

# The Parish of Louth and Deanery of Louthesk

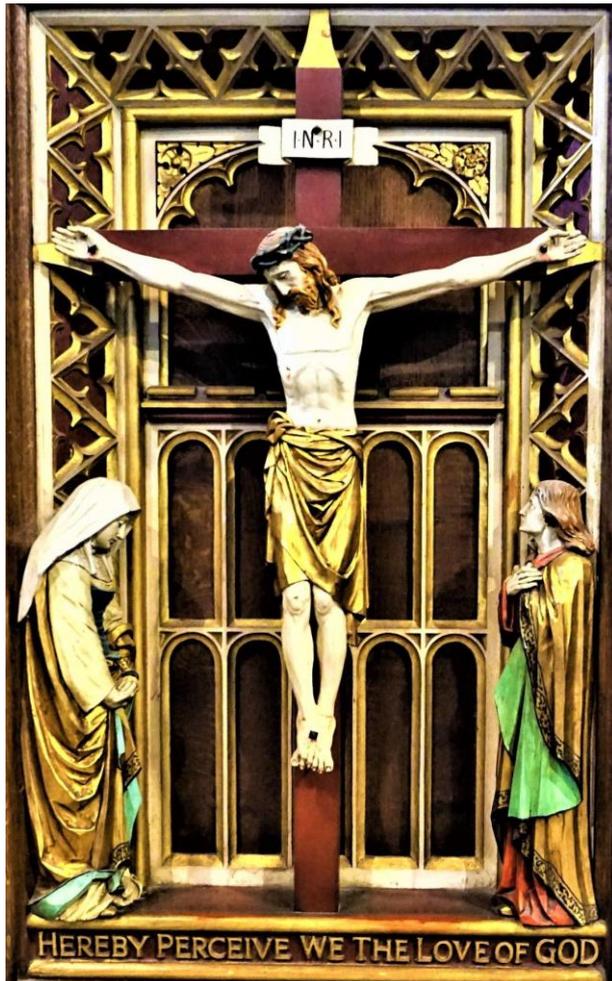
Weekly notes and information for

22nd November 2020: Sunday next before Advent

[www.teamparishoflouth.org.uk](http://www.teamparishoflouth.org.uk) (24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)



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**  
O LORD, we beseech thee, absolve thy people from their offences; that through thy bountiful goodness we may all be delivered from the bands of those sins, which by our frailty we have committed: Grant this, O heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour. 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 3 and 4 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 broadcast via [www.facebook.com/louthchurch](http://www.facebook.com/louthchurch)

|                                  |         |  |
|----------------------------------|---------|--|
| <b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>    | 10am    | <b>EUCCHARIST</b> online from St James'*   |
| <b>Christ the King</b>           |         | Psalm 95.1-7   |
| Sunday next before               |         | Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24; Ephesians 1.15-end; Matthew 25.31-end   |
| <b>Advent</b>                    | 10am    | Fulstow open for private prayer until 11am   |
|                                  | 6pm     | <b>EVENSONG</b> online from St James'*   |
|                                  |         | Psalm 93; Maccabees 2.15-29; Matthew 28.16-end<br>Creator of the earth and sky <i>Plainsong</i>  |
| <b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>    | 9 15am  | <b>MATINS</b> online from St James'*   |
|                                  |         | Psalm 96; Isaiah 40.1-11; Revelation 14.1-13   |
|                                  | 10am    | St James' open for private prayer until 1pm  |
|                                  | 11am    | <b>FUNERAL</b> at St James'  |
| <b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup></b>   | 9 15am  | <b>MORNING PRAYER</b> online from St James'*   |
|                                  |         | Psalm 97; Isaiah 40.12-26; Revelation 14.14-end of 15  |
|                                  | 10am    | St James' open for private prayer until 1pm  |
|                                  | 11am    | <b>HOLY COMMUNION</b> online from St James'*   |
|                                  | 11 45am | Praying with the imagination (Ignatian)  |
|                                  |         | Go to: <a href="http://www.zoom.us/join">www.zoom.us/join</a> or 'phone 0203 481 5240, and enter the Meeting ID: 847 0617 4009 and Password: 562604. |
|                                  | 1 30pm  | <b>Funeral</b> at Manby  |
| <b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup></b> | 9 15am  | <b>MATINS</b> online from St James'*   |
|                                  |         | Psalm 112; Isaiah 40.27-41.7; Revelation 16.1-11   |
|                                  | 10am    | St James' open for private prayer until 1pm  |
|                                  | 10am    | Shine drop-in at the Trinity Centre  |
|                                  | 12 30pm | Outreach Post Office at Fotherby Church, which is also open for private prayer 'til 2 30pm   |
|                                  | 1 30pm  | <b>Funeral</b> at Binbrook   |
|                                  | 7 30pm  | <b>COMPLINE</b> online from St James'*   |
| <b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup></b>  | 9 15am  | <b>MATINS</b> online from St James'*   |
|                                  |         | Psalm 125; Isaiah 41.8-20; Revelation 16.12-end  |
|                                  | 10am    | St James' open for private prayer until 1pm  |
| <b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup></b>    | 9 15am  | <b>MATINS</b> online from St James'*   |
|                                  |         | Psalm 139; Isaiah 41.21-42.9; Revelation 17  |
|                                  | 10am    | St James' open for private prayer until 1pm  |
|                                  | 11am    | <b>Funeral</b> at Fotherby   |
| <b>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup></b>  | 10am    | St James' open for private prayer until 1pm  |
|                                  | 11am    | Marshchapel open for private prayer 'til 12 noon   |
|                                  | 12 30pm | <b>MIDDAY PRAYER</b> online from St James'*  |

