

# Holsworthy Benefice

## February News Sheet

Bridgerule, Hollacombe, Holsworthy, Pyworthy with Pancrasweek

[www.holsworthybenefice.org.uk](http://www.holsworthybenefice.org.uk)

	<b>Bridgerule</b>	<b>Hollacombe</b>	<b>Holsworthy</b>	<b>Pancrasweek</b>	<b>Pyworthy</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Feb</b>	11am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Mass	9.30am Sung Eucharist		9.30am Family Service
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	2.30pm Dedication of Tower with Arch Deacon		11am Sung Eucharist		9.30am Sung Eucharist
<b>15<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	11am Joint Service at Methodist Chapel	9.30am Mass	11am Sung Eucharist		9.30am Sung Eucharist
<b>18<sup>th</sup> Feb</b> Ash Wednesday		12 noon Service of Ashing	7.30pm Service of Ashing		
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> Feb</b>	11am All Age Eucharist		11am Cafe style Church	9.30am All Age Service	9.30am Morning Prayer
<b>28<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>		7pm Stations of the Cross			
<b>1<sup>st</sup> March</b>	11am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Mass	9.30am Sung Eucharist		9.30am Family Service
<b>7<sup>th</sup> March</b>				7pm Stations of the Cross	
<b>8<sup>th</sup> March</b>	11am Morning Prayer	3pm Evensong	11am Sung Eucharist		9.30am Sung Eucharist
<b>14<sup>th</sup> March</b>					7pm Stations of the Cross
<b>15<sup>th</sup> March</b> Mothering Sunday		11am Mass	11am Sung Eucharist		9.30am Sung Eucharist
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	11am Joint Service at Methodist Chapel		11am Cafe style Church	9.30am All Age Service	9.30am Morning Prayer
<b>29<sup>th</sup> March</b> Palm Sunday	11m Sung Eucharist	9.30am Mass	9.30am Sung Eucharist		

Dear Friends

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2026 and a Happy New Year to all!

As we look back at the start of this new year, I am struck by how many tower projects were carried out in 2025 in the benefice. Bridgerule completed their large tower restoration project in December with various community activities involving all ages over the year. The final Climate Change talk was a fascinating insight into the scale of the work which was tackled over the year and a sobering reflection on how climate change is impacting the rate at which historic stone buildings are weathering. The bells were able to be rung again for Christmas. Please join St Bridget's on Sunday afternoon at 2.30pm the 8<sup>th</sup> of February at a service of thanksgiving and celebration led by the Archdeacon of Barnstaple.

In Holsworthy three tower projects were tackled simultaneously. The bells were given timely maintenance care and attention and the clock and carillon were lovingly restored to full working order. At the same time masonry strengthening works were carried out on the tower. It was a special moment to hear the carillon ringing out a Christmas Carol across the town by the end of the year.

Pyworthy Church also began a tower project to restore the workings of their clock and attend to tower masonry. More about this will be shared over 2026 as the project develops. Pancrasweek Church are fund-raising to attend to work on the tower bells. Until work is completed the bells cannot be rung.

What would we do without our towers and bells? As in any large project, fund-raising is often the first step of work, then plans drawn-up, faculties applied for, tenders sought and grant-funders appealed to. The length of a project is considerable and often measured in a matter of years rather than months. It is a great tribute to the dedication and perseverance of our ringers, church councils and volunteers that our historic church buildings continue to be kept in good order. Thank you for all you do and every blessing to each of you on all that will unfold over the coming year.

Blessings in Jesus' name,  
Alison

## **February Notices**

### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February St Bridget's, Bridgerule 2pm:**

The project to repair the Tower at St Bridget's is now coming to an end. To celebrate the completion of the work we're holding a service of Thanksgiving led by the Archdeacon of Barnstaple on Sunday 8th February at 2.30pm. We hope that you can join us to give thanks for the successful conclusion of a project that has been 7 years in the making.

### **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February: Deanery Synod**

Held on-line at 7.30pm for all deanery parish representatives.

### **18<sup>th</sup> February: Ash Wednesday**

Don't forget your pancakes on Tuesday! Lent begins with services of ashing, see the monthly schedule for details.

### **Confirmation Preparation**

It is a delight to meet new worshippers at our services. If you would like to know more about Christianity please do ask a church member or the Rector. Classes for those interested in baptism or confirmation are taking place during Lent, commencing 23rd February. Please contact the Rector for further information or an informal chat.

### **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February: Prayers of healing**

2.30pm at Bodmin Street Methodist Church led by Revd Meg Slingo. Please join in to support this new venture.

