

The Parish of Louth and Deanery of Louthesk

Weekly notes and information for
20th September 2020: 15th Sunday after Trinity

www.teamparishoflouth.org.uk



In all we do, we seek to live out Jesus' command to draw close to the love of God in
worship, and to share this by loving our neighbour



Collect Prayer at Daily Prayer during the week

KEEP, we beseech thee, O
Lord, thy Church with thy
perpetual mercy; and, because
the frailty of man without thee
cannot but fall, keep us ever
by thy help from all things
hurtful, and lead us to all
things profitable to our
salvation; through Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen.

Our churches: opening as places for prayer and reflection in our communities

The Parish Church of Louth St James will be open for private prayer between
10am and 4pm every day from Monday to Saturday

*Please see pages 2 and 3 for details of other churches that are open for private prayer across
the Deanery of Louthesk*

DIARY OF PRAYER & WORSHIP THIS WEEK...

Services marked * are streamed via www.facebook.com/louthchurch

Sunday 20th <i>15th Sunday</i> <i>Trinity</i>	10am	SUNG EUCHARIST at St James' (Nave)* Psalm 105.1-6,37-end Exodus 16.2-15; Philippians 1.21-end; Matt. 20.1-16 Missa simplex <i>Plainsong</i>
	10am	Holy Communion at North Thoresby
	10am	Utterby is open for private prayer until 12 noon
	10am	Holy Communion at Fulstow
	10am	Holy Communion at Marshchapel
	10 30am	Holy Communion at Manby
	10 30am	Morning Service at Grimoldby
	11am	Parish Mass at Ludford
	11 15am	Eucharist at Legbourne
	3pm	Evensong at Grainsby
6pm	CHORAL EVENSONG at St James' (Nave)* <i>Plainsong</i> Resp. Ps. 119.113-136 [49-64] <i>Plainsong</i> Canticles with antiphons Ezekiel 33.23,30-34.10; Acts 26.1, 9-25 Let the round world with songs rejoice <i>Plainsong</i>	
7pm	Louth APCM at St James'	
Monday 21st <i>Saint Matthew</i>	9 15am	MATINS at St James' (Nave) Psalm 49, 117; 1 Kings 19.15-end; 2 Timothy 3.14-end
	10am	Funeral at Alford Crematorium
	10am	St James' open for private prayer until 4pm
	7 30pm	COMPLINE at St James' (Nave)
Tuesday 22nd	9 15am	MORNING PRAYER at St James' (Nave)* Psalm 36; 1 Kings 8.63-9.9; Acts 16.25-end
	10am	St James' open for private prayer until 4pm
	11am	HOLY COMMUNION at St James' (Nave)*
	11 45am	Praying with the Bible (Lectio Divina)
	7 30pm	COMPLINE at St James' (Nave)*
Wednesday 23rd	9 15am	MATINS at St James' (Nave)* Psalm 34; 1 Kings 10.1-25; Acts 17.1-15
	10am	St James' open for private prayer until 4pm
	10am	Shine drop-in at Trinity Centre
	1pm	Grimoldby open for private prayer until 3pm
	1pm	Legbourne open for private prayer until 2 30pm
	2pm	Welton le Wold open for private prayer 'til 3pm
	6 30pm	Choir Rehearsal at St James'
	7 30pm	COMPLINE at St James' (Nave)*

