

The Rectorial Benefice of the East Vale
Morning Prayer
Sunday 8th November, 2020
Remembrance Sunday

Hymn

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home.

Under the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thy arm alone,
and our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all its sons away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come:
e our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.

The Gloria

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

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father.
**Glory to God, glory in the highest,
peace to his people, peace on earth.**

We worship you,
glory in the highest,
give you thanks,
glory in the highest,
praise you for your glory.
**Glory to God, glory in the highest,
peace to his people, peace on earth.**

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,
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer,
receive our prayer.

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

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 glory of God the Father.

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

Amen. **Amen.**

The Collect

Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all: govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; grant this for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.

Amen

First Reading (Amos 5: 18-24)

A reading from the prophecy of Amos

Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord? It is darkness, not light; as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt-offerings and grain-offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

R/ It is the Lord who helps me.

O God, make speed to save me, O Lord, make haste to help me. Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confusion: let them be turned back and disgraced who wish me evil. **R/**

Let those who mock and deride me turn back because of their shame. But let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you, let those who love your salvation say always, "Great is the Lord!" **R/**

As for me, I am poor and needy, come to me quickly, O God. You are my help and my deliverer O Lord, do not delay. **R/**

Second Reading

(1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18)

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will

by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so, we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Gospel

(Matthew 25: 1-13)

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Give praise to his name.

**Jesus is Lord of all the earth,
he is the king of creation.**

Alleluia! Alleluia!...

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Listen to the gospel of Christ according to Saint Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples, 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, Lord, lord, open to us." But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.'

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

**Spread the good news o'er all the earth,
Jesus has died and risen.**

Alleluia! Alleluia!...

The Homily

Fr Martyn

As we journey through 2020, we seem to constantly be saying things like Holy Week will be very different this year, or the summer holidays are not going to be the same. The same thing can be said of Remembrance Sunday, although we will manage to hold 3 Acts of Remembrance at 11.00am, in Llancarfan, Peterston-super-Ely and Pendoylan. These will be strictly limited to 30 people, socially distanced, with track and trace measures in place. We will do what we can, even though it will not be the same as usual. Whatever we are doing we need to keep the safety of those involved at the forefront of everything. Inevitably we also have one eye on Christmas, but it is very difficult to predict what we will be able to do to celebrate the birth of Jesus in our churches. At present we still are not allowed to sing in church. The prospect of Christmas without singing traditional carols together sounds very unpalatable. I am sure that we will use our imagination and do whatever we can as we continue this strange experience of life in 2020.

November is a month of remembering. We started with All Saints and All Souls on 1st and 2nd November, when we recall those who have responded to God's call, some of whom the church has recognised as saints. It is interesting that in the New Testament a saint is a believer who has responded to God's call to follow and in that we are all saints of the church. On All Souls we remember those of have loved ones who have died, and we give

thanks for all that they still mean to us. It is a time to thank God for those who have been a guide and inspiration on our journey both as Christians but also as human beings. November 5th is Bonfire Night, and we recall the events in 1605 when a group tried to blow up the Houses of Parliament. Perhaps we should remember that acts of terrorism are not a good thing.

Today is Remembrance Sunday and we remember those who have died or been injured in wars and those who grieve as a result. The readings today are those set for the second Sunday of the Kingdom. Sometimes we choose readings for peace, but this year they are those set for Sunday 8th November. Yet if we look closely, they are still relevant to Remembrance Sunday. As we remember those who are victims of wars, we pray for peace in the world today. Yet peace is so much more than a lack of fighting.

Our reading from Amos chapter 5 ends at verse 24 with the following words 'Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.' This is so much more than peace. True peace is the desire to bring about justice and righteousness, which the dictionary tells me is the quality of being morally right. As we have the desire for a lack of fighting, Amos instructs us to fight for justice wherever it is lacking and for the morality that we encounter when we see God in the Bible.

