**Collect**

Almighty and everlasting God,

you hate nothing that you have made

and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:

create and make in us new and contrite hearts

that we, worthily lamenting our sins

and acknowledging our wretchedness,

may receive from you, the God of all mercy,

perfect remission and forgiveness;

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 for ever. **Amen.**

**Psalm 51.1-18**

1  Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness; •  
   according to the abundance of your compassion  
      blot out my offences.  
2  Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness •  
   and cleanse me from my sin.  
3  For I acknowledge my faults •  
   and my sin is ever before me.  
4  Against you only have I sinned •  
   and done what is evil in your sight,  
5  So that you are justified in your sentence •  
   and righteous in your judgement.  
6  I have been wicked even from my birth, •  
   a sinner when my mother conceived me.  
7  Behold, you desire truth deep within me •  
   and shall make me understand wisdom  
      in the depths of my heart.  
8  Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean; •  
   wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.  
9  Make me hear of joy and gladness, •  
   that the bones you have broken may rejoice.  
10  Turn your face from my sins •  
   and blot out all my misdeeds.  
11  Make me a clean heart, O God, •  
   and renew a right spirit within me.  
12  Cast me not away from your presence •  
   and take not your holy spirit from me.  
13  Give me again the joy of your salvation •  
   and sustain me with your gracious spirit;  
14  Then shall I teach your ways to the wicked •  
   and sinners shall return to you.  
15  Deliver me from my guilt, O God,  
      the God of my salvation, •  
   and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.  
16  O Lord, open my lips •  
   and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.  
17  For you desire no sacrifice, else I would give it; •  
   you take no delight in burnt offerings.  
18  The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; •  
   a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

**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.**

**2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10**

20So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

6As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. 2For he says,  
‘At an acceptable time I have listened to you,  
   and on a day of salvation I have helped you.’  
See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! 3We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, 4but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, 5beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; 6by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, 7truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; 8in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; 9as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; 10as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

**John 8.1-11**

81while Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. 2Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. 3The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, 4they said to him, ‘Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. 5Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?’ 6They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. 7When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, ‘Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.’ 8And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. 9When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. 10Jesus straightened up and said to her, ‘Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?’ 11She said, ‘No one, sir.’And Jesus said, ‘Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.’

**Post Communion Prayer**

Almighty God,

you have given your only Son to be for us

both a sacrifice for sin

and also an example of godly life:

give us grace

that we may always most thankfully receive

these his inestimable gifts,

and also daily endeavour to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**NOTICES:**

At the end of the service please place your service booklet in the box provided at the back of church and take this sheet home with you.

To comply with NHS Test & Trace we ask you to fill in the contact sheet and place this in a separate box at the back of church. Please do not fold the sheet. For the time enter the time of the service you are attending. If you are using the NHS app the QR code is displayed at the back of church and in the porch.

**Forthcoming services:**

21st February The First Sunday in Lent

9.30am Morning Prayer at St Mary’s

11.00am Holy Communion at St Peter’s

28th February The Second Sunday in Lent

9.30am Holy Communion at St Mary’s

11.00am Morning Prayer at St Peter’s

7th March The Third Sunday in Lent

9.30am Morning Prayer at St Mary’s

11.00am Morning Prayer at St Peter’s

14th March Mothering Sunday

9.30am Holy Communion at St Mary’s

11.00am Holy Communion at St Peter’s

21st March Passion Sunday

9.30am Morning Prayer at St Mary’s

11.00am Morning Prayer at St Peter’s

28th March Palm Sunday

9.30am Holy Communion at St Mary’s

11.00am Holy Communion at St Peter’s

Please note the revised pattern of services as we near the end of Lent. Services may change at short notice due to the current situation.

**Lent**

Due to current restrictions we shall not be offering a Lent course this year. The Church of England has prepared a simple Lent leaflet with a short bible passage for each day accompanied by a reflection and a prayer.

This is available online via the CofE website, as an app for Android and iOS, or as a printed leaflet. The printed material has been ordered but you can download the app for free.

**#Live Lent – God’s Story Our Story.**

**Chester Cathedral Bible Talks 2021**

A series of speakers on Wednesday 1.10pm – 2.00pm

24th Feb The Ven Dr Michael Gilbertson

Archdeacon of Chester

St Michael

3rd March Prof William Horbury

University of Cambridge

Ideas of ‘The Saints’: from the Psalms

and the Calendar to Everest 1924

10th March Prof Loveday Alexander

University of Sheffield

‘Love bade me welcome’

George Herbert & Nicholas Ferrar

17th March Prof Philip Alexander

University of Manchester

St Patrick

24th March Dr Robert Evans

University of Chester

Easter Day

Zoom meetings may be booked through deansoffice@chestercathedral.com