



ARCH Group's aim: "To show love for God and You"

Sunday 19th October
Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

Today's Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Today's Post Communion

We praise and thank you, O Christ, for this sacred feast: for here we receive you, here the memory of your passion is renewed, here our minds are filled with grace, and here a pledge of future glory is given, when we shall feast at that table where your reign with all your saints forever.

Next Week Services: Sunday 26th October

9:30am	Harvington	Holy Communion
11:00am	Church Lench	Family Communion
11:00am	Abbots Morton	Morning Service
15:30pm	Harvington	Messy Church

*All are invited to the Licencing Service for our new Rector Rev Glenn Reading at 3pm on 23^d November at Harvington Church.
Refreshments and cash bar provided at the coach and horses after.*

Prayer of Intercession

We pray for all involved in our justice system, for police officers, judges, lawyers and all who uphold the law. We pray for all who work in our prisons and for all those serving prison sentences. We pray for the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and give thanks for the steps to peace in Gaza. For Somalia, Yemen and all other countries in conflict. For aid workers everywhere. We pray for safe passage for lorries and workers to reach those in need.

Lord, we lift our eyes to you.

Hear our cries for justice, mercy and peace.

We pray for families everywhere who have been affected by tragedy. We pray for widows, orphans, the needy and the vulnerable. We pray for our own loved ones and for our communities. For those who are fearing the prospect of blackouts this winter and dreading escalating debt due to the ever-spiralling cost of living.

Lord, we lift our eyes to you.

Hear our cries for justice, mercy and peace.

We pray for all who preach your word, Lord. For all Christian leaders in our churches, especially our new Bishop Reverend Hugh Nelson and Archbishop of Canterbury Dame Sarah Mullally, as well as Father Glenn Reading preparing to join us. You call us to pray, to work at it and not give up. You care about every detail in our lives, from the smallest to the more complex. We place all into your hands, for on you we can depend.

Lord, we lift our eyes to you.

Hear our cries for justice, mercy and peace.

We pray for those who suffer in mind body or soul. For those for whom life is a hidden struggle. We pray that your light and peace will surround and guide all those you travel in your name. With thanks we remember and wherever there is injustice your love will never fade.

Lord, we lift our eyes to you.

Hear our cries for justice, mercy and peace.

Amen.

This Week's First Reading: *Jeremiah 31.22-34*

²² How long will you wander, unfaithful Daughter Israel? The Lord will create a new thing on earth—the woman will return to the man.” ²³ This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: “When I bring them back from captivity, the people in the land of Judah and in its towns will once again use these words: ‘The Lord bless you, you prosperous city, you sacred mountain.’” ²⁴ People will live together in Judah and all its towns—farmers and those who move about with their flocks. ²⁵ I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint.”

²⁶ At this I awoke and looked around. My sleep had been pleasant to me. ²⁷ “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will plant the kingdoms of Israel and Judah with the offspring of people and of animals. ²⁸ Just as I watched over them to uproot and tear down, and to overthrow, destroy and bring disaster, so I will watch over them to build and to plant,” declares the Lord. ²⁹ “In those days people will no longer say, ‘The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge.’” ³⁰ Instead, everyone will die for their own sin; whoever eats sour grapes—their own teeth will be set on edge.

³¹ “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the Lord.

³³ “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ³⁴ No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the Lord. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

This Week’s Psalm: Psalm 119.97 -104

97. Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long.

98. Your commands are always with me and make me wiser than my enemies.

99. I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes.

100. I have more understanding than the elders, for I obey your precepts.

101. I have kept my feet from every evil path so that I might obey your word.

102. I have not departed from your laws, for you yourself have taught me.

103. How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

104. I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path.

This Week's Second Reading: 2 Timothy 3.14- 4.5

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

This Week's Gospel Reading: Luke 18.1-8

The parable of the persistent widow.

¹ Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. ² He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. ³ And there was a widow in that same town who kept coming to him with a plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary' ⁴ For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'even though I don't fear God or care what people think, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!'"

⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night?

Continued: *Luke 18.1 – 8.*

Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quicky. However when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”

Next Week’s First Reading: *Joel 2.23 – End.*

²³ Be glad, people of Zion, rejoice in the Lord your God, for he has given you the autumn rains because he is faithful. He sends you abundant showers, both autumn and spring rains, as before.²⁴ The threshing floors will be filled with grain; the vats will overflow with new wine and oil. ²⁵ “I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten— the great locust and the young locust, the other locusts and the locust swarm — my great army that I sent among you. ²⁶ You will have plenty to eat, until you are full, and you will praise the name of the Lord your God, who has worked wonders for you; never again will my people be shamed. ²⁷ Then you will know that I am in Israel, that I am the Lord your God, and that there is no other; never again will my people be shamed.

²⁸ “And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. ²⁹ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. ³⁰ I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. ³¹ The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. ³² And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the Lord has said, even among the survivors whom the Lord calls.

Next Week's Psalm: *Psalm 65.*

1. Praise awaits you, our God, in Zion; to you our vows will be fulfilled.
2. You who answer prayer, to you all people will come.
3. When we were overwhelmed by sins, you forgave our transgressions.
4. Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts! We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple.
5. You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds, God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas,
6. who formed the mountains by your power, having armed yourself with strength,
7. who stilled the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the turmoil of the nations.
8. The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders; where morning dawns, where evening fades, you call forth songs of joy.
9. You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it.
10. You drench its furrows and level its ridges; you soften it with showers and bless its crops.
11. You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance.
12. The grasslands of the wilderness overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness.
13. The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain; they shout for joy and sing.

Next Week's Second Reading: 2 Timothy 4.6 – 8.

⁶ For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Next Weeks Gospel Reading: Luke 18.9 – 14.

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

⁹ To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰

“two men went up to the temple to pray, one a pharisee and the other a tax collector.

¹¹ The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people -robbers, evildoers, adulterers – or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week and give away a tenth of all I get.’

¹³ But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

¹⁴ I tell you this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”