Our epistle is one that I have sometimes used at funerals, because it speaks of hope. It speaks of death and bereavement and the sadness that we feel when we grieve the loss of someone close to us. Yet Paul writes 'that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.' In other words, we grieve but we do so in hope for 'the dead in Christ will be raised first.' When we face difficult times, whether it is the loss of a loved one, or the trials and tribulations that we are experiencing amid the Covid 19 pandemic, Paul tells us to 'encourage one another with these words.'

Our Gospel Reading from Matthew 25 tells the parable of the bridesmaids. Ten bridesmaids invited to the wedding feast, yet 5 were prepared and 5 were not. All 10 bridesmaids were waiting for the bridegroom to arrive and they did not know when that was going to happen. They had their lamps alight and only half of them took extra oil to keep the flame burning. We need to be prepared, 'Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.' How often have we heard the saying to never go to bed on an argument, or to not put off until tomorrow what you can do today. There can be enough regrets in life without adding to them by delaying our actions only for it to be too late.

Today on Remembrance Sunday we recall those who have died or who have been injured in wars. In these days following All Souls Day we think of those who grieve the

loss of a loved one and give thanks as we remember our departed loved ones. We pray for peace in the world. May that peace begin in my own life and in my own relationships.

We recall the words of Amos and the challenge that we should strive for more than a lack of wars. 'Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.'

Hymn

**Eternal Father, strong to save,
whose arm doth bind the restless wave,
who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
its own appointed limits keep;
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.**

**O Saviour, whose almighty word
the winds and waves submissive heard,
who walkedst on the foaming deep,
and calm, amid its rage, didst sleep;
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.**

**O Sacred Spirit, who didst brood
upon the chaos dark and rude,
who bad'st its angry tumult cease,
and gave us light and life, and peace;
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.**

**O Trinity of love and pow'r,
our brethren shield in danger's hour.
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
protect them whereso'er they go;
and ever let their rise to thee
glad hymns of praise from land and sea.**

The Intercessions

Merciful God, you have taught us that every woman, man and child is our neighbour and you have commanded us to love without counting the cost. Sure, of your promise to hear us when pray we offer our prayers this day.

We pray for your church, that we maybe beacons of light in a troubled world, bringing the light of Christ into the darkness. We pray for Bishop June and all who show leadership in the Diocese both lay and ordained. May we go out to proclaim your gospel in the world. With our brothers and sisters in Lagunda Parish in Sweden we pray for peace, for those who have lost their lives in war and for refugees of war.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the leaders of the nations, remembering those who campaign for peace, those who seek and encourage reconciliation. Loving God bring healing to the nations; forgiveness where there is hurt, compassion where there is hatred, love where there is fear.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for your world and remember the ecological cost of war; the landscapes that bear the scars of bombing, the soil and water poisoned by the chemical residue of weapons, the destroyed habitats of birds and creatures. Loving God, bring healing to the earth, make a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We remember those living, now, under oppressive regimes, or in the midst of violence and conflict. The millions displaced from their homes to refugee camps. The communities struggling on with their daily lives under the shadow of war. Loving God, bring healing to nations where there is unrest, inspire in us hope for a world where all can live in dignity and safety.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We remember those in need today, those who are ill in mind body and spirit may your loving and healing touch be upon them in their time of need. We remember all who have died this week..... our loved ones departed and all whose anniversary occurs at this time. May we share with them in your eternal kingdom

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

On this Remembrance Sunday, we remember those who have lost their lives as a result of wars past and current areas of conflict. Soldiers, dispatched to far-away places, never to return and civilians, young and old, caught in the crossfire of conflict. Loving God bring healing to families torn apart by war. Comfort those who mourn.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

In a moment of silence, let us offer our own prayers and petitions this day....

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

Merciful Father
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

Hymn

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love
Where there is injury, your pardon Lord;
and where there's doubt, true faith in you

*O, Master, grant that I may never seek so
much to be consoled as to console, to be
understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul*

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light, and where
there's sadness, ever joy.

*O, Master, grant that I may never seek so
much to be consoled as to console, to be
understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul*

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.