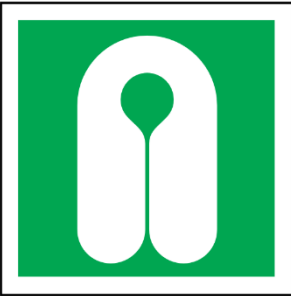


1st Sunday of Lent

ALL-AGE SERVICE

Being Saved...



Welcome

This month's All Age Service is exploring what St Paul means for a Christian to be "saved".

So, in your imagination, select your lifejacket from the locker, put it on, sit back and see where the journey takes you!

Geoffrey

Hymn – Lead us heavenly father, lead us

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mowhHHgFWcc>

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea.
Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing every blessing
if our God our Father be.

Saviour! breathe forgiveness o'er us,
all our weakness thou dost know.
Thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
self-denying, death defying,
thou to Calvary didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy.
Love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy:
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy!

James Edmeston
(1791-1867)

Opening

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all.**

**Lord, direct our thoughts,
teach us to pray,
lift up our hearts to worship you
in Spirit and in truth,
through Jesus Christ. Amen**

Confession

**Lord God, our maker and our redeemer,
this is your world and we are your people:
come among us and save us.**

**We have wilfully misused your
gifts of creation;**

Lord be merciful: forgive us our sin.

**We have seen the ill-treatment of others
and have not gone to their aid;**

Lord be merciful: forgive us our sin.

**We have ignored evil and dishonesty
and failed to strive for justice;**

Lord be merciful: forgive us our sin.

**We have heard the good news of Christ,
but have failed to share it with others;**

Lord be merciful: forgive us our sin.

**We have not loved you with all our heart,
nor our neighbours as ourselves;**

Lord be merciful: forgive us our sin.

Absolution

God who is both power and love,
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Jubilate

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8qS-7qh9tz0>

Jubilate, ev'rybody.

Serve the Lord in all your ways,
And come before His presence singing,
Enter now His courts with praise.
For the Lord our God is gracious,
And His mercy's everlasting.

Jubilate, Jubilate,

Jubilate Deo! *(repeat a few times!)*

Fred Dunn
(1907-1979)

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Scripture Readings

Romans 10.8b-13

What does scripture say?

'The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Luke 4.1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone."'

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."'

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."'

Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."'
' When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn – Forty days and forty nights

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9N29ZnwU4LM>

Forty days and forty nights
thou wast fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled.

Sunbeams scorching all the day;
chilly dew-drops nightly shed;
prowling beasts about thy way;
stones thy pillow; earth thy bed.

And if Satan, vexing sore,
flesh or spirit should assail,
thou, his vanquisher before,
grant we may not faint nor fail.

So shall we have peace divine:
holier gladness ours shall be;
round us, too, shall angels shine,
such as ministered to thee.

Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
ever constant by thy side;
that with thee we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide.

George Hunt Smytton
(1822-1870)

Talk

In the desert we see Jesus, our Saviour, having his faith in God tested, and we've heard St Paul talking about being saved through faith in Jesus.

“Being saved” is a consequence of our faith in God, of our trust in God. So let's see if we can explore in more detail what it means.

Here's a story about someone who was confident of being saved by God, but it didn't quite turn out as he expected:

A man was stuck on his rooftop in a flood. He was praying to God for help.

Soon a man in a rowing boat came by and he shouted to the man on the roof, "Jump in, I can save you."

The stranded man shouted back, "No, it's OK, I'm praying to God and he is going to save me."

So the rowing boat went on.

Then a motorboat came by. The man in the motorboat shouted, "Jump in, I can save you."

To this the stranded man said, "No thanks, I'm praying to God and he is going to save me. I have faith."

So the motorboat went on.

Then a helicopter came by and the pilot shouted down, "Grab this rope and I will lift you to safety."

To this the stranded man again replied, "No thanks, I'm praying to God and he is going to save me. I have faith."

So the helicopter reluctantly flew away.

Soon the water rose above the rooftop and the man drowned. He went to Heaven. He finally got his chance to discuss this whole situation with God, at which point he exclaimed, "I had faith in you but you didn't save me, you let me drown. I don't understand why!"

To this God replied, "I sent you a rowing boat and a motorboat and a helicopter, what more did you expect?"

