

**Greeting**

The Lord be with you  
*All and also with you.*

**TIME TO BREAK OUT IN CONFESSION**

*All* Lord God,  
we have sinned against you;  
we have done evil in your sight.  
We are sorry and repent.  
Have mercy on us according to your love.  
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.  
Renew a right spirit within us  
and restore us to the joy of your salvation,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*cf Psalm 51*

**Amen.**

**Absolution**

May the Father of all mercies  
cleanse *us* from *our* sins,  
and restore *us* in his image  
to the praise and glory of his name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* Amen.

**TIME TO BREAK OUT IN SCRIPTURE****Reading from Holy Scripture:**

Matthew 22

<sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. <sup>16</sup> They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. <sup>17</sup> Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?"

<sup>18</sup> But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? <sup>19</sup> Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius, <sup>20</sup> and he asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?"

<sup>21</sup> "Caesar's," they replied.

Then he said to them, "So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

<sup>22</sup> When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

<sup>23</sup> That same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him with a question. <sup>24</sup> "Teacher," they said, "Moses told us that if a man dies without having children, his brother must marry the widow and raise up offspring for him. <sup>25</sup> Now there were seven brothers among us. The first one married and died, and since he had no children, he left his wife to his brother. <sup>26</sup> The same thing happened to the second and third brother, right on down to the seventh. <sup>27</sup> Finally, the woman died. <sup>28</sup> Now then, at the resurrection, whose wife will she be of the seven, since all of them were married to her?"

<sup>29</sup> Jesus replied, "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God. <sup>30</sup> At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven. <sup>31</sup> But about the resurrection of the dead—have you not read what God said to you, <sup>32</sup> 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not the God of the dead but of the living."

<sup>33</sup> When the crowds heard this, they were astonished at his teaching.

<sup>34</sup> Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. <sup>35</sup> One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: <sup>36</sup> "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

<sup>37</sup> Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'

<sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' <sup>40</sup> All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

<sup>41</sup> While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, <sup>42</sup> "What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?"

"The son of David," they replied.

<sup>43</sup> He said to them, "How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him 'Lord'? For he says,

<sup>44</sup> "'The Lord said to my Lord:

"Sit at my right hand  
until I put your enemies  
under your feet.'"

<sup>45</sup> If then David calls him 'Lord,' how can he be his son?" <sup>46</sup> No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.




This is the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### Questions for reflection:

- Your thoughts and feelings:**

[illegible]

## Psalm 96

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song;   
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his name;   
tell out his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations   
and his wonders among all peoples.

4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; ♦  
he is more to be feared than all gods.

5 For all the gods of the nations are but idols; ♦  
it is the Lord who made the heavens.

6 Honour and majesty are before him; ♦  
power and splendour are in his sanctuary.

7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; ♦  
ascribe to the Lord honour and strength.

8 Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name; ♦  
bring offerings and come into his courts.

9 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; ♦  
let the whole earth tremble before him.

10 Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is  
king. ♦

He has made the world so firm that it cannot be  
moved;  
he will judge the peoples with equity.

11 Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad; ♦  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;

12 Let the fields be joyful and all that is in them; ♦  
let all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the  
Lord.

13 For he comes, he comes to judge the earth; ♦  
with righteousness he will judge the world  
and the peoples with his truth.

### **Intercessions** John Lancaster

#### **Prayers of Intercession**

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,  
so may your mercy come down upon us  
to cleanse our hearts  
and set us free to sing your praise  
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

#### **For the world**

We pray, gracious Lord and Father, for Your mercy and  
justice and grace to be evident in this world today.  
We pray for peace in an un-peaceful world. We pray  
for the peoples of Myanmar, Yemen, Afghanistan and  
Ethiopia. We pray for an end to the instruments of  
war; for an end of warplanes, warships, tanks, bombs,  
missiles, bullets, batons, tear gas and knives. Instead,  
we pray for ploughshares, for tractors, for hospitals  
and schools.

Lord God, Jehovah Shalom, bless the peacemakers of  
the world, the seekers of shalom, salaam and pax. We  
pray for the mediators, the bridge builders, the  
conciliators.

We continue to pray for an end to this pandemic  
throughout the world. We pray for governments, for  
NGOs and for all peoples of goodwill to work together  
in this mission. We pray for at the front line; for  
doctors, nurses and all health workers, for scientists  
and for those distributing the vaccines and PPE. We  
pray for Your protection on these front line workers.  
We pray for their wisdom and perseverance. We pray  
for Your Spirit to be their comfort and their strength.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

#### **For our Country**

We continue to pray for our own NHS, for your  
blessing and protection on all who work in it, and for  
those who seek its help to be healed and blessed and  
treated with love, skill and compassion.

In this time of political turmoil, we pray for the  
government in prayers from the Christians in  
Parliament organisation:-

- Loving and all powerful Lord, we pray for  
wisdom for the Queen, for the Prime Minister  
Boris Johnson, and the cabinet
- We pray for integrity, truth and compassion  
throughout government
- We pray for the positive influence of God's  
people, for the good of all throughout all  
government departments
- We pray that the UK government would be a  
strong force for good in foreign policy and  
bringing relief to those suffering throughout  
the world.

We continue to pray for our local politicians – for Chris  
Matheson, our member of parliament; for Andrew  
Lewis, chief executive of Cheshire West Council; and  
for Louise Gittins, its council leader. We pray for wise  
decisions for the good of all, especially the most  
vulnerable.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

#### **For our own congregation**

- We thank you for our Vicar Jonathan and for  
his family. We give thanks for the safe return  
of Cyd's parents Ted and Bonnie to their home  
in the USA. We pray for Jonathan's father  
Michael due to have a cataract operation, now  
cancelled due to his shingles. We thank you

the family now free of covid. May your richest blessing be on them all.

- We give thanks that Viv Davis' results have come back clear
- We continue to pray for Ian and Debra Clark.
- We continue to pray for Wendy Swan and her mother Mavis, for wise decisions about Mavis' care and for peace for Wendy in those decisions

#### **For Cafe at the Cross**

- For Barrie who had a hospital appointment on Wednesday concerning stomach problems
- For P following her appointment with a consultant on Wednesday
- For Eileen (café volunteer) who has tested positive for covid
- For Sandra whose son died suddenly and unexpectedly from a brain tumour
- For W who is struggling with the aftermath of childhood abuse
- For Mandy

We also pray for the healing of members of the Net who are unwell; and for Night Church as they plan for this coming year

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

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

#### ***The Lord's Prayer***

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.**

#### **Blessing & Dismissal**

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the

Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen**