**Sunday 22nd March 2015**

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

S GILES-IN-READING

*sgilesreading.org.uk*

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*Churchwardens:* Sylvia Gooding & Peter Bloomfield

Hymns: ***The English Hymnal***

Mass Setting: *Novello in E*

Motet: *O Saviour of the world - Goss*

Entrance Hymn: *510* Offertory Hymn: *439*

Communion Hymns: *304 & 71* Recessional: *82*

Voluntary: *Cortege et Litanie - Dupre.*

**Unless a grain of wheat dies...**

How can suffering and death bring life and freedom? Jesus

used the illustration of the “grain of wheat” to show how God

brings life from death and good fruit through patience and

suffering. Seeds by themselves are worthless and lifeless. Only

when the seed is destroyed by burying it in the ground, can it

rise to new life and bear fruit. What is the analogy which Jesus alludes to in the image of the grain of wheat that must first die in order to rise to new life and bear good fruit? Is this simply a veiled reference to his own impending death on the cross and to his resurrection? Or does Jesus have another kind of "death and rebirth" in mind for his disciples as well? Jesus, no doubt, had both meanings in mind. Jesus' obedience and death on the cross obtain for us freedom and new life in the Holy Spirit. His cross frees us from the tyranny of sin and death and shows us the way of perfect love and readiness to lay down our lives in sacrificial service for the good of others.





**OUR INTENTIONS TODAY.**Those in need: Tony Allen, Sarah Alderson, Jean Chapman, Peter George, Herbert Hinton, Maurice Houghton, Grace John, Kate Morl, Christopher Mott, Diana Sanni, Elizabeth Sayer, Sheena Sixsmith, Margaret Summers, Fr Christopher Walker, Ann Westgarth and Nesta Williams.

The departed: Winifred Coggs, Judith Hall, Cyril House, Margaret Manning, Charles Smith & Geoffrey Udall (Priest).

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The departed: Gladys Brant, Caroline Butler, Albert Butwell, Thomas Christopher, Walter Fishlock, Ruby Howman, Alexandra Marr, Elizabeth Provins and Ruth Weaver.

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**Psalter Week 1**

**Sunday Readings: Year B. Weekday Readings: Year 1.**

**TODAY AT**

**S GILES**

Monday

23 March

Tuesday

24 March

Wednesday

25 March

Thursday

26 March

Friday

27 March

Saturday

28 March

**Sunday**

**29 March**

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**10.00 Mattins**

**10.30 Parish Mass & Sunday School**

**17.30 Evensong**

**18.00 Low Mass**

Monday of Week 5 of Lent

No Services

Tuesday of Week 5 of Lent

09.00 Mattins

17.30 Evensong

18.00 Low Mass

18.30 Stations of the Cross

The Annunciation of the Lord

10.00 Mattins

10.30 Low Mass

17.30 Evensong

18.00 Low Mass with Hymns

Thursday of Week 5 of Lent

09.00 Mattins

18.30 Evensong

19.00 Low Mass

19.30 Saints & Sinners Talk

Friday of Week 5 of Lent

10.45 Mattins

11.15 The Litany

11.30 Lenten Study Group

12.30 Low Mass

16.30 Evensong

Saturday of Week 5 of Lent

09.30 Mattins

10.00 Low Mass

16.30 Evensong

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**10.00 Mattins**

**10.30 Parish Mass & Sunday School**

**17.30 Evensong**

**18.00 Low Mass**

**NOTICES & EVENTS**

*We welcome any visitors here this morning and hope that you will stay for refreshments after the service.*

**Sinners and Saints:  Dante.** The next in our Sinners and Saints series will be on Thursday 26 March at 7.30pm.  Mr Brian Williams, a DPhil student from Oxford, will give (a brilliant!) presentation on Dante's Divine Comedy.

**NEXT SUNDAY: 29 March: PALM SUNDAY:**

MASS will start in the CHURCH HALL with the Palm Sunday Procession. On this occasion the Bishop of Ebbsfleet will preside and preach.

**Tuesday 31 March:** Chrism Mass at Worcester Cathedral, 12.00 Noon. All welcome to attend.

**Jumble Sale.** We will definitely be having a Jumble Sale on Saturday 11 April, 09.00 – 13.00 at S. Laurence’s Church, to raise money for an orphanage in South Africa.  ***Please bring in your donations to Church or the Vicarage as soon as possible!***  Many thanks to those who have already brought things in.

*If you have any notices that require adding to the sheet, please contact Anne or Geoff Canterbury at canterbury@ntlworld.com or 0118 961 0525 by Wednesday of the previous week.*

Sunday 22nd March 2015 – Fourth Sunday of Lent

***Note:*** *Other prayers and readings may be used if the Scrutinies are celebrated* today.

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

***Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.***

**COLLECT**

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God, may we walk eagerly in that same charity with which, out of love for the world, your Son handed himself over to death. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

***Amen.***

**THE FIRST READING** (Jeremiah 31: 31-34)

*A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.*

See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks - when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the

covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive - it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, "Learn to know the Lord!" No, they will all know me, the least no less than

the greatest - it is the Lord who speaks - since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

*The Word of the Lord*

**THE GRADUAL PSALM** Psalm 50

***R/ A pure heart create for me, O God.***

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence.

O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin.

A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me,

that I may teach transgressors your ways and sinners may return to you.

**THE SECOND LESSON** (Hebrews 5: 7-9)

*A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.*

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

*The Word of the Lord*

**THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

***Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!***

***If a man serves me, says the Lord, he must follow me; wherever I am, my servant will be there too.***

***Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!***

**THE HOLY GOSPEL** (John 12: 20-33)

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.*

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, "Sir, we should like to see Jesus." Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them: "Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies,

it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour.

Father, glorify your name!" A voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, "It was an angel speaking to him." Jesus answered, "It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. "Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw ,:11 men to myself." By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Hear us, almighty God, and, having instilled in your servants the teachings of the Christian faith, graciously purify them by the working of this sacrifice.

Through Christ our Lord.

***Amen.***

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

***Amen, Amen I say to you: Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain. But if it dies, it bears much fruit.***

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**
We pray, almighty God, that we may always be counted among the members of Christ, in whose Body and Blood we have communion. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

***Amen.***