



14th February

## The Sunday Before Lent

"The Lord God sent  
them forth from the  
garden of Eden"  
*Genesis 3:23-24*

Painting - *The Expulsion  
from the Garden of Eden*  
(Masaccio)

### Opening Responses

Shine on us, Lord, like the sun that lights  
up day;

**All 'chase away the dark and all  
shadow of sin'.**

May we wake eager to hear your Word;

**All 'as day follows night may we be  
bathed in your glory'.**

### Opening Prayer

The night has passed,  
and the day lies open before us;  
let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,  
so may the light of your presence, O  
God, set our hearts on fire with love for  
you; now and for ever. **Amen**

Hymn

'Tis good, Lord, to be here,  
Thy glory fills the night;  
Thy face and garments, like the sun,  
Shine with unborrowed light.

'Tis good, Lord, to be here,  
Thy beauty to behold  
Where Moses and Elijah stand,  
Thy messengers of old.

Fulfiller of the past,  
Promise of things to be,  
We hail Thy body glorified  
And our redemption see.

Before we taste of death,  
We see Thy kingdom come;  
We fain would hold the vision bright  
And make this hill our home.

'Tis good, Lord, to be here.  
Yet we may not remain;  
But since Thou bidst us leave the mount,  
Come with us to the plain

### Confession

We say that sin came into the world  
through one couple in the Garden of  
Eden, but we know that sin will be cast  
out by the death and resurrection of one  
man. Let us come before Him now to  
confess our sins and ask for His  
forgiveness. We say together;

**Lord God,  
we have sinned against you;  
we have done evil in your sight.  
We are sorry and repent.  
Have mercy on us according to your  
love.**

**Wash away our wrongdoing and  
cleansing us from our sin.**

**Renew a right spirit within us  
and restore us to the joy of your  
salvation,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Absolution

## Reading

**Genesis 3:1-9** *At end of reading:*

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## Sermon

### Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God the Creator,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
Source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist**

**We believe in God the Redeemer  
through whom all things  
came into being.  
Who, as the Word made flesh,  
died for us and rose again.  
In accordance with the Scriptures;  
He will come again in glory  
bringing a new heaven  
and a new Earth.**

**We believe in God the Sustainer,  
who gives life to the people of God  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.  
and makes God known in the world**

**This is our faith.  
We believe and trust in one God,  
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer  
Amen.**

## Intercessions

*The response to:*

'Lord, in your mercy' is

**(All): 'hear our prayer'**

*At the end*

Merciful father, **(All): accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son, our Saviour  
Jesus Christ. Amen**

## The Lord's Prayer

## The Collect

Almighty God, who did not abandon  
Adam and Eve despite their sin,  
give your people grace and carry us  
through all temptations; so as to bring  
order to the unruly wills and passions of  
sinful humanity:

so we may love what you command  
and our hearts may surely be fixed  
where true joys are to be found;  
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.

*All Amen.*

## Choir Anthem

### Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake

Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake,  
lay not our sins to our charge,  
but forgive that is past,  
and give us grace  
to amend our sinful lives.  
To decline from sin and incline to virtue,  
that we may walk in an upright heart  
before this day and evermore.

## Notices

### Blessing and Dismissal

**Leader:** Go into the coming week as if you  
are going into the wilderness.

**People: We go with Jesus as our guide.**

**Leader:** Take strength in your faith,  
and stay steady.

**People: We go with Jesus as our guide.**

**Leader:** Open yourselves and allow the  
Holy Spirit to show you the way through all  
temptation.

**People: Our hearts are open and we lift  
our eyes to God.**

And may the blessing ...

Go in the peace of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**