

# Call to worship

Even as we enter the wilderness of Lent

# All We rest in the shelter of the most high

We abide in the shadow of the Almighty

## All We find refuge under the wings of our holy parent

We trust that the angels of God

#### All The words of God

The people of God

#### All The hands of God

Will somehow bear us up

# All And so we come to call on God who has promised to answer. Thanks be to God

# **Opening prayer**

Spirit of light and hope may we be aware of your presence among us. Awaken us again to the mysteries that humble us, the realities that orient us, the fellowship that sustains us that we may give ourselves in honesty and openness to the life before us. Amen

### **Confession and Absolution**

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled against Him. Let us then renounce our wilfulness and ask His mercy by confessing our sins in penitence and faith

God our Father, we come to you in sorrow for our sins. For turning away from you, and ignoring your will for our lives; Father forgive us

### All Save us and help us

For behaving just as we wished, without thinking of you; Father forgive us

#### All Save us and help us

For failing you by what we do, and think and say; Father forgive us

#### All Save us and help us

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you by temptations in the world around us; Father forgive us

#### All Save us and help us

For living as if we were ashamed to belong to your Son; Father forgive us

### All Save us and help us

May the Father of all mercies cleanse you from your sins, and restore you in His image to the praise and glory of His name.

#### All Amen

## Collect

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin; give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; through 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.

All Amen

# Hymn: Forty Days and Forty Nights

# Ministry of the Word

Your word is a lantern to my feet

All And a light upon our path

O Lord your word is everlasting

All It stands firm forever in the heavens

Let us then receive the word of God

All So may the light of your presence shine into our hearts

# **New Testament reading**

#### 1 Peter 3 18-end

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

This is the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Hymn: Jesu lover of my soul

# A reading for the Holy Gospel according to Mathew 25 31-40

## All Glory to you O Lord

'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothing. I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

# All Praise to you O Christ

### Sermon

Hymn: Your grace still amazes me

### **Affirmation of Faith**

All We believe in one God who created us and loves us all. We believe in Jesus Christ who leads us and calls us to follow. We believe in the Holy Spirit, present to us in our challenges and changes. We believe we are the Church, called to bring solace to the troubled, hope to the hopeless, and love to the lonely. We believe in the power of prayer, which enables us to live a life of love and service in the grace of God.

Amen

#### Intercessions

The response to "Lord of Compassion" is "In your mercy hear us."

Ending with The Lord's Prayer

All 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.

For thine is the kingdom,

The power, and the glory,

For ever and ever.

Amen.

# Going out as God's people

Blessed are you Holy God, creator, redeemer and life giver, you have spoken the world into being and filled it with wonder and beauty. For every blessing we have received

### All We give you thanks and praise

Blessed are you Holy God, for Jesus Christ our saviour, truly divine and truly human, living and dying for us, and going before us into heaven. For every blessing we have received

### All We give you thanks and praise

Blessed are you Holy God, for your Spirit, the fire of love burning in our hearts, bringing us faith and calling us to holiness, in the Church and in the world. For every blessing we have received

#### All We give you thanks and praise

Let us say together:

All Be with us Lord as we go out into the world. May the lips that have sung your praise always speak the truth; may the ears which have heard your word, listen only to what is good, and may our lives as well as our worship be always pleasing in your sight, for the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

# **Blessing**

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross and follow Him, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you always.

#### All Amen

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord

#### All Thanks be to God

# Hymn: Wonderful, merciful Saviour