### **Saturday March: Stations of the Cross**

'Stations of the Cross' is a reflective Lenten practice involving prayerful contemplation on the final hours leading up to Jesus' crucifixion. This year it takes place on selected Saturdays during Lent:

Hollacombe Church 28<sup>th</sup> Feb at 7pm, Pancrasweek 7<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm, Pyworthy Church 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm.

### 6<sup>th</sup> March: World Day of Prayer

2.30pm led by Christians' Together in Holsworthy & District. Held this year at St Peter and St Paul's with material provided by the Church of Nigeria. Refreshments to follow.

### Funding Support

St Peter & Paul's thank the following funders for their support to complete the repair and strengthening work on the church tower following the storm damage last year. Grant awards were given by Devon Historic Churches Trust; National Churches Trust; the Viscount Amory Trust. Local funding was raised through the generous support of church activities. Thank you to one and all.



### **Jackpot Draw**

The winners of the St. Peter's Monthly Jackpot Draw for January were:

1st Prize £17.50 - ticket number  
2nd Prize, £3.50 - ticket number

The winners of the St. Peter's Monthly Jackpot Draw for December were:

1st Prize £17.50 - ticket number 167, Liz C  
2nd Prize, £3.50 - ticket number 176, Becky Y

The winners of the St. Peter's Monthly Jackpot Draw for January were:

1st Prize £17.50 - ticket number 165, Alison H  
2nd Prize, £3.50 - ticket number 191, Tegan P

**A plea from the Rector of Bradworthy Benefice. If your church has a vacancy for a deanery representative, please read on....**

### **Why Deanery Synod Matters and Why We Need You**

**Every parish in the Holsworthy Deanery has a seat at Deanery Synod. When those seats are empty, our voice is missing. When they're filled, the deanery becomes stronger, wiser, and more connected.**

**The Church of England is synodical, decisions flow from parishes to deaneries, from deaneries to dioceses, from dioceses to General Synod. Deanery Synod is the crucial link in that chain. It elects people to Diocesan Synod, feeds parish concerns into wider discussions, and helps shape the future of the Church. Without representatives, a parish simply isn't heard.**

**But Synod is more than legal structure. At its best, it is:**

- +A prayerful gathering of Christians across our villages.**
- +A place to share joys, struggles, and ideas.**
- +A way to support one another in rural ministry.**
- +A space where we discern together what God might be calling us to do.**
- +A reminder that we are part of something bigger than our own parish.**

**You don't need expertise.**

**You don't need to know Church law.**

**You just need a love for your parish, a willingness to listen, and a desire to help shape the future of the Church in our area.**

**Serving on Synod is a small commitment that makes a big difference.**

**Your parish deserves a voice.**

**Your deanery needs your perspective.**

**And together, we can strengthen the mission and life of the Church across Holsworthy Deanery.**

**Would you consider representing your parish?**

# Readings for February

**1<sup>st</sup> Feb- White - Presentation of Christ in the Temple -**

**Malachi 3: 1-5, Psalm 24: (1-6) 7-end, Hebrews 2: 14-end, Luke 2:22-40.**

**8<sup>th</sup> Feb- Green -Second Sunday before Lent-**

**Genesis 1:1 – 2:3, Psalm 136: 1-9. 23-end, Romans 8:18-25, Matthew 6:23-end.**

**15<sup>th</sup> Feb- Green -Sunday next before Lent -**

**Exodus 24: 12-end, Psalm 2, Psalm 99, 2 Peter 1:16-end Matthew 17: 1-9.**

**22<sup>nd</sup> Feb- Purple - First Sunday of Lent-**

**Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7, Psalm 32, Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11**

# Find out more about.....

Your Parish Church Welcome to your local parish church. Your church belongs to you - to those who live in its parish. It is here for you through all of life: for christenings, weddings and funerals as well as on Sundays.

## **Weddings**

Do you know that you can marry in your local church whether or not you are Christened or go to church? Talk to your vicar who will explain how to book in a wedding. The church also offers pre and post-marriage courses and church blessings, the renewal of vows and the blessing of wedding rings at anytime before or after your wedding.

## **Funerals**

Your church is here for you and your family whenever you need us, offering friendship, support and prayers. If you are bereaved, or have recently lost loved ones, our prayers are with you. If you would like to use our church premises for a funeral, memorial or burial please do contact us. If you would like to talk with someone either before or after a death we will arrange a meeting with one of the church members or your vicar.

## **Christening / Baptism**

A Christening or Baptism marks the beginning of the Christian life. You don't need to know anything about the Christian faith to be baptised (though it helps), and you are encouraged to grow as a Christian through learning to follow Jesus' teachings. A Christening takes place at the church font which is usually placed near the door of the church building. This is to remind us that baptism is often the entry point to the Christian faith.

