



Service for Week 10rd -16th
March 2025 1st Sunday in Lent.
By Chaplain Andy

Our Opening Prayer

Almighty God, we thank you for this season of Lent: a time to reflect on and assess the health of our faith.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven.....

Amen

Bible Reading Ps 27:

The LORD is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be afraid?
When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh,
when my enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble and fall. Though an army besiege me,
my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then will I be confident.

One thing I ask of the LORD,
this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD
and to seek him in his temple.
For in the day of trouble
he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle
and set me high upon a rock.
Then my head will be exalted
above the enemies who surround me;
at his tabernacle will I sacrifice with shouts of joy;

I will sing and make music to the LORD.

Hear my voice when I call, O LORD? be merciful to me and answer me. My heart says of you, "Seek his face!" Your face, LORD, I will seek. Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper. Do not reject me or forsake me, O God my Savior.

Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me.
Teach me your way, O LORD?
lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors. Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes, for false witnesses rise up against me, breathing out violence. I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.
Wait for the LORD? be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

2nd Bible Reading Lk13:31-35

At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, "Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you." He replied, "Go tell that fox, 'I will drive out demons and heal people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.' In any case, I must keep going today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem! "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a

hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'" Holy words, Holy wisdom, **Thanks be to God.**

Reflection

On this the second week in Lent we are getting nearer to Easter -Easter Sunday this year is on 20th April.

It is this time in Lent is when we remember that Jesus had taken the disciples with him around the towns and villages teaching and healing, but now those journeys were over and he had led them to approach Jerusalem.

What is interesting about our reading from Marks gospel is that the Pharisees the strict Jewish religious leaders who had often criticised Jesus, had claimed Jesus cast out demons with the help of the devil, did not believe he was the Messiah, actually tell Jesus not to come into Jerusalem because Herod wanted to kill him.

Jesus does not listen to their warning because he knows that he has to go now to Jerusalem to fulfil his mission. What was Jesus' mission? Some people might say that his mission was that Jesus was sent from God to die. The words of the hymn 'In Christ Alone' suggest that God's anger at the evil in the world was satisfied or cancelled out by the death of Jesus. It is the idea of atonement that has a basis in the ancient idea of sacrifice, that is killing

something that is innocent to put right something that is evil. A concept that I have always found difficult to understand.

My belief is that Jesus went to Jerusalem knowing that the religious leaders and civil authority would turn against him. He came to make us realise our human failings, failings which in his case led to an innocent man being put to death. He knew that the crowds of people who initially welcomed him would, in a very human way, very quickly turn against him and he would be condemned to die. However, he knew that although he would have to endure great physical suffering and even death that being of God he would come through it. He would break the cycle of life and death - the cycle which means that we will all in time physically die. Jesus' act of breaking that cycle was completed by his resurrection which gives each of us the hope and assurance that our lives do not end when we die because our spirit lives on eternally with God. What is more, is that we are forgiven by God for our wrongdoing and sins if we ask for forgiveness, are truly sorry and try to put right our mistakes in life.

Jesus died not because God was angry but because Jesus wanted us to know the truth about God's deep and eternal love for you and me. **Amen.**

Closing Prayer

Living God, nurture my feeble faith and help me to put you at the heart of this season of Lent.

Amen.

Prayers inspired by Prayerfully Yours by Nick Fawcett