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:**
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be for ever. Amen.

**Prayers**

Lord God,
we ask you to give us your blessing;
to your church, holiness
to the world, peace
to our nation, justice
and to all people knowledge of your law:
keep safe our families,
protect the weak,
heal the sick,
comfort the dying,
and bring us all to a joyful resurrection;
**Amen.**

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us. 
And lead us not into temptation; 
but deliver us from evil. 
Amen.

Conclusion

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, 
and the love of God, 
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, 
be with us all ever more. Amen.