

Sunday 28 February, 2021  
**Second Sunday of Lent**

*If a household are praying together,  
one person may act as leader and the  
others as the congregation and they  
join in the words in bold type.*

*If alone, read all the words aloud.*

*You may want to light a candle before you begin, and  
have a Bible, cross or crucifix to look at.*

*You might prepare for this act of worship by listening to  
some music, or by being still.*

### **Preparation**

*Jesus teaches that following our faith is costly in the extreme. We have to 'lose our life' in order to save it and that may involve suffering (a 'cross'). This will mean different things for each of us.*

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

The Lord is here.  
**His Spirit is with us.**

### **The Act of Penitence**

Wash away all my iniquity  
and cleanse me from my sin:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Against you, you only have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight:  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

### **Words of forgiveness**

May the God of love and power  
forgive us and free us from our sins,  
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,  
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **The Special Prayer for this week**

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

### **The Word of the Lord**

**First Reading** | *Romans 4. 13 - 25*

*A reading from the letter to the Romans*

The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations') – Abraham believed in the presence of the God who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations,' according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore, his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him,' were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## The Holy Gospel | Mark 8. 31 - 38

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

### Glory to you, O Lord

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

For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### Affirmation of faith

With our Christian brothers and sisters, we affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,  
he did not cling to equality with God,  
but made himself nothing.  
Taking the form of a slave,  
he was born in human likeness.  
He humbled himself  
and was obedient to death,  
even the death of the cross.  
Therefore God has raised him on high,  
and given him the name above every name: 00  
that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bow,  
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is  
Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

### Prayers of intercession

*(Here you may wish to offer prayer in your own words, or be prompted by the words here)*

*We pray for our world, especially at this time of anxiety and fear...*

*We pray for our nation and its well-being...*

*We pray for neighbours, family and friends and we remember all those self-isolating at the moment...*

*We pray for all who are sick, worried or anxious, and for those who feel cut off from friends and family...*

*We pray for those who have died in recent days, and all whom we remember with love and affection....*

### The Lord's Prayer

Joining with Christians throughout the world, we pray:

**Our Father....**

*or*

**Our Father in heaven....**

### The Grace

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

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Readings for the coming week:

Monday	Psalm 80	Luke 6.36-38
Tuesday	Psalm 89.1-18	Matthew 23.1-12
Wednesday	Psalm 35	Matthew 20.17-28
Thursday	Psalm 92	Luke 16.19-end
Friday	Psalm 88	Matthew 21.33-46
Saturday	Psalm 97	Luke 15. 1-3, 11-end