From this story, I reckon that "being saved" doesn't just happen to us, it's more like an action or series of actions that we have to take.

Say you were on that roof as the waters were rising, can you think of something else you might have liked to have, if there were no boats or helicopters around? (There is a clue on the front cover!)

A life-jacket....

But even a life-jacket won't save us unless we put it on! Only when I'm wearing one will I have a greatly improved chance of being saved.

It turns out, I think, that being saved requires us to do new things, different things from what we did before, and to stop doing things that lead us astray. Like Jesus in the desert, we have to try and resist the temptation to do selfish and self-indulgent things.

I very much doubt whether I would have stood as strong as Jesus did in the desert. Imagine this scenario:

Firstly, you're incredibly hungry, and you're offered the opportunity to do a miracle to create some food just for yourself. Just imagine, wouldn't everyone else be amazed at your power and cleverness?

Secondly, imagine if a wealthy criminal, with all the money in the world said: "If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." In other words, you can become just as big a criminal as him! Think of all that money and power, wouldn't it be wonderful?

Thirdly, suppose you had the chance to be the one person in the world who couldn't be hurt or killed? You'd be invulnerable.

The thing that's wrong with all the devil's temptations is that he assumed that Jesus would greedily jump at the chance of being special and different and unlike anyone else.

Whereas it was quite the opposite. Jesus came to join us, to live with us, to be one of us, to be a friend to everyone, and to suffer like us.

Not for a moment did Jesus lose sight of his mission to bring God's love and joy to all. He resisted the temptations to be selfish and to win popularity.

This is what St Paul hoped for, for all those who were being saved.

Perhaps what "being saved" really means is to stop living for oneself, stop seeking one's own satisfaction. Instead learning how to put God as one's top priority, and then to love and care for everyone around, ignoring all those temptations to simply do (or get) only we want.

With the result, as Paul says, that "The Lord of all is generous to all who call on him." God's generosity always leads to our happiness; to life, and joy, and peace.

We just need to put on God's lifejacket, saying "Lord I am following you", and he will keep us safe!

Amen.

Affirmation of faith

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

The Peace

Jesus says to his disciples,
'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.
Not as the world gives do I give to you.
Let not your hearts be troubled or afraid.'

The peace of the Lord be always with us.

Hymn – Seek ye first the kingdom of God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFxZeY2D5tc>

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and His righteousness;
and all these things shall be added unto you
Allelu, Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Man shall not live by bread alone,
But by ev'ry word
that proceeds from the mouth of God;
Allelu, Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
Seek, and ye shall find.
Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Karen Lafferty (b1948)
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Prayers

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father.

You sent your Son to bring
good news to the poor,
sight to the blind,
freedom to captives
and salvation to your people:
anoint us with your Spirit;
rouse us to work in his name.

Father, by your Spirit
bring in your kingdom.

Send us out to encounter those in need,
and work with them

Father, by your Spirit
bring in your kingdom.

Send us to tell the world
the good news of your healing love.

Father, by your Spirit
bring in your kingdom.

Send us to comfort
the sick, the lonely, the depressed.

Father, by your Spirit
bring in your kingdom.

Send us to those who mourn,
to bring sympathy and understanding where there is grief.
Father, by your Spirit
bring in your kingdom.

**Merciful Father,
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
as our Saviour has taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

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.

Hymn – Lord Jesus Christ

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QA_g98O42Q4

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have come to us,
you are one with us,
Mary's Son;
cleansing our souls from all their sin
pouring your love and goodness in,
Jesus our love for you we sing,
living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ,
now and every day
teach us how to pray,
Son of God.
You have commanded us to do
this is remembrance, Lord, of You:
into our lives your power breaks through
living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have come to us,
born as one of us,
Mary's Son.
Led out to die on Calvary,
risen from death to set us free,
living Lord Jesus, help us see
You are Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ,
I would come to you,
live my life for you.
Son of God.
All your commands I know are true,
your many gifts will make me new,
into my life your power breaks through,
Living Lord.

Closing Responses

The Lord God almighty is our Father:
he loves us and tenderly cares for us.

The Lord Jesus Christ is our Saviour:
he has redeemed us and will defend us to the end

The Lord, the Holy Spirit is among us:
he will lead us in God's holy way.

To God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be praise and glory today and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing

The peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
keep our hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**