

**THE PARISH CHURCH OF  
ST. MICHAEL  
ALNWICK**



**SERVICE OF THE WORD  
FOR SAINTS DAYS**

# THE SAINTS

No Christian is solitary. Through baptism we become members one of another in Christ, members of a company of saints whose mutual belonging transcends death. As Charles Wesley wrote:

*One family, we dwell in him,  
one Church, above, beneath;  
though now divided by the stream,  
the narrow stream of death.*

Some saints are well known and their faithfulness to the Gospel well recorded. Others, we know much less about; but their example, their manner of life and their continuing influence ensure that they are not forgotten by the Church.

In this part of the world we rejoice particularly in the 'Northern Saints' – Cuthbert, Aidan, Hilda and Ebba, to name but a few.

Through the ages the Church has responded with gratitude and celebrated those who have gone before us in the Christian way and in whose company we journey.

Here, at St. Michael's, we play our part in giving thanks for the inspiration we gain from holy men and women – both known and unknown – who have been lights of the world in their own generation and whose commitment to Christ has often led to danger, unpopularity and loss of life.

*For all the saints who showed your love  
in how they lived and where they moved,  
for mindful women, caring men,  
accept our gratitude again.*

*For all the saints who loved your name,  
whose faith increased the Saviour's fame,  
who sang your songs and shared your word,  
accept our gratitude, good Lord.*

*(John L. Bell b 1949)*

## Preparation

### **Welcome**

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you  
**and also with you.**

The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.  
**Let us rejoice and sing God's praise.**

*Words of welcome or introduction may be said.*

God in Christ has revealed his glory.  
**Come let us worship.**

Give him praise, you servants of the Lord.  
**O praise the name of the Lord!**

We stand before the throne of God  
with countless crowds  
from every nation and race, tribe and language.  
**Blessing and glory and wisdom,  
thanksgiving and honour, power and might  
be to our God for ever and ever.**

Let us pray:

*Silence is kept.*

Come, Holy Spirit,  
fill the hearts of your faithful people,  
and kindle in us the fire of your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

*A hymn is played as we gather ourselves in worship.*

## **Prayers of Penitence**

Christ calls us to share the heavenly banquet of his love with all the saints in earth and heaven.

Knowing our unworthiness and sin,  
let us ask from him both mercy and forgiveness.

**Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy  
forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly,  
love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God.  
Amen.**

*The president says*

May the God of all healing and forgiveness  
draw you to himself,  
cleansing you from all your sins  
and bring you to the fellowship of his table  
with his saints for ever..

**Amen.**

## **Praise: Te Deum**

We praise you, O God,  
we acclaim you as the Lord;  
all creation worships you,  
the Father everlasting.

**To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,  
the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise:  
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

The glorious company of apostles praise you.  
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.  
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.

**Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you:  
Father, of majesty unbounded,  
your true and only Son, worthy of all praise,  
the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.**

You, Christ, are the King of glory,  
the eternal Son of the Father.  
When you took our flesh to set us free:  
you humbly chose the Virgin's womb.

**You overcame the sting of death  
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.  
You are seated at God's right hand in glory.  
We believe that you will come and be our judge.**

Come then, Lord, and help your people,  
bought with the price of your own blood,  
and bring us with your saints  
to glory everlasting.

## **The Collect**

*The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words  
'Let us pray' or a more specific bidding.*

*The Collect is said.*

**Amen.**

# The Liturgy of the Word

## **Readings**

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm**

*Verses from Psalm 24 are said antiphonally.*

- 1 The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it, ◆  
the compass of the world and all who dwell therein.
- 2 For he has founded it upon the seas ◆  
and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep.
- 3 'Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord, ◆  
or who can rise up in his holy place?'
- 4 '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;
- 5 'They shall receive a blessing from the Lord, ◆  
a just reward from the God of their salvation.'
- 6 Such is the company of those who seek him, ◆  
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.

**Glory to God, Source of all being,  
Eternal Word and Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

## **Gospel Reading**

Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

**Alleluia.**

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

*A time of quiet reflection may follow and a hymn is played.*

## **The Creed**

We say together in faith

**Holy, holy, holy  
is the Lord God almighty,  
who was, and is, and is to come.**

We believe in God the Father,  
who created all things:  
**for by his will they were created  
and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son,  
who was slain:  
**for with his blood,  
he purchased us for God,  
from every tribe and language,  
from every people and nation.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:  
**the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'  
Even so come, Lord Jesus!  
Amen.**

# Prayers

## **Prayers of Intercession**

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,  
let us pray to the Father.

*These responses may be used*

Lord, in your mercy (or) Lord, hear us.

**hear our prayer.**

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

*And at the end*

**Merciful Father,  
accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom,  
as we pray in the words you gave us.

**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.**



## **Conclusion**

### **Prayer for growth in holiness**

Almighty God, in Christ your Son  
you give us a spiring of water welling up to eternal life;  
you promise your presence, to the end of the age;  
you send your Spirit of peace to dwell in our hearts.

With *N* and all your saints,  
perfect your image within us, O Lord, we pray,  
that rooted and grounded in love,  
we may bring forth the fruits of holiness.

**Amen.**

So, in the name of Christ we pray:  
Jesus says: I am the vine and you are the branches.

**Abide in me as I abide in you.**

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.

**Abide in me as I abide in you.**

You are my friends if you do what I command you.

**Abide in me as I abide in you.**

This is my commandment:  
love one another, as I have loved you.

**Abide in me as I abide in you.**

Abide in us Lord Jesus.

May your life within us grow deeper and richer.

May your light within us shine as light for the world.

May your love within us reveal us as your own.

**Amen.**

### **Blessing and Dismissal**

God give you grace to follow his saints  
in faith and hope and love;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**



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