



Collect for the day

Almighty God, who called your church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

A reading from the book of Exodus

**12** The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: <sup>2</sup> This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup> Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. <sup>4</sup> If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. <sup>5</sup> Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. <sup>6</sup> You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. <sup>7</sup> They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. <sup>8</sup> They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. <sup>9</sup> Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in

water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. <sup>10</sup> You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. <sup>11</sup> This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. <sup>12</sup> For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. <sup>13</sup> The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

<sup>14</sup> This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.



### A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

<sup>8</sup> Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbour as yourself.” <sup>10</sup> Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

<sup>11</sup> Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup> the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay

aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; <sup>13</sup> let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

### A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

<sup>15</sup> “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup> But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup> If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup> Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup> Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup> For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”



### Words from Fr Rodney

Today is a landmark day for our parishes as, for the first time since March, both our churches will be open for our Sunday Eucharists. I realise and understand that some of you will still feel anxious about coming back to church, or indeed coming out at all yet, and sadly it is still not safe to bring you communion at home. That's fine, and we will be praying for you especially during our Eucharists this morning. Our Gospel reading today has at the end of it these words, "***For where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am among them***". This simple phrase is one of the most important in the Gospel, for it reminds us that our Christian faith at its heart is a community faith that we share in together, and that is most clearly seen and experienced when we come together to share in the Eucharist. But we are also able to spiritually put our arms around those who, for one reason or another, cannot be with us, so that they too may be united with Christ and with us. All that said, I long for the day when we can again all be together again and know and celebrate in all its fullness the presence of the living Christ amongst us and receive Holy Communion together. To quote the famous song of the late Vera Lynn, "*We'll meet again. don't know where, don't know when. But I know we'll meet again some sunny day*". Meanwhile we pray that God may bless us all.

### Let us pray

Heavenly Father, we give thanks that both churches in our Benefice can once again open their doors and welcome their congregations back. We rejoice that we can share in the Eucharist celebration. We give thanks for the technology that is allowing us to come this morning live into peoples homes. We pray for the decisions to be made as we move forward, may we be willing to enter into them with an open mind and be guided along the path you want us to take. Amen

Heavenly Father, we pray for the church in a rapidly changing world: for the Archbishops, Bishops, Clergy and people: we pray also for our brothers and sisters in faith far and wide, not forgetting they too are facing the same issues caused by this pandemic. We ask that all who seek to lead the church may be filled with your wisdom and strength to face the challenges ahead. Amen

Heavenly Father, we pray for our world. We pray for peace, justice and tolerance in areas of the world and in our own communities where there is



division, hatred and inequality. Send your spirit to guide our leaders and all those in authority to come together to build a fairer kinder world. As we read the words of St Paul reiterating Jesus's words, 'Love one another' and the in the words of the commandments, 'Love your neighbour as yourself': giving a little of ourselves to build bridges. Amen

Heavenly father, we pray for our families, friends and neighbours, we give thanks for their love for us and for the many acts of kindness they show. We pray for our communities and its organisations starting to look forward to the future. May they find ways to be of service to others whilst maintaining everyone's safety and wellbeing. We pray for our children, teachers and those who support the education system at this time as they return to school this coming week. Be with them all amid the mixed emotions of excitement, anxiety, and relief. Amen

Heavenly Father, we pray for all who are suffering or in any kind of need. We pray for those who are ill at home, in hospital or nursing homes. We pray for all who are anxious, lonely or struggling to cope. We pray for those who are bereaved and have lost loved ones. We pray for any known to us ..... Father, surround them with your healing love and grant your support to those who care for them. Amen

Heavenly Father we bring before you all those who have gone before us, for those who have passed recently and for those whose anniversaries fall at this time and especially for those known to us.....

We thank you for their lives, their love and friendship and ask they they may rest in peace and rise in glory.

*In a moment of silence bring your own prayers to God*  
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The Lords prayer

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, forever and ever.  
Amen.