**Booking To book in a wedding, a christening or a funeral, or for anything else, please contact**

**Revd Alison Hardy - [reverendalisonhardy@gmail.com](mailto:reverendalisonhardy@gmail.com) - 07780295752**

**Benefice Administrator Libbi Cullimore - [holsworthybenefice@icloud.com](mailto:holsworthybenefice@icloud.com),  
07717750198**

## Contacts

### **Bridgerule Church Wardens**

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Peter Harris – 01288 381 149

### **Bridgerule Safeguarding Lead**

Val Harris -01409 259192

### **Holsworthy Church Warden**

Mary Osborne – 01409 25311

### **Holsworthy Deputy Church Wardens**

Helen Flaherty & Sam Hatter.

### **Holsworthy Safeguarding Lead**

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### **Hollacombe Safeguarding Lead**

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### **Pyworthy Church Wardens**

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### **Pyworthy Safeguarding Lead**

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### **Pancrasweek Church Wardens**

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### **Pancrasweek Safeguarding Lead**

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[www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

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### COLLECT

Almighty and ever-living God,  
clothed in majesty,  
whose beloved Son  
was this day presented in the Temple,  
in substance of our flesh:  
grant that we may be presented to you  
with pure and clean hearts,  
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### FIRST READING Malachi 3:1-5

*A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.*

Thus says the LORD God: See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

### PSALM Psalm 24:[1-6] 7-end

**R** *The Lord of hosts: he is the king of glory.*

[The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it,  
the compass of the world and all who  
dwell therein.

For he has founded it upon the seas  
and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep.

**R**

"Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord,  
or who can rise up in his holy place?"  
"Those who have clean hands and a pure  
heart,

who have not lifted up their soul to an  
idol, nor sworn an oath to a lie; **R**

"They shall receive a blessing from the  
Lord,  
a just reward from the God of their  
salvation."

Such is the company of those who seek  
him,  
of those who seek your face, O God of  
Jacob. **R]**

Lift up your heads, O gates;  
be lifted up, you everlasting doors;  
and the King of glory shall come in.  
"Who is the King of glory?"  
"The Lord, strong and mighty,  
the Lord who is mighty in battle." **R**

Lift up your heads, O gates;  
be lifted up, you everlasting doors;  
and the King of glory shall come in.  
"Who is this King of glory?"  
"The Lord of hosts,  
he is the King of glory." **R**

### SECOND READING Hebrews 2:14-end

*A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.*

Since the children share flesh and blood,  
Jesus himself likewise shared the same  
things, so that through death he might  
destroy the one who has the power of  
death, that is, the devil, and free those  
who all their lives were held in slavery  
by the fear of death. For it is clear that  
he did not come to help angels, but  
the descendants of Abraham. Therefore  
he had to become like his brothers and  
sisters in every respect, so that he might  
be a merciful and faithful high priest in  
the service of God, to make a sacrifice  
of atonement for the sins of the people.  
Because he himself was tested by what he  
suffered, he is able to help those who are  
being tested.

### GOSPEL Luke 2:22-40

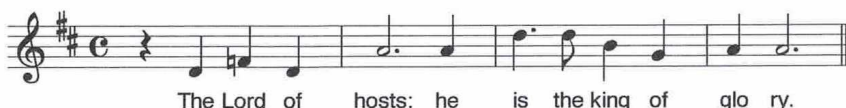
*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Luke.*

When the time came for their purification  
according to the law of Moses, Mary and  
Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem  
to present him to the Lord (as it is written  
in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn  
male shall be designated as holy to  
the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice  
according to what is stated in the law of

the Lord, "a pair of turtle-doves or two  
young pigeons." Now there was a man in  
Jerusalem whose name was Simeon;  
this man was righteous and devout, looking  
forward to the consolation of Israel, and  
the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been  
revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he  
would not see death before he had seen  
the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit,  
Simeon came into the temple; and when  
the parents brought in the child Jesus,  
to do for him what was customary under  
the law, Simeon took him in his arms and  
praised God, saying, "Master, now you  
are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word; for my eyes  
have seen your salvation, which you have  
prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles and  
for glory to your people Israel." And the  
child's father and mother were amazed  
at what was being said about him. Then  
Simeon blessed them and said to his  
mother Mary, "This child is destined for  
the falling and the rising of many in Israel,  
and to be a sign that will be opposed so  
that the inner thoughts of many will be  
revealed – and a sword will pierce your  
own soul too." There was also a prophet,  
Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe  
of Asher. She was of a great age, having  
lived with her husband seven years after  
her marriage, then as a widow to the age  
of eighty-four. She never left the temple  
but worshipped there with fasting and  
prayer night and day. At that moment  
she came, and began to praise God and  
to speak about the child to all who were  
looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.  
When they had finished everything  
required by the law of the Lord, they  
returned to Galilee, to their own town of  
Nazareth. The child grew and became  
strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour  
of God was upon him.