Thursday 24th	9 15am	MATINS at St James' (Nave)* Psalm 37; 1 Kings 11.1-13; Acts 17.16-end
	10am	St James' open for private prayer until 4pm
	10am	Nth S'cotes open for private prayer until 12noon
	11am	Mass at St Michael's
	1pm	Manby open for private prayer until 3pm
	7 30pm	COMPLINE at St James' (Nave)*
Friday 25th	9 15am	MATINS at St James' (Nave)* Psalm 31; 1 Kings 11.26-end; Acts 18.1-21
	10am	St James' open for private prayer until 4pm
	4 30pm	Wedding at St James'
	7 30pm	COMPLINE at St James' (Nave)*
Saturday 26th	10am	St James' open for private prayer until 4pm
	11am	Wedding at South Elkington
	12 30pm	MIDDAY PRAYER at St James'
	4pm	Wedding at St James'
Sunday 27th <i>16th Sunday</i> <i>Trinity</i>	8 45am	Matins at Wold Newton
	10am	SUNG EUCHARIST at St James' (Nave)* Psalm 78.1-4, 12-16 Exodus 17.1-7; Philipians 2.1-13; Matthew 21.23-32 Missa simplex <i>Plainsong</i>
	10am	Morning Service at North Thoresby
	10am	Utterby is open for private prayer until 12 noon
	10am	Morning Service at South Elkington
	10 30am	Holy Communion at Grimoldby
	10 30am	Parish Mass at Binbrook
	11am	Morning Service at North Somercotes
	11 15am	Matins at Legbourne
	3pm	Evensong at Fotherby
	6pm	CHORAL EVENSONG at St James' (Nave)* <i>Plainsong</i> Resp. Ps. [120, 123] 124 <i>Plainsong</i> Canticles with antiphons Ezekiel 37.15-end; 1 John 2.22-end Let the round world with songs rejoice <i>Plainsong</i>

An Order of Service for the Eucharist this Sunday

- *We open our hearts to God, that we might be transformed by his love*
- *We listen to God's Word, and seek to find out how we may grow to understand God's will for us more fully*
- *We gather around the table to share a symbolic meal, a meal that joins us with our brothers and sisters throughout the world; the saints who have lived in all times and places*
- *We pray that we go out as lights that shine with God's love wherever we might go*

The Gathering

The GREETING and PREPARATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Together we pray...

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

As the Ministers enter, organ music may be played or a psalm sung.

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

The PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

A Minister introduces the Prayers of Penitence.

[My brothers and sisters, as we prepare to celebrate the presence of Christ in word and sacrament, let us call to mind and confess our sins:]

Father eternal, giver of light and grace, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour, in what we have thought, in what we have said and done, through ignorance, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We have wounded your love, and marred your image in us.

We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and lead us out from darkness to walk as children of light. Amen.

The Priest pronounces Absolution.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon *you*, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We say the GLORIA, a Song of Praise written by the early Christians

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.**

Amen.

The COLLECT prayer

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 16.2-15

A reading from the book Exodus. The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD." Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.'" And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. The LORD spoke to Moses and said, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'" In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp.

When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Reading: Philippians 1.21-end

A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Phillipians.

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading: Matthew. 20.1-16

Reader: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

There will be a HOMILY and period for reflection, after which the service continues with the NICENE CREED:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

The INTERCESSIONS, which may include the following bidding and response:

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

And may end with:

Merciful Father,

accept these prayers,

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

A CHANT may be sung, as gifts are brought up and the altar is prepared.

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

The prayer at this point may include the following response:

Blessed be God for ever.

The EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

The president praises God for his mighty acts, ending with:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

The president recalls the Last Supper, after which the following acclamation may be used:

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

The Prayer continues and leads into the doxology, to which all respond boldly

Amen.

We sit or kneel for the LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

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. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

The GIVING OF COMMUNION

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The AGNUS DEI

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.

Communion is distributed.

The PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION.

The priest leads the congregation in prayer:

Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy; and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Following this prayer, all join in:

We thank you, Lord, that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet prepared for all peoples.

Amen.

The Dismissal

We stand, and the priest proclaims God's BLESSING and we are sent into His world...

