

The Rectorial Benefice of the East Vale  
Morning Prayer  
Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2020 | Trinity 12

*Hymn [Requested by Lindsey and Caroline Grey to mark their 40<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary]*

**Ye holy angels bright,  
who wait at God's right hand,  
or through the realms of light  
fly at your Lord's command,  
assist our song,  
for else the theme  
too high doth seem  
for mortal tongue.**

**Ye blessèd souls at rest,  
who ran this earthly race,  
and now, from sin released,  
behold the Saviour's face,  
God's praises sound,  
as in his sight  
with sweet delight  
ye do abound.**

**Ye saints, who toil below,  
adore your heavenly King,  
and onward as ye go  
some joyful anthem sing;  
take what he gives  
and praise him still,  
through good or ill,  
who ever lives.**

**My soul, bear thou thy part,  
triumph in God above,  
and with a well-tuned heart  
sing thou the songs of love;  
let all thy days  
till life shall end,  
whate'er he send,  
be filled with praise.**

**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 and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of 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.**

*First Reading*

*(Jeremiah 15:15-21)*

A reading from the Prophecy of Jeremiah

O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts. I did not sit in the company of merry-makers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail. Therefore, thus says the Lord: If you turn back, I

will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord. I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

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

*Responsorial Psalm* (Psalm 26:1-8)

**R/ I have walked faithfully with you.**

Give judgement for me, O Lord, for I have lived with integrity; I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered. Test me, O Lord, and try me; examine my heart and my mind. **R/**

For your love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you. I have not sat with the worthless, nor do I consort with the deceitful. I have hated the company of evildoers; I will not sit down with the wicked. **R/**

I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord, that I may go in procession round your altar, singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recounting all your wonderful deeds. Lord, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides. **R/**

*Second Reading* (Romans 12:9-21)

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Belovèd, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

*The Gospel*

(Matthew 16:21-28)

**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 began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' Then Jesus told his disciples, '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 will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? 'For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

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**

Julie and I have just been to Pembrokeshire for a week. It rained a lot but that didn't matter, as we still got out for walks every day and chilled in the evenings. After all this time locked down since March it felt rather strange being on a holiday with a break away from the restricted routine that has become part of our lives. As we slowly emerge from lock down any number of things can cause us stress, especially when several things build up in our lives. Over the months Julie and I have been slowly working our way through a variety of box sets on the television and most recently it's been the comedy Rev. A

few days ago, we watched the Christmas Special at the end of Series 2 which was particularly rewarding.

I don't know if you are aware of the series Rev, which follows the ministry of the Reverend Adam Smallbone and his extremely patient wife Alex. They have moved from a country parish to a city centre church in London. It's a small but faithful congregation and Adam finds his first year there rather challenging. As Christmas approaches Adam becomes busier as each day passes, waking up at 5.30am, in order to cook the breakfast for the homeless and circumstances conspire against him. The Archdeacon is pressing him to raise more funds, a friend dies, and he isn't there for her, because he's too busy doing other things. Three Camels are stolen from the Nativity Set and one of his church members, who has challenging issues of his own, head butts Adam, giving him a black eye, and they fall out. His rather difficult father-in-law turns up for Christmas unexpectedly and the final straw is that Midnight Mass is disrupted by drunks. Adam has a major melt down during the service, singing his version of the 12 days of Christmas listing all the things that he's done and everything that has gone wrong. In the end the church member who head butted him, demands his forgiveness, which eventually is offered by Adam. The church member also confesses to a fellow church goer who is responsible for the nativity scene, that he has stolen the three camels and sold them, spending the money on drink and that she also has to forgive him. She curses at him and refuses to forgive, although I'm sure that in time she does forgive. All ends well, with a Christmas Meal in Church and a real mixture of people present, including the Archdeacon.

The whole point of relating this episode is that it speaks about the marks of being a Christian. Our reading from St Paul's letter to the Romans speaks of this. Paul says 'Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.' It continues, 'Bless those who persecute you....rejoice with those who rejoice.....weep with those who weep.....live in harmony....do not be haughty....associate with the lowly....do not repay evil for evil....if your enemies are hungry feed them....if they are thirsty give them a drink....overcome evil with good.' Paul writes some amazing stuff and here he says some really challenging things. When I read that passage, I thought of the Christmas episode of Rev still fresh in my mind and how it addressed so many of the issues and challenges raised by St Paul.