### POST COMMUNION

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and  
Anna,  
who lived to welcome the Messiah:  
may we, who have received these gifts  
beyond words,  
prepare to meet Christ Jesus  
when he comes to bring us to eternal  
life;  
for he is alive and reigns, now and for  
ever.





### COLLECT

Almighty God,  
you have created the heavens and the earth  
and made us in your own image:  
teach us to discern your hand in all your works  
and your likeness in all your children;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns  
supreme over all things,  
now and for ever.

### FIRST READING Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

*A reading from the book of Genesis.*

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights – the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night – and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind."

And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

### PSALM Psalm 136:1-9. 23-end

*R For his mercy endures for ever.*

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious, **R**  
Give thanks to the God of gods, **R**  
Give thanks to the Lord of lords, **R**  
Who alone does great wonders, **R**  
Who by wisdom made the heavens, **R**  
Who laid out the earth upon the waters, **R**  
Who made the great lights, **R**  
The sun to rule the day, **R**  
The moon and the stars to govern the night, **R**  
Who smote the firstborn of Egypt, **R**  
And brought out Israel from among them, **R**  
With a mighty hand and outstretched arm, **R**  
Who divided the Red Sea in two, **R**  
And made Israel to pass through the midst of it, **R**  
But Pharaoh and his host he overthrew in the Red Sea, **R**  
Who led his people through the wilderness, **R**  
Who smote great kings, **R**  
And slew mighty kings, **R**  
Sihon, king of the Amorites, **R**  
And Og, the king of Bashan, **R**  
And gave away their land for a heritage, **R**  
A heritage for Israel his servant, **R**  
Who remembered us when we were in trouble, **R**  
And delivered us from our enemies, **R**

Who gives food to all creatures, **R**  
Give thanks to the God of heaven,  
for his mercy endures for ever. **R**

### SECOND READING Romans 8:18-25

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.*

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

### GOSPEL Matthew 6:25-end

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.*

Jesus taught his disciples, saying: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today."

### POST COMMUNION

God our creator, by your gift  
the tree of life was set at the heart of the  
earthly paradise,  
and the bread of life at the heart of your  
Church:  
may we who have been nourished at your  
table on earth  
be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's  
cross  
and enjoy the delights of eternity;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



For his mer-cy en - dures for ev-er.



## COLLECT

Almighty Father,  
whose Son was revealed in majesty  
before he suffered death upon the cross:  
give us grace to perceive his glory,  
that we may be strengthened to suffer with  
him  
and be changed into his likeness, from  
glory to glory;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## FIRST READING Exodus 24:12-end

*A reading from the book of Exodus.*

The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them." Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

## PSALM Either Psalm 2

**R** *The Lord is the strength of his people,  
a safe refuge for his anointed.*

Why are the nations in tumult,  
and why do the peoples devise a vain plot?  
The kings of the earth rise up,  
and the rulers take counsel together,  
against the Lord and against his anointed:  
"Let us break their bonds asunder  
and cast away their cords from us." **R**

He who dwells in heaven shall laugh them  
to scorn;  
the Lord shall have them in derision.  
Then shall he speak to them in his wrath  
and terrify them in his fury:  
"Yet have I set my king  
upon my holy hill of Zion." **R**

I will proclaim the decree of the Lord;  
he said to me: "You are my Son; this day  
have I begotten you.

"Ask of me and I will give you the nations  
for your inheritance  
and the ends of the earth for your  
possession.

"You shall break them with a rod of iron  
and dash them in pieces like a potter's  
vessel." **R**

Now therefore be wise, O kings;  
be prudent, you judges of the earth.  
Serve the Lord with fear, and with  
trembling kiss his feet,  
lest he be angry and you perish from the  
way, for his wrath is quickly kindled.  
Happy are all they  
who take refuge in him. **R**

## Or Psalm 99

**R** *He spoke to them out of the pillar of  
cloud.*

The Lord is king; let the people tremble;  
he is enthroned above the cherubim; let  
the earth shake.