[Christ, whose glory is in the heavens, fill this house and illuminate your hearts;]

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

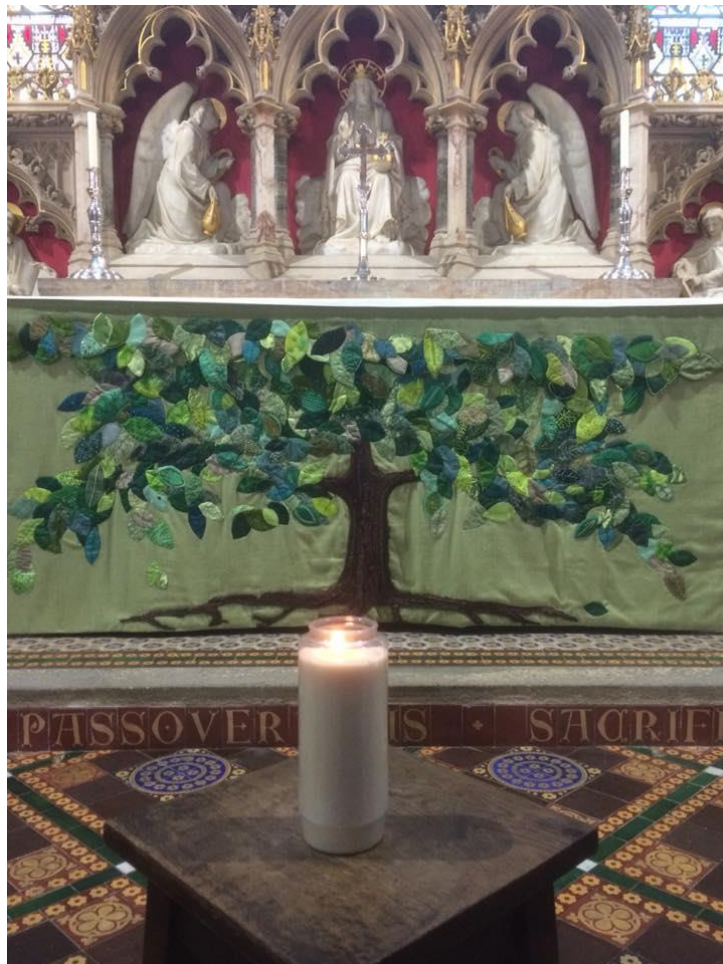
Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

We stand as the Ministers leave.

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Matins and Evensong: An Order of Service

*If used in the context of a family or household the words in **bold** are said by all. If said alone, all words are spoken by the individual praying.*

Along with this order of service you will need a Bible for the psalm and readings. Details of which psalm and readings to use are found on pages 2 and 3.

If the service forms the only, or the main, act of worship on a Sunday in a parish church, then the Minister everyone to reflect on those things that distance us from God and, after a pause for reflection, we join in the Prayer of Confession, which is followed by a prayer of absolution or forgiveness:

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, that 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.

At other time the service may be begin with the opening responses:

O Lord, open thou our lips.

And our mouths shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

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.

Praise ye the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised.

The Word of God

*Say or recite the **Venite, Exultemus Domino** (Psalm 95, at Matins) and the appointed **Psalm(s)**.*

The Psalm(s) end with the 'Gloria patri':

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.

*A Reading from **The Old Testament**. (See pages 2 and 3 for details)*

*Say or sing the **Canticle**; either the Benedictus (at Matins) or Magnificat (at Evening Prayer):*

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel: for he hath visited and redeemed his people; And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us: in the house of his servant David; As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets: which have been since the world began; That we should be saved from our enemies: and from the hands of all that hate us; To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers: and to remember his holy covenant; To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham: that he would give us; That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies: might serve him without fear; In holiness and righteousness before him: all the days of our life.

And thou child shalt be called the Prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; To give knowledge of salvation unto his people: for the remission of their sins, Through the tender mercy of our God: whereby the day-spring from on high hath visited us; To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death: and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his handmaiden. 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.-

A Reading from The New Testament. (See pages 2 and 3 for details)

*At Evening Prayer, we also say the **Nunc Dimittis**:*

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.

The Creed

You may wish to stand to say 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 catholic Church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

The Prayers

The Lesser Litany, Lord's Prayer and Prayers:

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

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.

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the Queen.