Our Gospel Reading also relates to that episode, when Jesus turns to face Jerusalem and the Cross that lay ahead for him. Jesus challenges his followers by saying 'Take up

your cross and follow me.' In Luke's account of this passage we read 'Take up your cross DAILY and follow me' making the message even more powerful. After all, that's what we are called to do as Christians, is to take up our cross every day and to follow Jesus every day, and that is what the Christmas episode of Rev was showing us. Despite the challenges of the situation, even to the point of Adam having that major wobble at Midnight Mass, he kept following his Saviour. It's interesting that the church where he serves in the programme is called St Saviour-in-the-Marshes.

The marks of the true Christian, as laid out for us by St Paul, are certainly not easy to follow. As ever we are called to be faithful. Our psalm today is Psalm 26 which starts with the following words: 'Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering. Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and mind. For your steadfast love is before my eyes and I walk in faithfulness to you.'

### **Hymn**

**At the name of Jesus ev'ry knee shall bow,  
ev'ry tongue confess him King of glory now;  
tis the Father's pleasure, we should call him Lord,  
who, from the beginning was the mighty Word.**

**Humbled for a season, to receive a name  
from the lips of sinners unto whom he came;  
faithfully he bore it, spotless to the last,  
brought it back victorious  
when from death he passed.**

**Name him, brothers, name him,  
with love as strong as death,  
but with awe and wonder, and with bated breath;  
he is God the saviour, he is Christ the Lord,  
ever to be worshipped, trusted and adored.**

**In your hearts enthrone him; there let him subdue  
all that is not holy, all that is not true;  
crown him as your captain in temptation's hour,  
let his will enfold you in its light and power.**

**Brothers, this Lord Jesus shall return again,  
with his Father's glory, with his angel train;  
for all wreaths of empire meet upon his brow,  
and our hearts confess him King of glory now.**

## **The Intercessions**

We pray to the God of all mercies for the needs of the Church and the world.

Confirm your faithful people in the peace and harmony that is your will for them. Give courage and strength to all ministers of the gospel when their burdens are heavy, especially Bishop June, and our parish clergy. May the church never fail to proclaim the cross of Christ, which brought salvation to the world.

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

As we prepare to begin a new academic year: may teachers and pupils, refreshed by the summer holiday, approach their work with enthusiasm and a glad and willing heart. In our prayer cycle with our link parish, we remember especially today all staff and pupils in preschools and the school of Örsundsbo in the parish of Lagunda, and within the church schools of the East Vale Benefice. We particularly remember those moving to a new school or starting school for the first time.

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

For those who suffer persecution for the sake of the Christ: may they remain steadfast in faith as they take up their cross and follow Jesus. We remember particularly our brothers and sisters experiencing persecution and intolerance in China, South Sudan, Pakistan and the Middle East.

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

For those who carry the cross of ill health, poverty, loneliness and bereavement: may they come to know Christ through the support and love we offer them.

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

Receive into your gracious care those who have died: may they know the salvation promised in the Gospel. Give us grace so to follow in the way of the cross in this world, that we may at last enter into eternal life.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

Let us in a moment of silence offer our own needs and concerns to our loving Father...

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

## **Hymn**

**Mine eyes have seen the glory  
of the coming of the Lord;  
He is trampling out the vintage  
where the grapes of wrath are stored.  
He hath loosed the fateful lightning  
of his terrible swift sword;  
His truth is marching on.**

**Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah!  
Glory, glory, hallelujah! His truth is marching on.**

**He has sounded forth the trumpet  
that shall never call retreat.  
He is sifting out the hearts of men  
before His judgment seat;  
Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer Him  
be jubilant, my feet;  
Our God is marching on.**

**Glory, glory, hallelujah.....**

**In the beauty of the lilies  
Christ was born across the sea,  
with a glory in his bosom  
that transfigures you and me.  
As He died to make men holy,  
let us die to make men free,  
While God is marching on.**

**Glory, glory, hallelujah.....**

**He is coming like the glory  
of the morning on the wave,  
He is wisdom to the mighty,  
he is succour to the brave.  
So the world shall be his footstool,  
and the soul of time his slave,  
Our God is marching on.**

**Glory, glory, hallelujah.....**