The Lord is great in Zion  
and high above all peoples.  
Let them praise your name, which is great  
and awesome;  
he is the Holy One. **R**

Mighty King, who loves justice,  
you have established equity;  
you have executed justice and  
righteousness in Jacob.  
Lord our God Exalt  
bow down before his footstool, for he is  
holy. **R**

Moses and Aaron among his priests  
and Samuel among those who call upon  
his name,  
they called upon the Lord and he  
answered them.  
He spoke to them out of the pillar of  
cloud;  
they kept his testimonies and the law that  
he gave them. **R**

You answered them, O Lord our God;  
you were a God who forgave them  
and pardoned them for their offences.  
Exalt the Lord our God and worship him  
upon his holy hill;  
for the Lord our God is the holy. **R**

## SECOND READING 2 Peter 1:16-end

*A reading from the second letter of Peter.*

We did not follow cleverly devised myths  
when we made known to you the power  
and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but  
we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty.  
For he received honour and glory from  
God the Father when that voice was

conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory,  
saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with  
whom I am well pleased." We ourselves  
heard this voice come from heaven, while  
we were with him on the holy mountain.  
So we have the prophetic message more  
fully confirmed. You will do well to be  
attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a  
dark place, until the day dawns and the  
morning star rises in your hearts. First  
of all you must understand this, that no  
prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's  
own interpretation, because no prophecy  
ever came by human will, but men and  
women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke  
from God.

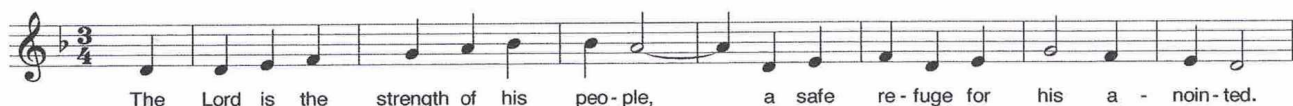
## GOSPEL Matthew 17:1-9

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Matthew.*

Jesus took with him Peter and James and  
his brother John and led them up a high  
mountain, by themselves. And he was  
transfigured before them, and his face  
shone like the sun, and his clothes became  
dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared  
to them Moses and Elijah, talking with  
him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is  
good for us to be here; if you wish, I will  
make three dwellings here, one for you,  
one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While  
he was still speaking, suddenly a bright  
cloud overshadowed them, and from  
the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son,  
the Beloved; with him I am well pleased;  
listen to him!" When the disciples heard  
this, they fell to the ground and were  
overcome by fear. But Jesus came and  
touched them, saying, "Get up and do not  
be afraid." And when they looked up, they  
saw no one except Jesus himself alone.  
As they were coming down the mountain,  
Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about  
the vision until after the Son of Man has  
been raised from the dead."

## POST COMMUNION

Holy God,  
we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ:  
may we who are partakers at his table  
reflect his life in word and deed,  
that all the world may know  
his power to change and save.  
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.





# Sunday 22 February 2026 First Sunday of Lent

## COLLECT

Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in  
the wilderness,  
and was tempted as we are, yet without  
sin:  
give us grace to discipline ourselves in  
obedience to your Spirit;  
and, as you know our weakness,  
so may we know your power to save;  
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.

## FIRST READING Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

*A reading from the book of Genesis.*

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die." Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

## PSALM Psalm 32

**R** Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord.

Happy the one whose transgression is forgiven,  
and whose sin is covered.  
Happy the one to whom the Lord imputes  
no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there is no guile. **R**

For I held my tongue;  
my bones wasted away  
through my groaning all the day long.  
Your hand was heavy upon me day and  
night;  
my moisture was dried up like the drought  
in summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you  
and my iniquity I did not hide. **R**

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to  
the Lord,"  
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.  
Therefore let all the faithful make their  
prayers to you in time of  
trouble; in the great water flood, it shall  
not reach them.

You are a place for me to hide in;  
you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with songs  
of deliverance. **R**

"I will instruct you and teach you  
in the way that you should go;  
I will guide you with my eye.  
Be not like horse and mule which have no  
understanding;  
whose mouths must be held with bit and  
bridle, or else they will not stay near  
you." **R**

Great tribulations remain for the wicked,  
but mercy embraces those who trust in the  
Lord.

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the  
Lord;  
shout for joy, all who are true of heart. **R**

## SECOND READING Romans 5:12-19

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.*

Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned – sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass,

death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so the act of righteousness of one leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one person's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

## GOSPEL Matthew 4:1-11

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.*

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

## POST COMMUNION

Lord God,  
you have renewed us with the living bread  
from heaven;  
by it you nourish our faith,  
increase our hope,  
and strengthen our love:  
teach us always to hunger for him  
who is the true and living bread,  
and enable us to live by every word  
that proceeds from out of your mouth;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