And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people.

And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

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

O God, make clean our hearts within us.

And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

These Prayers end with one or more Collects for the Day (see the front over) and the following morning or evening Collects:

O God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom; defend us thy humble servants in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in thy defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day; defend us in the same with thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings may be ordered by thy governance, to do always that is righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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.

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.

A time for Reflection

After any further prayers, there may be a time for reflection including the singing of an anthem. If using this material at home, you may find this a good time to play a piece of recorded music or listen to one of the podcasts/video meditations.

The Conclusion

*The service ends with either a **Blessing**, or by praying the **Grace**:*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost be with us now and evermore. **Amen.**

Before the ending of the day

Latin hymn translated by J. M. Neale

Before the ending of the day, Creator of the world, we pray
That with thy wonted favour thou Wouldst be our guard and keeper no

**From all ill dreams defend our eyes from nightly fears and fantasies;
Tread under foot our ghostly foe, That no pollution we may know.**

O Father, that we ask be done, through Jesus Christ, thine only Son;
Who with the Holy Ghost and thee, doth live and reign eternally. Amen.

THIS WEEK'S PSALM AND HOMILY

Psalm: 105 1-6, 37-end

1. O GIVE thanks unto the Lord, and call upon his Name: tell the people what things he hath done.
2. O let your songs be of him, and praise him : and let your talking be of all his wondrous works.
3. Rejoice in his holy Name : let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord.
4. Seek the Lord and his strength : seek his face evermore.
5. Remember the marvellous works that he hath done : his wonders, and the judgements of his mouth,
6. O ye seed of Abraham his servant : ye children of Jacob his chosen.
37. Egypt was glad at their departing : for they were afraid of them.
38. He spread out a cloud to be a covering : and fire to give light in the night-season.
39. At their desire he brought quails : and he filled them with the bread of heaven.
40. He opened the rock of stone, and the waters flowed out : so that rivers ran in the dry places.
41. For why? He remembered his holy promise : and Abraham his servant.
42. And he brought forth his people with joy : and his chosen with gladness;
43. And gave them the lands of the heathen : and they took the labours of the people in possession;
44. That they might keep his statutes : and observe his laws.

Homily

Jesus is great at saying uncomfortable things, things that push our buttons, things that provoke a reaction. "Love your enemies" he said. What? "Turn the other cheek" he said. Really? In the parable of the prodigal son (or the two sons or the loving father) he sets us up for a big challenge. Our tendency is to side with the older brother who moans about being taken for granted and misunderstood, who can't stand to see how his wayward brother has been welcomed home. Jesus provokes us to re-think who God is. In the parable of the Good Samaritan it is the religious folk who prove worse than useless and the undesirable immigrant who knows what love means. Yes, Jesus is great at turning our view of the world upside down. Why does he do it? Because if we are to see what God is about, we need to be set free from our fixed ways of thinking, from our focus on self and not others and because what God is doing in his world is more loving, generous and reckless than we tend to be when left to our own instincts. That's what the Kingdom of heaven is all about. That's what God is at work to bring into being among us. Jesus does it again in today's gospel reading; the parable of the generous landowner. Jesus makes it clear at the start that this is a story designed to help us imagine what God is working to achieve. The kingdom of heaven, he calls it. This kingdom that God rules over is founded on unimaginable generosity and reckless love. How else could you describe what the landowner is up to in the story (unless you take the side of the grumblers aghast at his generosity)? God's economy is not based on the minimum he can get away with.

Our generation may have invented the zero hours contract, but God is more generous than that. As schools were returning recently there was a news story about Timpson's, the shoe repairs and key cutting business. Mr Timpson said we could expect to see fewer staff in some shops because employees with children could take the day off on the day their children went back to school. Isn't that amazing? That is generosity.

The manager looking out for his staff in such a unique way. Is it a sign of God's kingdom perhaps? Where else might we see this generosity in the modern workplace? The parable makes it clear that the boss can do as he pleases, and he pleases to be generous. That, says Jesus, is who God is and what his kingdom is all about. The other remarkable people in this story are those workers who hang around the marketplace all day on the off chance of getting some work. How likely are they to be hired as the day's harvest is almost done? But they persist. Maybe they have a hunch there's a generous landowner out there who will give them a job. Are we called to be like them, to never give up on situations however bleak they look? To trust that our recklessly loving God is always just about to touch and bless in the most unlikely situations. To play our part, to offer him our meagre labours, to help build his kingdom. If we feel more inclined to side with the grumblers in the parable, averse to acts of generous love, our prayer must be that God would open our eyes and our hearts to a revelation of his love.

Homily Reflection

- Who in the parable do you feel drawn to and why?
- Where have you seen God's reckless love revealed?
- Is there anything else from the passage not already discussed that speaks to you? What is it?
- What will you do this week in your Monday-to-Saturday ministry in response to what you have heard today? #everydayfaith

NOTES AND NOTICES

- GOOD NEWS! Members of the St James' congregation Peter and Kate Moore have welcomed baby Zachary into the world on Thursday September 10th 2020. Mum and Zachary are back home and doing well.
- The Centering Prayer group shall be starting at St James' on Thursday 1st October, weekly from 7pm - 9pm, on alternate Tuesdays and Thursdays.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING:

Sunday 20th September 2020 at 7pm in the Parish Church of Louth St James

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting for the Ecclesiastical Parish of Louth will take place after Evensong (at 7pm) on Sunday 20th April in the Parish Church of Louth St James. At this meeting the various annual reports will be presented and Churchwardens will be elected (following their nomination at the respective Annual District Church Meetings). All individuals who are on the electoral roll of any church in the parish are entitled to attend the whole meeting, and residents of the parish who are not on the electoral roll are entitled to attend for the part of the meeting at which the churchwardens will be elected.

The following business will take place at this meeting:

The election of parochial representatives of the laity as follows –

To the Deanery Synod, 7 representatives.

To the Parochial Church Council, 6 representatives.

The appointment of the Independent Examiner or Auditor.

The consideration of:

(a) a report on changes to the Roll since the last annual parochial church meeting OR2 a report on the numbers entered on the new Roll;

(b) an Annual Report on the proceedings of the parochial church council and the activities of the parish generally;

(c) the financial statements of the council for the year ending on the 31st December preceding the meeting;

(d) the annual report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church or churches of the parish;

(e) a report of the proceedings of the deanery synod; and

(f) other matters of parochial or general Church interest.

In our prayers this week...

All those affected by the current pandemic

The Sick and those in need: *Peggy Baillie, Anne-Marie Bidwell, Helen Blakey, Ivy Carter, Paul Clifford, Ed Cox, Hildegard Deetmer-Beecroft, Nigel Goy, Rosemary Huke, Corie Langford, Christina Livesey, Roly Livesey, Mal Locking, Anna Mamwell, Alan Pounds, Sylvia Pounds, Margaret Pinchbeck, Eileen Robinson, Marjorie Spendlow, Enid Spicer, Joyce Terrett, John Troughton, Charles Wakeley, Pauline Watson, Stuart Watson, Chris Wedge*

Those who have died: *Beryl Baumber, Alan Harrison, June Sutherland, Betty Oliver, Joan McBirney*

PARISH AND DEANERY CONTACTS

At this time, if you are aware of anyone in urgent pastoral need please e-mail

louthparishpastoral@gmail.com or 'phone 07901 852198, 07500 965321 or 07734 871159.

Deanery Office 01507 610247

louthesk@lincoln.anglican.org

For Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals and other enquiries

Trinity Centre 01507 605803

trinity@teamparishoflouth.org.uk

For matters relating to activities at Trinity Centre

Safeguarding concerns 01507 610752

For information about how to respond to safeguarding concerns, or for sources of support, please see Safeguarding Notices in church porches

www.teamparishoflouth.org.uk