

# **The Community of St Stephen Walbrook**



## **Morning Prayer**

### ***The Book of Common Prayer***

**9 am Wednesday 1st July 2020**

***Free dial-in on 0330 9981 320 - access code: 464351#.***

## ***Introduction***

Beloved, we are come together in the presence of almighty God and of the whole company of heaven to offer unto him through our Lord Jesus Christ our worship and praise and thanksgiving; to make confession of our sins; to pray, as well for others as for ourselves, that we may know more truly the greatness of God's love and shew forth in our lives the fruits of his grace; and to ask on behalf of all men such things as their well-being doth require. Wherefore let us sit in silence, and remember God's presence with us now.

**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, which 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.**

O Lord, open thou our lips.

**And our mouth 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 Venite – Psalm 95***

**O come, let us sing unto the Lord :**

**let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.**

**Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving :**

**and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.**

**For the Lord is a great God :**

**and a great King above all gods.**

**In his hand are all the corners of the earth :**

**and the strength of the hills is his also.**

**The sea is his, and he made it :**

**and his hands prepared the dry land.**

**O come, let us worship and fall down :**

**and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**

**For he is the Lord our God :**

**and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.**

**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.**

## Psalm 1

- 1 Blessed is the man that hath not walked in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stood in the way of sinners \*  
and hath not sat in the seat of the scornful.
- 2 **But his delight is in the law of the Lord \*  
and in his law will he exercise himself day and night.**
- 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the water-side \*  
that will bring forth his fruit in due season.
- 4 **His leaf also shall not wither \*  
and look, whatsoever he doeth, it shall prosper.**
- 5 As for the ungodly, it is not so with them \*  
but they are like the chaff, which the wind scattereth away from the face of the earth.
- 6 **Therefore the ungodly shall not be able to stand in the judgement \*  
neither the sinners in the congregation of the righteous.**
- 7 But the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous \*  
and the way of the ungodly shall perish.

## Psalm 2

- 1 Why do the heathen so furiously rage together \*  
and why do the people imagine a vain thing?
- 2 **The kings of the earth stand up, and the rulers take counsel together \*  
against the Lord, and against his Anointed.**
- 3 Let us break their bonds asunder \*  
and cast away their cords from us.
- 4 **He that dwelleth in heaven shall laugh them to scorn \*  
The Lord shall have them in derision.**
- 5 Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath \*  
and vex them in his sore displeasure.
- 6 **Yet have I set my King \*  
upon my holy hill of Sion.**
- 7 I will preach the law, whereof the Lord hath said unto me \*  
Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.
- 8 **Desire of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance \*  
and the utmost parts of the earth for thy possession.**

9 Thou shalt bruise them with a rod of iron \*  
and break them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

**10 Be wise now therefore, O ye kings \*  
be learned, ye that are judges of the earth.**

11 Serve the Lord in fear \*  
and rejoice unto him with reverence.

**12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and so ye perish from the right way \*  
if his wrath be kindled, (yea, but a little,) blessed are all they that put their trust in him.**

**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.**

***First reading: Judges 9.22-end***

When Abimelech had reigned three years over Israel,  
Then God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech:

That the cruelty done to the threescore and ten sons of Jerubbaal might come, and their blood be laid upon Abimelech their brother, which slew them; and upon the men of Shechem, which aided him in the killing of his brethren.

And the men of Shechem set liers in wait for him in the top of the mountains, and they robbed all that came along that way by them: and it was told Abimelech.

And Gaal the son of Ebed came with his brethren, and went over to Shechem: and the men of Shechem put their confidence in him.

And they went out into the fields, and gathered their vineyards, and trode the grapes, and made merry, and went into the house of their god, and did eat and drink, and cursed Abimelech.

And Gaal the son of Ebed said, Who is Abimelech, and who is Shechem, that we should serve him? is not he the son of Jerubbaal? and Zebul his officer? serve the men of Hamor the father of Shechem: for why should we serve him?

And would to God this people were under my hand! then would I remove Abimelech. And he said to Abimelech, Increase thine army, and come out.

And when Zebul the ruler of the city heard the words of Gaal the son of Ebed, his anger was kindled.

And he sent messengers unto Abimelech privily, saying, Behold, Gaal the son of Ebed and his brethren be come to Shechem; and, behold, they fortify the city against thee.