|                               |      |   |
|-------------------------------|------|---|
| <b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup></b> | 10am | <b>EUCHARIST</b> online from St James’*<br>Psalm 90.1-8, 18-20<br>Isaiah 64.1-9, 20-24; 1 Corinthians 1.3-9; Mark 13.24-end |
| First Sunday of Advent        | 10am | Fulstow open for private prayer until 11am  |
|                               | 6pm  | <b>EVENSONG</b> online from St James’*<br>Psalm 25; Isaiah 1.1-20; Matthew 21.1-13  |

## JOINING IN WORSHIP

All our worship is being streamed on the Parish of Louth facebook page. You do not need a Facebook account to view these services – just click on ‘Not now’ when it asks you to sign up.

[www.facebook.com/louthchurch/live](http://www.facebook.com/louthchurch/live)

 Watch Louth CofE Services as live streams (and previously recorded) on Facebook. No account needed

## DETAILS OF CHURCHES OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

**Binbrook:** Please ‘phone the keyholder on 07778 316486 for access

**Covenham:** Please ‘phone the Churchwarden on 01507 363508 for access.

**Fulstow:** Open 10am to 11am each Sunday throughout November

**Fotherby:** The Outreach Post Office is open on Wednesdays from 12.30pm to 2.30pm

**Great Carlton:** Please ‘phone the Churchwardens on 01507 328369 or 450527 for access

**Grimoldby:** Please ‘phone the churchwarden on 01507 328917

**Louth, St James:** Monday to Saturday, 10am to 1pm.

**Ludborough:** Please ‘phone the churchwarden on 01472 840505 for access.

**Manby:** Please ‘phone the churchwarden on 01507 327199 for access.

**Marshchapel:** Open 11am to 12 noon each Saturday throughout November

**North Thorseby:** Please ‘phone a churchwarden on 01472 840582 for access.

**Utterby:** Please ‘phone the churchwarden on 07802 182756 for access

### You may find the following resources useful to help your prayers and reflections:

#### Parish of Louth on Facebook

All services are being streamed on Facebook Live (you do not need to be a registered facebook user):

<https://www.facebook.com/louthchurch>

#### Parish of Louth website:

Downloadable resources (including this leaflet), an uploaded broadcast of Sunday Eucharist from St James, and regular video meditations:

[www.teamparishoflouth.org.uk](http://www.teamparishoflouth.org.uk)

#### Deanery of Louthesk: The Confraternity of St Herefrith

Video and other prayer resources will be available from the confraternity’s website, including a regular meditations by members of the clergy serving the Deanery of Louthesk.

<https://herefrith.org/confraternity-resources/video/>

# MORE RESOURCES FOR USE AT HOME

Given the situation regarding COVID-19, public worship has once again been suspended and our activities restricted.

However, those buildings that can will remain open for private prayer, and our life as a praying and worshipping community continues – holding the needs of our communities before God in prayer and seeking heaven on earth through worship in our hearts. The clergy of the Deanery will be sustaining a full pattern of prayer and worship as outlined here. We hope that you will find opportunities to join this important task from home – our communities need our prayer more than ever. In this leaflet you will find the following resources to use:

- A Collect Prayer for use and Morning and Evening Prayer (above);
- An outline of the times at which we will be praying, together with the readings we will be reading;
- The Collect Prayer and Readings for reading and reflection at the time of our Sunday worship;
- Forms of prayer, poems and other items that you may find useful to use as you join us in prayer in your own way.

