

The Benefice of Pontefract  
Parish of St Giles with St Mary's

A service of Evening Prayer  
(a liturgy of lament) for All Souls



Sunday, 1st November at 5.00pm  
Livestreamed on Facebook only

(Names of loved ones will not be read out during this service.)

# A Liturgy of Lament

## THE GATHERING

We meet in the presence of God  
who knows our needs,  
hears our cries,  
feels our pain,  
and heals our wounds.

## INTRODUCTION

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;  
to you be praise and glory for ever.  
Through baptism we become members one of another in Christ,  
members of a company of saints,  
whose mutual belonging transcends death.  
As we bring before you our loss, our fears, our anxiety,  
strengthen us by your grace,  
renew us in your faith,  
and enfold us in your love.  
So, may we be made ready to see your face  
in the heavenly city where night shall be no more,  
and all hurt and pain are dispelled.  
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Blessed be God for ever.

*The following prayers may be used:*

Free us, God of mercy,  
from all that keeps us from you;  
relieve the misery of the anxious and the bereaved,  
and fill us with the hope of peace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

In the darkness of unknowing,  
when your love seems absent,  
draw near to us, O God,  
in Christ forsaken,  
in Christ risen,  
our Redeemer and our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM 130

Out of the depths I have called to you, Lord,  
let your ears be open to hear my voice.

**All my hope is in God's word.**

If you recorded all our sins  
who could come before you?

**All my hope is in God's word.**

There is forgiveness with you:  
therefore you shall be feared.

**All my hope is in God's word.**

My soul is longing for the Lord,  
more than those who watch for daybreak.

**All my hope is in God's word.**

O Israel, wait for the Lord,  
for with the Lord there is mercy.

**All my hope is in God's word.**

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.

**All my hope is in God's word.**

## READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

The first reading is taken from Romans chapter 8 beginning to read at verse 31:

<sup>31</sup> What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. <sup>[a]</sup> <sup>35</sup> Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height,

nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8.31–39

The second reading is taken from Matthew chapter 11 beginning to read at verse 28:

<sup>28</sup> “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11:28-30

## **RESPONSORY**

Fear not, for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by name; you are mine.

**Fear not, for I have redeemed you.**

I have called you by name; you are mine.  
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.  
When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned.

**I have called you by name; you are mine.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit.

**Fear not, for I have redeemed you.**

**I have called you by name; you are mine.**

## **CANTICLE: A SONG OF LAMENTATION**

*Refrain:* Great is your faithfulness, O Lord. Alleluia!

- 1 Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?  
Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow,
- 2 Which was brought upon me,  
which the Lord inflicted  
on the day of his fierce anger.
- 3 For these things I weep; my eyes flow with tears;  
for a comforter is far from me, one to revive my courage.
- 4 Remember my affliction and my bitterness,  
the wormwood and the gall!
- 5 But this I call to mind,  
and therefore I have hope:

- 6 The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,  
his mercies never come to an end;
- 7 They are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.
- 8 “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul,  
“therefore I will hope in him.”
- 9 The Lord is good to those who wait for him,  
to the soul that seeks him.
- 10 It is good that we should wait quietly  
for the salvation of the Lord.
- 11 For the Lord will not reject for ever;  
though he causes grief, he will have compassion,
- 12 According to the abundance of his steadfast love;  
for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

**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.**

*Refrain:* Great is your faithfulness, O Lord. Alleluia!

*You are invited to light a candle at the start of our prayers as a sign that Christ is the light who shines in the darkness.*



## **PRAYERS**

Shield us, Lord, from all evil,  
and lift us from apathy and despair,  
that even when we are terrified  
we may trust your power to save  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
may the tears shed in your earthly life  
be balm for all who weep,  
and may the prayers of your pilgrimage  
give strength to all who suffer;  
for your mercy's sake.  
**Amen.**

From your royal throne, O God,  
you sent your living Word  
to pierce the gloom of oppression;  
so, in our souls' night,  
come with your saving help  
and penetrate our darkness  
with the rays of your glory  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Lord, when we are tempted  
to trust in our own strength  
strip us of false security  
and re-clothe us in your praise,  
that we may know you  
as the one who raises us from death,  
as you raised your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
when fear and anxiety besiege us  
and hope is veiled in grief,  
hold us in your wounded hands  
and make your face shine on us again,  
for you are our Lord and God.

**Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer may be said**

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.

## **CONCLUDING PRAYERS**

Creator God,  
may every breath we take be for your glory,  
may every footstep show you as our way,  
that, trusting in your presence in this world,  
we may, beyond this life, still be with you  
where you are alive and reign  
for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and watch over you,  
the Lord make his face shine upon you  
and be gracious to you,  
the Lord look kindly on you and give you peace;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be with you and remain with you,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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