

# Welcome to St Paul's Deanery Synod Meeting

25<sup>th</sup> February 2025



## Preparation

○ God, make speed to save us.  
**○ Lord, make haste to help us.**

## Lord of all hopefulness

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, ○ 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.  
**Amen.**

## The Word of God

### **Psalm 74**

*Refrain:*

Arise, ○ God, maintain your own cause.

O God, why have you utterly disowned us?

Why does your anger burn  
against the sheep of your pasture?

**Remember your congregation that you purchased of old,  
the tribe you redeemed for your own possession,  
and Mount Zion where you dwelt.**

Hasten your steps towards the endless ruins,  
where the enemy has laid waste all your sanctuary.

**Your adversaries roared in the place of your worship;  
they set up their banners as tokens of victory.**

Like men brandishing axes on high in a thicket of trees,  
all her carved work they smashed down with hatchet and hammer.

**They set fire to your holy place;  
they defiled the dwelling place of your name  
and razed it to the ground.**

They said in their heart, 'Let us make havoc of them altogether,'  
and they burned down all the sanctuaries of God in the land.

**There are no signs to see,  
not one prophet left,  
not one among us who knows how long.**

How long, O God, will the adversary scoff?  
Shall the enemy blaspheme your name for ever?

**Why have you withheld your hand  
and hidden your right hand in your bosom?**

Yet God is my king from of old,  
who did deeds of salvation in the midst of the earth.

**It was you that divided the sea by your might  
and shattered the heads of the dragons on the waters;**  
You alone crushed the heads of Leviathan  
and gave him to the beasts of the desert for food.  
**You cleft the rock for fountain and flood;  
you dried up ever-flowing rivers.**

Yours is the day, yours also the night;  
**you established the moon and the sun.  
You set all the bounds of the earth;**

Remember now, Lord, how the enemy scoffed,  
how a foolish people despised your name.  
**Do not give to wild beasts the soul of your turtle dove;  
forget not the lives of your poor for ever.**

Look upon your creation,  
for the earth is full of darkness,  
full of the haunts of violence.  
**Let not the oppressed turn away ashamed,  
but let the poor and needy praise your name.**

Arise, O God, maintain your own cause;  
remember how fools revile you all the day long.  
**Forget not the clamour of your adversaries,  
the tumult of your enemies that ascends continually.**

**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

### **2 Timothy 4.9 - end**

Do your best to come to me soon, for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry. I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus.

When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will pay him back for his deeds. You also must beware of him, for he strongly opposed our message.

At my first defence no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it.

So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. Erastus remained in Corinth; Trophimus I left ill in Miletus. Do your best to come before winter. Eubulus sends greetings to you, as do Pudens and Linus and Claudia and all the brothers and sisters. The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

Open my eyes, O Lord  
that I may see the wonders of your law.

**Open my eyes, O Lord  
that I may see the wonders of your law.**

Lead me in the path of your commandments  
**that I may see the wonders of your law.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit.

**Open my eyes, O Lord**  
**that I may see the wonders of your law.**

*from Psalm 119*

### **The Magnificat**

<sup>1</sup>My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;  
he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.  
<sup>2</sup>From this day all generations will call me blessed;  
the Almighty has done great things for me  
and holy is his name.  
<sup>3</sup>He has mercy on those who fear him,  
from generation to generation.  
<sup>4</sup>He has shown strength with his arm  
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,  
<sup>5</sup>Casting down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.  
<sup>6</sup>He has filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>7</sup>He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,  
to remember his promise of mercy,  
<sup>8</sup>The promise made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

*Luke 1.46-55*

**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.**

*Refrain:*

**You have mercy on those who fear you,  
from generation to generation.**

### **Intercessions**

*These responses may be used*

Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer**

### **The Collect of the day is said**

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.  
**Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer is said

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray  
**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

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

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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