A range of spiritual resources remain available across the deanery as follows:

- **'Worship at home' resources**, available from:  
<https://www.teamparishoflouth.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Worshipresources.pdf>
- **Weekly Parish and Deanery Notes**, available from:  
<https://www.teamparishoflouth.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/newsletter.pdf>  
Containing details of bible readings for the week, orders of service you might use and resources for reflection, including a weekly Homily reflection provided by the diocese.
- **Daily Prayer** (including Sunday and Festival services) at Louth St James, and streamed via the Parish of Louth facebook page
- **St Andrew's Stewton Church Community** welcomes everyone. Since March 2020 we have produced an email 'Post' every Sunday morning to sustain the life of our church community on-line. You can access these Posts via the web site [www.standrewsstewton.co.uk](http://www.standrewsstewton.co.uk) or have your email address added to our circulation list on request to [windhover22@live.co.uk](mailto:windhover22@live.co.uk)
- **'Praying with...'** online sessions, available live via Zoom (see Parish Notes for details) or as a video on the Parish of Louth facebook page.
- **Midweek Homily**, available as a video on the Parish of Louth facebook page.

# 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*

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; 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: Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24**

A reading from the book of Ezekiel.

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

### **New Testament Reading: Ephesians 1.15-end**

A Reading from the first letter of Paul to the Ephesians. I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Reading: Matthew 25.31-end**

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

Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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:*

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; 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.*

*Common Worship and New Patterns for Worship, material from which is included in this service, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000 and 2002.*



# 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 page 2.*

*If the service forms the only, or the main, act of worship on a Sunday in a parish church, then the Minister calls on 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 page 2 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 page 2 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.**

*Hymns reproduced under CCLI Licence number 1072098*

## **THIS WEEK'S PSALM AND HOMILY**

### **Psalm: 95 1-7**

- 1 O COME, let us sing unto the Lord : let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.
- 2 Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving : and shew ourselves glad in him with psalms.
- 3 For the Lord is a great God : and a great King above all gods.
- 4 In his hand are all the corners of the earth : and the strength of the hills is his also.
- 5 The sea is his, and he made it : and his hands prepared the dry land.
- 6 O come, let us worship and fall down : and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
- 7 For he is the Lord our God : and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

## Homily

Christ the King is the final festival in the church year – next week we start again with Advent, ready to follow the story of our salvation in the life, teaching, example, death and resurrection of our Lord. The final piece of this great drama, it asks “and who is this Jesus for each one of you?” The answer is “my King”. But not, of course, the avenging King the first century Jewish people expected and prayed for. Not a King as we might expect from our understanding of political history. When the name Christ the King was chosen by Pius XI in 1925 it was for a new festival, pre-empting Mussolini’s declaration of himself as Il Duce. So a king above earthly kings.

The concept of Christ as a king is very powerful. What are kings? Someone who has authority above any other in their land – yes. They take their power from their father, and hand it down to their children – yes. They expect honour as well as obedience of their subjects – yes. Their people are united through their rule and their respect, into a kingdom – yes. Kings are not always good and their reigns not always beneficial – here we need to understand the unique nature of Jesus as a king. Pius XI is helpful in this. He writes: “for Jesus Christ reigns over the minds of individuals by his teachings, in their hearts by his love, in each one’s life by the living according to his law and the imitating of his example”. We tend to think of ourselves as “followers” rather than “subjects” – exercising our free will to turn to Christ and reflecting our human dislike of the idea of subservience. The definition of Christ as “king”, however, makes us consider ourselves as “subjects”. Submission of our own wills to the rule of Christ, even if undertaken freely, is actually a relinquishment of our freedom. A faith with opt-outs when Christ’s rule or example or instruction doesn’t suit us isn’t a faith at all.

Today’s gospel shows us clearly what service this king expects of us his subjects, and it is not like the service expected by any earthly king. Remember Jesus’s summary of the law? Love God, love each other. That is it. If you do one, you automatically do the other. You cannot love a God who is generous love, and not want to share the love God feels for others. Jesus makes this even clearer. He doesn’t only say “if you love me, do me a favour and love others”, he goes a step further. It is in loving each other that you show your love for me. I am the neighbour you love. Not just love, but serve. Serve is a word implying generosity, selflessness, sacrifice. This is not the service of “the service industries”, doing your job, possibly quite resentfully. This is the service of love and respect, such as we celebrated on Remembrance Sunday, such as we expect and celebrate in committed relationships, such as we offer to someone we totally admire. This isn’t just an option for a Christian, not even just a consequence of faith, it is our faith itself. We believe in and meet the Lord Jesus Christ in the Gospel, in the Eucharist, and, just as importantly, in each other – even the stranger or the ‘undesirable.’ Matthew doesn’t say loving service of all our fellows is just a sign, it is a defining point of faith. Eternal life with God through Jesus is discovered, entered and sustained through the way we serve God’s children and creation, and God’s plan for justice. Ignoring that need to serve at all costs commits us to an eternity without Christ, distant from God, voluntarily opting out of God’s forgiving, healing salvation.

