

The Benefice of Silsoe, Pulloxhill and Flitton
Growing as beacons of Christ's Light in our communities



MORNING PRAYER
for All Saints Day

Sunday 1 November 2020

Led by Reader Gillian Kern
Recorded at St John the Baptist, Flitton

Greeting

We stand before the throne of God
with countless crowds from every nation, tribe and language.

**All: Blessing and glory and wisdom,
thanksgiving and power,
honour and might be to our god for ever and ever,**

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

All: and also with you

This is the day the Lord has made.

All: 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 forgiveness for our sins,
that by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may give ourselves to the service of God;
Let us, therefore, pray together and remember God's
Presence with us now.

**All: Almighty God,
To whom all hearts are open,
all desires known and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name
through Christ our Lord
Amen.**

The prayers of penitence

God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ
to save us from our sins,
to be our advocate in heaven,
and to bring us to eternal life:

Let us, therefore, confess our sins in penitence and faith firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all:

**All: Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done what is wrong in your sight;
we are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love,
cleans us from our sin;
renew a right spirit within us,
and restore us to the joy of your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

May the father of all mercies
cleans 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

Blessed is the Lord,

All: For he has heard our prayer.

Therefore, shall our hearts dance for joy

All: and in our songs we will praise our God.

The Collect for All Saints Day

God of holiness,
your glory is proclaimed in every age:
as we rejoice in the faith of your saints,
inspire us to follow their example
with boldness and joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen

The Word of God

Psalm 34 v1-10

I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
² My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
let the humble hear and be glad.
³ O magnify the LORD with me,
and let us exalt his name together.
⁴ I sought the LORD, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.
⁵ Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.
⁶ This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD,
and was saved from every trouble.
⁷ The angel of the LORD encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them.
⁸ O taste and see that the LORD is good;
happy are those who take refuge in him.
⁹ O fear the LORD, you his holy ones,
for those who fear him have no want.
¹⁰ The young lions suffer want and hunger,
but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

³ 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The Epistle Reading

Isaiah 35 v1-9

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;
² it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴ Say to those who are of fearful heart,
"Be strong; do not fear!
Here is your God
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ And a highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel it.
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.
⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

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

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 5 v1-12

⁵ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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

Sermon - *The alternative text referred to can be found at the end of this service sheet.*

The Creed

All: 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 to heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.
Amen

Prayers of intercession

Bidding: Lord in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer

**All: Merciful Father,
Accept these prayers,
For the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ
Amen**

Gathering our prayers into one, let us pray as Jesus taught us

**All: 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**

Grace

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

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

All: in the name of Christ. Amen

The Message You're Blessed

5 ¹⁻² When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed with him. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down and taught his climbing companions. This is what he said:

³ "You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.

⁴ "You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

⁵ "You're blessed when you're content with just who you are—no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought.

⁶ "You're blessed when you've worked up a good appetite for God. He's food and drink in the best meal you'll ever eat.

⁷ "You're blessed when you care. At the moment of being 'care-full,' you find yourselves cared for.

⁸ "You're blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

⁹ "You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family.

¹⁰ "You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kingdom.

¹¹⁻¹² "Not only that—count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens—give a cheer, even!—for though they don't like it, *I* do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble.