

**United Benefice of Berrow with PendockEldersfield,
Hollybush and Birtsmorton
Morning Prayer**

Welcome and Notices

Preparation

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you
and also with you.

This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**We have come together in the name of Christ
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,
to hear and receive God's holy word,
to pray for the needs of the world,
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins,
that by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may give ourselves to the service of God.**

**The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.**

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Confession

Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'
So let us turn away from our sin and turn to Christ,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

The Absolution

May almighty God
who forgives all who truly repent
have mercy upon *us*,
pardon and deliver *us* from all *our* sins
confirm and strengthen *us* in all goodness
and keep *us* in life eternal
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Psalm 89:8-18

Who is like you, LORD God Almighty?

You, LORD, are mighty, and your faithfulness surrounds you.

⁹ You rule over the surging sea;
when its waves mount up, you still them.

¹⁰ You crushed Rahab like one of the slain;

with your strong arm you scattered your enemies.
11 The heavens are yours, and yours also the earth;
you founded the world and all that is in it.
12 You created the north and the south;
Tabor and Hermon sing for joy at your name.
13 Your arm is endowed with power;
your hand is strong, your right hand exalted.
14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your
throne;
love and faithfulness go before you.
15 Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you,
who walk in the light of your presence, LORD.
16 They rejoice in your name all day long;
they celebrate your righteousness.
17 For you are their glory and strength,
and by your favour you exalt our horn
18 Indeed, our shield^[e] belongs to the LORD,
our king to the Holy One of Israel.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

The Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God,
you have broken the tyranny of sin
and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts
whereby we call you Father:
give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,
that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious
liberty of the children of God;
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.
Amen

The Collect for Peace

O God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord,
to know you is eternal life,
to serve you is perfect freedom.
Defend us your servants
from all assaults of our enemies;
that we may trust in your defence,
and not fear the power of any adversaries;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Collect for Grace

Almighty and everlasting God,
we thank you that you have brought us safely
to the beginning of this day.
Keep us from falling into sin
or running into danger,
order us in all our doings
and guide us to do always
what is righteous in your sight;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Bible Reading **Romans 6:12-23**

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

Reflection:

These last few months have been a trying time in many different ways. Some people have embraced the situation they have found themselves in, others are in denial that there is a virus and some are so anxious and fearful, they barely leave their homes.

The number of people without work and the economic situation is huge. People needing help and support have vastly increased and each local authority is struggling to meet those needs. Many wonderful community stories are heart warming but it doesn't take away for those most vulnerable in our society the impact of this situation. It doesn't take away the unacceptable behaviour of some and the systems that are in crisis.

As Paul understands it, Sin is a power at work in the world. But through God's unmitigated, unmerited and unrelenting grace, we have been set free from the power of Sin. This is not a grace that merely assuages our guilt.

This is a grace that pursues us with God's love and mercy. This is a grace opens for us the way that leads to a new way of being--the way of God's life, the way of eternal life.

Bound to God, we are engaged in the mission of God in the world. And the mission of God is not merely to rescue people's souls. God's mission is the healing of the world, the wholeness of humanity and the renewal of creation. We all get to join that mission, because we have been conscripted by God's grace.

We all need some refuelling-places and times when we can worship and encounter God. But it can sometimes take us away from what is our mission. Are we become too timid in proclaiming the Good News of God? Do we just try not to be offensive and to avoid conflict, keeping everyone happy. Do we ignore the challenges of the world we inhabit?

Are there opportunities now available to put back our world in a different way, with different priorities, structures and balances? What was normal before, does it have to be normal again, or is there a better way?
What will be our response?

Will we engage with the mission of God?

Will we work for justice, freedom and peace?

Will we be instruments of righteousness?

Will we proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

Will we embody the qualities of life that are eternal?

Or can we step up to the challenges ahead, renewed by the spirit, pray for wisdom and discernment and engage with others to grasp the changes required to build a legacy that is built on the values that are deep rooted in our faith in building God's Kingdom on earth?

Amen



Genesis22:1-14 Trust in God.

The Prayers of Intercession

After each intercession the intercessor may say

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Merciful Father
Accept our prayers
For the sake of your Son
Our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.

**Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who 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.**

The Grace

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

The Dismissal

**Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.**