As we look back on our lives, on this church year ending today, on the extraordinary changes to life that 2020 has thrust upon us, and as we look forward to another year, another cycle of following and participating God’s saving grace, offered through Jesus Christ and shared with us through the church, let us think about the meaning of Christ’s kingship, - and our role as his servants and subjects. As we confront the difficulties and challenges of serving Christ by serving and actually loving our neighbour, sacrificing our interests to theirs, recognising the imprint of the divine in those we think too awful for words, let us remember the king we serve and his call to serve each other. Not just our local brushes with difference of colour, faith, lifestyle and so on, though these are of great importance. Big questions, too. What would the Jesus of today’s gospel say about our buying up of enough vaccine to offer two shots each to our 70m people, when the world has 7.8 billion people needing two shots, most of whom cannot afford them? What would Jesus have to say about a church trying to explore whether some are welcome or not at his own table by virtue of identity, sexuality, or other issues in the forthcoming Living in Love and Faith debate? What would Jesus have to say about major powers boosting their prosperity by polluting or destroying God’s creation.

In serving each other with self-sacrificial love we make Christ our king. By looking to ourselves, we reject him and the fruits of his salvation and the promise of eternal life.

## Homily Reflection

1. Think about the ways Christ’s kingship differs from earthly power. How does this change how we serve this king and build his kingdom?
2. Looking back, in what ways have we as individuals, a church, a society failed to follow Christ our king by loving and serving others self-sacrificially?
3. Who and what do we find it hardest to love and serve, and what, through prayer and action, can we do about it?

4. How might we, in the new year starting next week, on the slate wiped clean through forgiveness, and in the new sense of the world and its needs dawning at this time, build a kingdom fit for this extraordinary, untypical and demanding yet generous king?
5. Is there anything else from the passage not already discussed that speaks to you? What is it?
6. What will you do this week in your Monday-to-Saturday ministry in response to what you have heard today?  
#everydayfaith

## NOTES AND NOTICES

- In line with previous years the Team Parish of Louth is providing Christmas Hampers this Christmas. If you would like to donate towards the hampers the Trinity Centre is open for donations, from 9am to 10am Monday to Friday. You can also leave items in the shopping trolley in St James during the current opening times. Please could any donations be available by the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020. If you know of anyone in serious need and would benefit in receiving a hamper this Christmas could you please contact Greg Gilbert at the Trinity Centre on 01507 605803 or [greg.gilbert@teamparishoflouth.org.uk](mailto:greg.gilbert@teamparishoflouth.org.uk). Referrals to Greg also by the 7<sup>th</sup> December please.
- There comes a time when it gets too much dealing with difficult emotional problems by yourself and that's when we are here to help. A new counselling Service is available to provide a non-judgemental, approachable support service to people who are in need of emotional and psychological support during times of difficulty, confusion or hardships to improve their well-being and quality of life  
For an appointment please phone the Trinity Centre on 01507 605803 or email [greg.gilbert@teamparishoflouth.org.uk](mailto:greg.gilbert@teamparishoflouth.org.uk)
- Louth Churches for Refugees was established to encourage prayer, action and giving to support refugees. We post regularly on Facebook with information on our local activities; global news and campaigns; and prayer resources. Our website has recently been updated. Find out more at <http://louthchurchesforrefugees.org.uk>. Follow us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/louthchurchesforrefugees>.
- Does anyone have spare brown or grey wool they are willing to donate to the Parish? It will become materials for pompom donkeys and cows as part of Christmas Craft Bags we are making up for our Messy Church families and beyond. Could any donations be dropped off at St James when attending for private prayer or at the deanery office when taking exercise, clearly marked for Jane Fletcher.

## 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, Paul Clifford, Ed Cox, Hildegard Dettmer-Becroft, Rosemary Huke, Derwent Levick, Christina Livesey, Roly Livesey, Mal Locking, Anna Mamwell, Mary Oxley, Alan Pounds, Sylvia Pounds, Eileen Robinson, Enid Spicer, Joyce Terrett, John Troughton, Charles Wakeley, Pauline Watson, Stuart Watson, Chris Wedge*

**Those who have died:** *Mary Farrow, Josephine Beckett, Margaret Gray, Isobel Johnson, James Blanchard, Margaret Waumsley, Paul Walden, Douglas Spivey, Joan Shepherd, Mary Nicholson, Frank Smith, Annie Jary, Shirley Hanson*

## PARISH AND DEANERY CONTACTS

At this time, if you are aware of anyone in urgent pastoral need please e-mail [louthparishpastoral@gmail.com](mailto:louthparishpastoral@gmail.com) or 'phone 07901 852198, 07500 965321 or 07734 871159.

**Deanery Office 01507 610247**

[louthesk@lincoln.anglican.org](mailto:louthesk@lincoln.anglican.org)

For Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals  
and other enquiries

**Trinity Centre 01507 605803**

[trinity@teamparishoflouth.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.teamparishoflouth.org.uk)