**Psalm 22.23-end**

23  Praise the Lord, you that fear him; •
   O seed of Jacob, glorify him;
      stand in awe of him, O seed of Israel.
24  For he has not despised nor abhorred the suffering of the poor;
      neither has he hidden his face from them; •
   but when they cried to him he heard them.
25  From you comes my praise in the great congregation; •
   I will perform my vows
      in the presence of those that fear you.
26  The poor shall eat and be satisfied; •
   those who seek the Lord shall praise him;
      their hearts shall live for ever.
27  All the ends of the earth
      shall remember and turn to the Lord, •
   and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
28  For the kingdom is the Lord’s •
   and he rules over the nations.
29  How can those who sleep in the earth
      bow down in worship, •
   or those who go down to the dust kneel before him?
30  He has saved my life for himself;
      my descendants shall serve him; •
   this shall be told of the Lord for generations to come.
31  They shall come and make known his salvation,
      to a people yet unborn, •
   declaring that he, the Lord, has done it.

**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.**

**Collect**

Almighty God,

by the prayer and discipline of Lent

may we enter into the mystery of Christ’s sufferings,

and by following in his Way

come to share in his glory;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16**

**The Sign of the Covenant**

17When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, ‘I am God Almighty;walk before me, and be blameless. 2And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.’ 3Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 4‘As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. 5No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. 6I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. 7I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

15 God said to Abraham, ‘As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. 16I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.’

**Mark 8.31-end**

**Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection**

31 Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, ‘Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.’

34 He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. 36For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? 37Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 38Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.’

**Post Communion Prayer**

Almighty God,

you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves:

keep us both outwardly in our bodies,

and inwardly in our souls;

that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body,

and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul;

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:**

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.**

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**Chester Cathedral Bible Talks 2021**

A series of speakers on Wednesday 1.10pm – 2.00pm

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