Now therefore up by night, thou and the people that is with thee, and lie in wait in the field:

And it shall be, that in the morning, as soon as the sun is up, thou shalt rise early, and set upon the city: and, behold, when he and the people that is with him come out against thee, then mayest thou do to them as thou shalt find occasion.

And Abimelech rose up, and all the people that were with him, by night, and they laid wait against Shechem in four companies.

And Gaal the son of Ebed went out, and stood in the entering of the gate of the city: and Abimelech rose up, and the people that were with him, from lying in wait.

And when Gaal saw the people, he said to Zebul, Behold, there come people down from the top of the mountains. And Zebul said unto him, Thou seest the shadow of the mountains as if they were men.

And Gaal spake again, and said, See there come people down by the middle of the land, and another company come along by the plain of Meonenim.

Then said Zebul unto him, Where is now thy mouth, wherewith thou saidst, Who is Abimelech, that we should serve him? is not this the people that thou hast despised? go out, I pray now, and fight with them. And Gaal went out before the men of Shechem, and fought with Abimelech.

And Abimelech chased him, and he fled before him, and many were overthrown and wounded, even unto the entering of the gate.

And Abimelech dwelt at Arumah: and Zebul thrust out Gaal and his brethren, that they should not dwell in Shechem.

And it came to pass on the morrow, that the people went out into the field; and they told Abimelech. And he took the people, and divided them into three companies, and laid wait in the field, and looked, and, behold, the people were come forth out of the city; and he rose up against them, and smote them. And Abimelech, and the company that was with him, rushed forward, and stood in the entering of the gate of the city: and the two other companies ran upon all the people that were in the fields, and slew them.

And Abimelech fought against the city all that day; and he took the city, and slew the people that was therein, and beat down the city, and sowed it with salt.

And when all the men of the tower of Shechem heard that, they entered into an hold of the house of the god Berith.

And it was told Abimelech, that all the men of the tower of Shechem were gathered together.

And Abimelech gat him up to mount Zalmon, he and all the people that were with him; and Abimelech took an axe in his hand, and cut down a bough from the trees, and took it, and laid it on his shoulder, and said unto the people that were with him, What ye have seen me do, make haste, and do as I have done. And all the people likewise cut down every man his bough, and followed Abimelech, and put them to the hold, and set the hold on fire upon them; so that all the men of the tower of Shechem died also, about a thousand men and women.

Then went Abimelech to Thebez, and encamped against Thebez, and took it.

But there was a strong tower within the city, and thither fled all the men and women, and all they of the city, and shut it to them, and gat them up to the top of the tower.

And Abimelech came unto the tower, and fought against it, and went hard unto the door of the tower to burn it with fire.

And a certain woman cast a piece of a millstone upon Abimelech's head, and all to brake his skull.

Then he called hastily unto the young man his armourbearer, and said unto him, Draw thy sword, and slay me, that men say not of me, A women slew him. And his young man thrust him through, and he died.

And when the men of Israel saw that Abimelech was dead, they departed every man unto his place.

Thus God rendered the wickedness of Abimelech, which he did unto his father, in slaying his seventy brethren:

And all the evil of the men of Shechem did God render upon their heads: and upon them came the curse of Jotham the son of Jerubbaal.

### ***Second reading: Luke 16.1-18***

And he said also unto his disciples, There was a certain rich man, which had a steward; and the same was accused unto him that he had wasted his goods.

And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward.

Then the steward said within himself, What shall I do? for my lord taketh away from me the stewardship: I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed.

I am resolved what to do, that, when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.

So he called every one of his lord's debtors unto him, and said unto the first, How much owest thou unto my lord?

And he said, An hundred measures of oil. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and sit down quickly, and write fifty.

Then said he to another, And how much owest thou? And he said, An hundred measures of wheat. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and write fourscore.

And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.

And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.

He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?

And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?

No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him.

And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.

The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.

And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail.

Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery.

### ***Benedictus***

**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 hand 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.**

**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 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.**

### ***The Collect of the day***

O Lord, we beseech thee mercifully to hear us; and grant that we, to whom thou hast given an hearty desire to pray, may by thy mighty aid be defended and comforted in all dangers and adversities; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### ***The Second Collect, for Peace***

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.**

### ***The Third Collect, for Grace***

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.**

### ***Prayers***

#### ***The Grace (2 Corinthians 13)***

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