

Opening Verse

Lamentation 3v22-23

²² Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. ²³ They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Hymn

(Psalm 144) (Tune: Immortal, Invisible)

All praise to the Lord, who prepares me to fight; For he is my fortress, the rock of my might.

Lord, why care for mortals, whose brief earthly stay Is fleeting like shadows, soon passing away?

2. O Lord, part the heavens, reach down from on high; Touch mountains with smoke, flash your fire in the sky. Lord, save me from those who deal only in lies; Their hands are deceitful, your ways they despise.

3. I'll sing a new song on a harp of ten strings. Lord, you are the One who gives victory to kings. Your hand keeps me safe from the foes' deadly sword. Deliver me from the deceitful, O Lord.

4. Our children will blossom in beauty and grace. Our barns will be filled, sheep and cattle increase.

No cry of distress in our streets will be heard. How blessed the people whose God is the Lord!



Confession

Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin. Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of our forgiveness

Lamentations 3v25-26

²⁵ The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; ²⁶ it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

May the Father of all mercies cleanse you from your sins and restore you in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Song

Lift up your voices <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5nukSWi-NoA>

Words of belief

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*means universal

Bible Reading

Acts 3v11-26

¹¹ While the beggar held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade. ¹² When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. ¹⁴ You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. ¹⁵ You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. ¹⁶ By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see.

¹⁷ "Now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. ¹⁸ But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Christ would suffer. ¹⁹ Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, ²⁰ and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you--even Jesus. ²¹ He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything,

as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.²² For Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you.'²³ Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from among his people.'

²⁴ "Indeed, all the prophets from Samuel on, as many as have spoken, have foretold these days.²⁵ And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, 'Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.'²⁶ When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways."

Sermon – Acts 3v11-26

- Who's in charge? Peter assures us God is in charge. The saving was by the name of Jesus.
- Who's to blame? Peter assures us the "men of Israel" are to blame – they sent Jesus to the cross. Their and our sin is foretold by the Prophets – a sign of God's love.
- What should I do? Acknowledge our sin, repent and receive times of joy, delight and refreshing.

Prayers

This morning's prayer from The Barnabas Fund

Lord Jesus Christ, we lift to you the Christians of Somalia, rejoicing that you know each one by name. You know the dangers they face, the abuse, rejection and contempt, the real threat to their lives. Thank you for their courage in obeying your call, in the full knowledge that they might have to lay down their lives for you. Please protect and keep them. Although we may never meet our Somali brothers and sisters in this life, help us to learn from their example to gladly take up our cross and follow you. Amen.

A prayer for schools

We pray for all those known to you who work in schools and who are preparing to re-open their schools. We pray for staff and students as they have to face up to different and difficult new arrangements in school and we pray for all who have pastoral responsibilities in our schools and who need to help the many pupils adversely affected by the lockdown. Amen.

Covid-19

Heavenly Father, our ever-present help in trouble, our fortress and our God: calm the anxious fears of all who turn to you; give strength and healing to those who are sick, and courage and skill to those who care for them; grant wisdom and clarity to those in authority; and humble us all to call upon you that we may be saved not only in this life, but also for that which is to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Prayer for the Day

Graciously hear us, Lord God, and grant that we, to whom you have given the desire to pray, may be defended by your mighty aid and strengthened in all dangers and adversities, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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, & the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Hymn (Tune: Thine be the Glory)

Glory to Jesus, Risen, Conquering Son! Endless is the victory over death you won;
angels robed in splendour rolled the stone away, kept the folded grave clothes where your body lay:
Glory to Jesus, risen, conquering Son! Endless is the victory over death you won.

2. See! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb; lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing, for her Lord is living, death has lost its sting:

3. No more we doubt you, glorious Prince of life: what is life without you? Aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors through your deathless love; bring us safe through Jordan to your home above:

Blessing 1 Thessalonians 3v13

May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.