



Saint Matthew's Church
Big Lamp ~ Summerhill Street
Newcastle

Solemn Evensong and Benediction for Lent IV (15th March) 2026

The angel of the Lord brought the tidings to Mary:
And she conceived by the Holy Ghost.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Behold the handmaid of the Lord:
Be it unto me according to Thy Word.

Hail Mary &c

The Word was made flesh:
And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary &c

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God:
That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

Pour forth Your Grace into our hearts, we beseech You O Lord, that as we have known the Incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, by the message of an angel, so by His Cross and Passion, we may be brought to the glory of His Resurrection; in and through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

O Lord, open thou our lips.

And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.

The Lord's Name be praised.

The fast, as taught by holy lore,

We keep in solemn course once more:

The fast to all men known, and bound

In forty days of yearly round.

The law and seers that were of old

In divers ways this Lent foretold,

Which Christ, all seasons' King and Guide,

In after ages sanctified.

More sparing let us therefore make

The words we speak, the food we take,

Our sleep and mirth – and closer barred

Be every sense in holy guard.

In prayer together let us fall,

And cry for mercy, one and all,

And weep before the Judge's feet,

And his avenging wrath entreat.

Thy grace have we offended sore,

By sins, O God, which we deplore;

But pour upon us from on high,

O pardoning One, Thy clemency.

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Remember Thou, though frail we be,
That yet Thine handiwork are we;
Nor let the honour of Thy Name
Be by another put to shame.

Forgive the sin that we have wrought;
Increase the good that we have sought;
That we at length, our wanderings o'er,
May please Thee here and evermore.

We pray Thee, Holy Trinity,
One God, unchanging Unity,
That we from this our abstinence
May reap the fruits of penitence.

(19) THE heavens declare the glory of God : and the firmament
sheweth his handywork.

2 One day telleth another : and one night certifieth another.

3 There is neither speech nor language : but their voices are heard
among them.

4 Their sound is gone out into all lands : and their words into the ends
of the world.

5 In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun : which cometh forth as
a bridegroom out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a giant to run his
course.

6 It goeth forth from the uttermost part of the heaven, and runneth
about unto the end of it again : and there is nothing hid from the heat
thereof.

7 The law of the Lord is an undefiled law, converting the soul : the
testimony of the Lord is sure, and giveth wisdom unto the simple.

8 The statutes of the Lord are right, and rejoice the heart : the
commandment of the Lord is pure, and giveth light unto the eyes.

9 The fear of the Lord is clean, and endureth for ever : the judgements
of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.

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10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold :
sweeter also than honey, and the honey-comb.

11 Moreover, by them is thy servant taught : and in keeping of them
there is great reward.

12 Who can tell how oft he offendeth : O cleanse thou me from my
secret faults.

13 Keep thy servant also from presumptuous sins, lest they get the
dominion over me : so shall I be undefiled, and innocent from the
great offence.

14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart : be
always acceptable in thy sight,

15 O Lord : my strength, and my redeemer.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without
end. Amen.

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed
you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by
name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters I will be with
you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you
walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not
consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in
exchange for you. Because you are precious in my eyes, and honoured,
and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for
your life. Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from
the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north,
Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar
and my daughters from the end of the earth, every one who is called by
my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Here endeth the first lesson.

He shall deliver thee from the snare of the hunter;
He shall deliver thee from the snare of the hunter;
And from the noisome pestilence.
He shall deliver thee from the snare of the hunter;
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
He shall deliver thee from the snare of the hunter;

As the MAGNIFICAT is sung, the Presence of God (signified by the Altar) is honoured with incense.

Behold now, is the accepted time; behold now is the day of Salvation:
let us therefore in all things approve ourselves as the minister of God, in
much patience, in vigil, in fasting; and by love unfeigned.

MY soul doth magnify the Lord : and my spirit hath rejoiced in God
my Saviour.

For he hath regarded : the lowliness of his hand-maiden.

For behold, from henceforth : all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me : and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him : throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm : he hath scattered the proud in
the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat : and hath exalted the
humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things : and the rich he hath sent
empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel : as he
promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without
end. Amen.

Behold now, is the accepted time; behold now is the day of Salvation:
let us therefore in all things approve ourselves as the minister of God, in
much patience, in vigil, in fasting; and by love unfeigned.

A Reading from the Letter to the Church in Ephesus.

By grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God -- not because of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called the uncircumcision by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands -- remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near in the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility.

Here endeth the second lesson.

LORD, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace : according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen : thy salvation;

Which thou hast prepared : before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles : and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end. Amen.

I BELIEVE in God

the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Catholick Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins;

The Resurrection of the body,

And the Life everlasting. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

OUR Father,

which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us;

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil. Amen.

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the King.

And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people.

And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us.

And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

Grant, we beseech Thee, Almighty God, that we, who for our evil deeds do worthily deserve to be punished, by the comfort of Thy Grace may mercifully be relieved; in and through Jesus Christ, Thy Son our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost; God, throughout all ages world without end.

Amen.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

[Amen.](#)

O GOD, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

[Amen.](#)

LIGHTEN our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

[Amen.](#)

The Lord be with you.

[And with thy spirit.](#)

Let us bless the Lord.

[Thanks be to God.](#)

May the souls of the departed, through the mercy and love of God, rest in peace.

[Amen.](#)

The Altar is prepared for Benediction during the hymn that precedes the Liturgy. A bell rings and the Sacrament is brought to the Altar.

