

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 2021
ALL SAINTS WITLEY: LITURGY OF THE WORD



In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
The Lord be with you
and also with you.

HYMN

Forty days and forty nights
thou wast fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled:

Sunbeams scorching all the day;
chilly dew-drops nightly shed;
prowling beasts about thy way;
stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.

Shall not we thy sorrows share,
and from earthly joys abstain,
fasting with unceasing prayer,
glad with thee to suffer pain?

And if Satan, vexing sore,
flesh or spirit should assail,
thou, his vanquisher before,
grant we may not faint nor fail.

So shall we have peace divine;
holier gladness ours shall be;
round us too shall angels shine,
such as ministered to thee.

Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
ever constant by thy side;
that with thee we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide.

COLLECT

Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.
Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion,
and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me:
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy spirit from me:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

READINGS

Old Testament: Genesis 9. 8 – 17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature

that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

Gospel: Mark 1. 9 – 15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

SERMON Ben Cahill-Nicholls

CHOIR ANTHEM *Turn thy face from my sins*

Words: Psalm 51. 9 – 11

Music: Thomas Attwood, 1765–1838

Turn thy face from my sins, and put out all my misdeeds.
Make me a clean heart O God, and renew a right spirit within me,
cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.

PRAYERS

For resistance to temptation and obedience of life, let us pray to the Lord.

May God's people, baptized in the name of the Holy Trinity, hold fast to the faith they have professed. Keep the Church safe in purity of doctrine and holiness of life. May the Holy Spirit come down in power to be our guide and lead us away from temptation.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We ask that the divine love may be victorious over all evil in the world. Where human authority leads people astray and power is wrongly used, may the power of Christ drive away temptation and cleanse the nations with the sacred water of his baptism. Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

As the Father rejoiced in the work of the Incarnate Son, may we receive grace to live as those who are pleasing to him in our own time. Bless this community, its homes and its places of work with the protection of the divine love.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Have mercy on those who are in the wilderness places of this world, assailed by the wild beasts of doubt and temptation. Bring them safely through their trouble, feed those who are hungry in their bodies or in their minds and lead them into the way where they may know and embrace your love.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Give rest to all who have passed through the temptations of this life and now are free from all its dangers. Let their praise be joined with the song of the angels who ministered to the Incarnate Lord and now adore him in his glory.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

May these our prayers be acceptable in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son, the Beloved. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

HYMN

O for a heart to praise my God,
a heart from sin set free;
a heart that's sprinkled with the blood
so freely shed for me:

A heart resigned, submissive, meek,
my great Redeemer's throne;
where only Christ is heard to speak,
where Jesus reigns alone:

A humble, lowly, contrite heart,
believing, true, and clean,
which neither life nor death can part
from him that dwells within:

A heart in every thought renewed,
and full of love divine;
perfect and right and pure and good —
a copy, Lord, of thine.

Thy nature, gracious Lord, impart,
come quickly from above;
write thy new name upon my heart,
thy new best name of Love.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

NOTICES

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 among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

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

Piano Voluntary

