**Evening Prayer**

**Lent**

**Monday, 20 March 2023**

**Joseph of Nazareth**

**Preparation**

O God, make speed to save us.

All O Lord, make haste to help us.

Hear our voice, O Lord, according to your faithful love,

All according to your judgement give us life.

That this evening may be holy, good and peaceful,

let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,

so may your mercy come down upon us

to cleanse our hearts

and set us free to sing your praise

now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Word of God

**Psalm 1**

All 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.

**Scripture Reading**

Matthew 2.13-23

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.’

Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I have called my son.’

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men.

Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

‘A voice was heard in Ramah,wailing and loud lamentation,Rachel weeping for her children;   she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.’

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said,

‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.’

Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel.

But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee.

There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, ‘He will be called a Nazorean.’

**Taken from Psalm 38**

Forsake me not, O Lord;

be not far from me, O my God.

All Forsake me not, O Lord;

be not far from me, O my God.

Make haste to help me,

O Lord of my salvation.

All Be not far from me,

O my God.

Glory to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit.

All Forsake me not, O Lord;

be not far from me, O my God.

**The Magnificat (The Song of Mary)**

Joseph of Nazareth went up to Bethlehem

to be enrolled with Mary his betrothed, who was with child.

1 My soul proclaims the

greatness of the Lord,

my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; ♦

he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

2 From this day all generations

will call me blessed; ♦

the Almighty has done great things for me

and holy is his name.

3 He has mercy on those

who fear him, ♦

from generation to generation.

4 He has shown strength

with his arm ♦

and has scattered the proud in their conceit,

5 Casting down the mighty

from their thrones ♦

and lifting up the lowly.

6 He has filled the hungry

with good things ♦

and sent the rich away empty.

7 He has come to the aid

of his servant Israel, ♦

to remember his promise of mercy,

8 The promise made to our

ancestors, ♦

to Abraham and his children for ever.

**Prayers**

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer

Thanksgiving may be made for the day.

Intercessions are offered

¶ for peace

¶ for individuals and their needs

¶ Those preparing for baptism and confirmation

¶ Those serving through leadership

¶ Those looking for forgiveness

¶ Those misled by the false gods of this present age

¶ All who are hungry

Silence may be kept.

**The Collect of the day is said**

God our Father,

who from the family of your servant David

raised up Joseph the carpenter

to be the guardian of your incarnate Son

and husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary:

give us grace to follow him

in faithful obedience to your commands;

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.

**The Lord’s Prayer is said**

Trusting in the compassion of God,

as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours

now and for ever.

Amen.

**The Conclusion**

May God our Redeemer show us compassion and love.

All Amen.

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.