

**ARCH Group's aim: "To show our love for God and You"**

**Weekly Notices**

**18<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

**Twelfth Sunday after Trinity**

**Today's 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.

**Today's Post Communion Prayer**

God of all mercy, in this eucharist you have set aside our sins and given us your healing: grant that we who are made whole in Christ may bring that healing to this broken world, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Next Week's Services: Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

10.00 am	<i>at Harvington Baptist Church (HBC)</i>	HBC Service
11.00 am	Church Lench	Morning Service
11.00 am	Abbots Morton	Morning Service

## **For Prayer**

God of creation, as the world turns and we gaze again upon harvest fields, we pray for wisdom to enable us to understand and deal with the challenges posed by climate change. The seasons are no longer clearly defined, and weather often behaves in extreme ways. For ourselves and our loved ones, we pray for the wisdom to be prepared and to take care both at home and abroad; to be aware of the dangers posed by extreme heat, and the consequences of weather events such as wildfires and flooding. For our leaders and climate change experts, we pray for the knowledge to find solutions and the wisdom to use them, putting people before profits so that we may find ways to live safely in our rapidly changing world.

**Lord, grant us wisdom above all things.**

Father, we pray for those in our own community who are in any kind of need today. Perhaps they are lonely; perhaps they are hurting in body, mind or spirit, not enough to draw attention, but silently suffering nevertheless. We pray for the wisdom to discern their needs and the understanding to help them. We pray for the bereaved, whose grieving continues when the world around them has moved on; grant us insight into their pain, so that we might support them.

**Lord, grant us wisdom above all things.**

Lord God, we pray for all who lead us, at local level, in our nation, or on the world stage. May they be unafraid to admit their vulnerability, as Solomon was; may they seek wisdom above all things, not for their own good, but for the benefit of those they serve. Instead of self-seeking and empty rhetoric, may we have leaders with understanding, discernment, and good judgment.

**Lord, grant us wisdom above all things.**

Finally, Lord, grant us the wisdom to know how to pray. As we bow our heads in church or go forth into a new week with fresh challenges in our own homes and communities, may we have the insight to see where prayer is needed, the wisdom to use it and the understanding that you answer in your own time and manner.

**Lord, grant us wisdom above all things. Amen**

## **This Week's First Reading: *Isaiah 49:8-16a***

<sup>8</sup>Thus says the LORD: In a time of favour I have answered you, on a day of salvation I have helped you; I have kept you and given you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages; <sup>9</sup>saying to the prisoners, 'Come out', to those who are in darkness, 'Show yourselves.' They shall feed along the ways, on all the bare heights shall be their pasture; <sup>10</sup>they shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them down, for he who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them.

<sup>11</sup>And I will turn all my mountains into a road, and my highways shall be raised up. <sup>12</sup>Lo, these shall come from far away, and lo, these from the north and from the west, and these from the land of Syene. <sup>13</sup>Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the LORD has comforted his people, and will have compassion on his suffering ones.

<sup>14</sup>But Zion said, 'The LORD has forsaken me, my Lord has forgotten me.' <sup>15</sup>Can a woman forget her nursing-child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. <sup>16</sup>See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands.

## **This Week's Psalm: *Psalms 55:1-26***

- 1 Hear my prayer, O God; hide not yourself from my petition.
- 2 Give heed to me and answer me; I am restless in my complaining.
- 3 I am alarmed at the voice of the enemy and at the clamour of the wicked;
- 4 For they would bring down evil upon me and are set against me in fury.

*Psalm 55:1-26 continued*

- 5 My heart is disquieted within me, and the terrors of death have fallen upon me.
- 6 Fearfulness and trembling are come upon me, and a horrible dread has overwhelmed me.
- 7 And I said: 'O that I had wings like a dove, for then would I fly away and be at rest.
- 8 'Then would I flee far away and make my lodging in the wilderness.
- 9 'I would make haste to escape from the stormy wind and tempest.'
- 10 Confuse their tongues, O Lord, and divide them, for I have seen violence and strife in the city.
- 11 Day and night they go about on her walls; mischief and trouble are in her midst.
- 12 Wickedness walks in her streets; oppression and guile never leave her squares.
- 13 For it was not an open enemy that reviled me, for then I could have borne it;
- 14 Nor was it my adversary that puffed himself up against me, for then I would have hid myself from him.
- 15 But it was even you, one like myself, my companion and my own familiar friend.
- 16 We took sweet counsel together and walked with the multitude in the house of God.
- 17 Let death come suddenly upon them; let them go down alive to the Pit; for wickedness inhabits their dwellings, their very hearts.
- 18 As for me, I will call upon God and the Lord will deliver me.

## *Psalm 55:1-26 continued*

- 19 In the evening and morning and at noonday, I will pray and make my supplication, and he shall hear my voice.
- 20 He shall redeem my soul in peace from the battle waged against me, for many have come upon me.
- 21 God, who is enthroned of old, will hear and bring them down; they will not repent, for they have no fear of God.
- 22 My companion stretched out his hands against his friend and has broken his covenant;
- 23 His speech was softer than butter, though war was in his heart; his words were smoother than oil, yet are they naked swords.
- 24 Cast your burden upon the Lord and he will sustain you, and will not let the righteous fall for ever.
- 25 But those that are bloodthirsty and deceitful, O God, you will bring down to the pit of destruction.
- 26 They shall not live out half their days, but my trust shall be in you, O Lord.

## **This Week's Gospel Reading: *Matthew 6:25-34***

Jesus taught his disciples, saying: <sup>25</sup>Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup>Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup>And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? <sup>28</sup>And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup>yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not

## *Matthew 6:25-34 continued*

clothed like one of these. <sup>30</sup>But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you— you of little faith?

<sup>31</sup>Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” <sup>32</sup>For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup>But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

<sup>34</sup>So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.’

## **Next Week’s First Reading: *Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18***

<sup>1</sup>Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. <sup>2</sup>And Joshua said to all the people, <sup>14</sup>‘Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup>Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.’

<sup>16</sup>Then the people answered, ‘Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; <sup>17</sup>for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; <sup>18</sup>and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.’

## **Next Week's Psalm: *Psalm 34:15-22***

- 15 The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous and his ears are open to their cry.
- 16 The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.
- 17 The righteous cry and the Lord hears them and delivers them out of all their troubles.
- 18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and will save those who are crushed in spirit.
- 19 Many are the troubles of the righteous; from them all will the Lord deliver them.
- 20 He keeps all their bones, so that not one of them is broken.
- 21 But evil shall slay the wicked and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.
- 22 The Lord ransoms the life of his servants and will condemn none who seek refuge in him.

## **Next Week's Second Reading: *Ephesians 6:10-20***

<sup>10</sup>Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup>Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. <sup>15</sup>As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. <sup>18</sup>Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.

## *Ephesians 6:10-20 continued*

<sup>19</sup>Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup>for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

### **Next Week's Gospel Reading: *John 6:56-69***

Jesus said to the crowd: <sup>56</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.' <sup>59</sup>He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup>When many of his disciples heard it, they said, 'This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?' <sup>61</sup>But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, 'Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup>Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup>It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup>But among you there are some who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. <sup>65</sup>And he said, 'For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.'

<sup>66</sup>Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. <sup>67</sup>So Jesus asked the twelve, 'Do you also wish to go away?' <sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup>We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.'