Father of Heaven, Whose love profound
A ransom for our souls hath found,
Before Thy Throne we sinners bend:
To us Thy pardoning Love extend.

Almighty Son, incarnate Word,
Our Prophet, Priest, Redeemer, Lord,
Before Thy Throne we sinners bend:
To us Thy saving Grace extend.

Eternal Spirit, by Whose Breath
The soul is raised from sin and death,
Before Thy Throne we sinners bend:
To us Thy quickening power extend.

Thrice Holy! Father, Spirit, Son,
Mysterious Godhead, Three in One,
Before Thy Throne we sinners bend:
Grace, pardon, life to us extend.

Words: Edward Cooper 1770 - 1833

Music: Song 5

Melody and Bass by Orlando Gibbons 1583 - 1625

The Presence of Christ in the Sacrament is honoured with incense as the following hymn is sung:

O salutaris Hostia,
Quae caeli pandis ostium:
Bella premunt hostilia,
Da robur, fer auxilium.

*O saving Victim, opening wide
The gate of Heaven to man below, Our
foes press hard on every side, Thine aid
supply, Thy strength bestow.*

Uni trinoque Domino
Sit sempiterna gloria,
Qui vitam sine termino
Nobis donet in patria.
Amen.

*All praise and thanks to Thee ascend
For evermore, blest One in Three,
And grant us life that shall not end,
In our true native land with Thee.
Amen.*

A Period of silence follows.

Visita, quæsumus, Dómine,
habitatiónem istam, et omnes
insídias inimíci ab ea longe
repélle: Angeli tui sancti hábitent
in ea, qui nos in pace custódiant;
et benedíctio tua sit super nos
semper. Per Dóminum nostrum
Jesum Christum.
Amen.

*Visit, we beseech Thee, O Lord,
this dwelling and drive far from it
all assaults of the enemy; let Your
holy angels dwell herein that we
may be kept in peace and Your
blessing always rest upon us,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
*Amen.**

Benedictus Deus.
Benedictum Nomen Sanctum eius
Benedictus Iesus Christus,
verus Deus et verus homo
Benedictum Nomen Iesu
Benedictus Iesus
in sanctissimo altaris Sacramento
Benedictus Sanctus Spiritus,
Paraclitus

*Blessed be God.
Blessed be His holy Name.
Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God
and true man.
Blessed be the Name of Jesus.
Blessed be Jesus in the most holy
Sacrament of the Altar.
Blessed be the Holy Ghost,
the Paraclete.*

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Benedictus Deus in Angelis suis,	<i>Blessed be God</i>
et in Sanctis suis	<i>in His angels and in His saints.</i>
Sit Benedicatus laudatusque	<i>Blessed, praised, hallowed and</i>
sanctificatusque et adoratus Jesus	<i>adored be Jesus Christ on His</i>
Christus in cathedram gloriae Suae.	<i>throne of glory.</i>
Et in sanctissimo altaris Sacramento	<i>And in the most holy Sacrament</i>
	<i>of the Altar.</i>

The Presence of Christ is then honoured with incense again during the following hymn:

Tantum ergo Sacramentum	<i>Therefore, we before Him bending,</i>
Veneremur cernui:	<i>This great Sacrament revere;</i>
Et antiquum documentum	<i>Types and shadows have their ending,</i>
Novo cedat ritui:	<i>For the newer rite is here;</i>
Præstet fides supplementum	<i>Faith our outward sense befriending</i>
Sensuum defectui.	<i>Makes the inward vision clear.</i>
Genitori, Genitoque	<i>Glory let us give and blessing,</i>
Laus et Jubilatio,	<i>To the Father and the Son,</i>
Salus, honor, virtus quoque	<i>Honour, might and praise addressing</i>
Sit et benedictio:	<i>While eternal ages run;</i>
Procedenti ab utroque	<i>Ever to His love confessing,</i>
Compar sit laudatio.	<i>Who from Both with Both is One.</i>
Amen.	<i>Amen.</i>

Panem do caelo praestitisti eis

*Thou gavest them Bread
from Heaven.*

Omne delectamentum
in se habentem.

Containing in Itself all sweetness.

Oremus:

Let us pray:

Deus, qui nobis sub Sacramento mirabili Passionis, mortisque et Resurrectionis gloriosae tuae memoriam reliquisti; tribue, ita nos Corporis et Sanguinis tui sacra mysteria venerari, ut redemptionis tuae fructum in nobis iugiter sentiamus: Qui vivis et regnas in saecula saeculorum.

O God, Who under a wonderful Sacrament hast left unto us a memorial of Thy wonderful Passion and Death and glorious Resurrection; grant us so to venerate the Sacred Mysteries of Thy Body and Blood that evermore perceive within ourselves the fruit of Your Redemption: Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

Amen.

The priest goes to the Altar and gives Benediction, during which a bell rings three times.

As the Sacrament is returned to the Tabernacle, all sing:

Adoremus in aeternum
sanctissimum Sacramentum.

*Let us adore for ever
the most holy Sacrament.*

Laudate Dominum omnes gentes :
laudate eum omnes populi.
Quoniam confirmata est super nos
misericordia ejus : et veritas
Domini manet in aeternum.
Gloria Patri et Filio : et Spiritui
Sancto;
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et
semper : et in saecula saeculorum.
Amen.

*O praise the Lord all ye nations,
praise Him all ye peoples. Let us
adore for ever the most holy
Sacrament.*

*Glory be to the Father and to the
Son and to the Holy Ghost: as it
was in the beginning, is now and
ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Let us adore for ever the
most holy Sacrament.*

Adoremus &c

Adoremus &c

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