

Welcome to a time of prayer and reflection. Let's be still and recognise that we are in the presence of God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

August 15th is both the feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, under whose patronage, or rather matronage, stands the church of Lynton, and also the anniversary of the flood that devastated our area in 1952. In Mary's song which is the gospel for the day we hear her celebration of God's concern for the vulnerable and the lowly – and in vulnerable communities through the world, and throughout the ages she has been a symbol of the comforting love of God for those who suffer. Emboldened by her faith, let us bring to God all the wounds we carry, the times when we turn from the love offered to us to share, the times when we have done what was wrong in the Lord's sight and chosen what displeased him.

As a mother comforts her child,
so shall the Lord himself comfort us.
So let us come to him who knows our every deed and thought.

Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of Peace:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and Son of Mary:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are Word made flesh and splendour of the Father;

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

Amen

Let us pray:

Almighty God,

who looked upon the lowliness of the Blessed Virgin Mary
and chose her to be the mother of your only Son:
grant that we who are redeemed by his blood
may share with her in the glory of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

From the Gospel according to Luke 1:46-55

Sermon (see attached text)

As we pray to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we say with Mary:

Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.

Holy is your name.

Your prophet of old foretold a day when a virgin would conceive
and bear a son who would be called God-with-us.

Help us to look forward to your deliverance
and to seek the fullness of your kingdom.

Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.

Holy is your name.

Your angel declared to Mary that she was to be
the mother of the Saviour.

Help every Christian person to be open to your word
and obedient to your will.

Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.

Holy is your name.

Mary rejoiced with Elizabeth and sang your praise,

'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.'

Help us to live joyful lives that sing your praise.

Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.

Holy is your name.

Mary bore a son of David's line,
a king whose reign would never end.

Bless all the nations of the world with Christ's gift of peace.

Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.

Holy is your name.

The child Jesus grew in wisdom and stature
in the home of Mary and Joseph.

Strengthen our homes and families,
and keep under your protection all those whom we love.

At this time we give thanks for the communities along the Lyn Valley, for
all who have gone before us to build community life here, especially
after the trauma of 1952.

Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.

Holy is your name.

At the foot of the cross of Christ stood his mother,
and from the cross she received his lifeless body in her arms.

Give comfort and healing to all who suffer
and all who watch the suffering of those they love.

We pray for all who still carry dark memories of the flood here and its
aftermath, and for all those across our world who in recent days have
suffered bereavement, injury and loss in flood and fires

And in a moment of quiet we hold before you all for whom we have
particular concern

Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.

Holy is your name.

The apostle John saw a vision of a woman in heaven,
robed with the sun.

Bring us with all those who have died in the faith of Christ to share the joy of heaven with Mary and all the saints.

We pray for all who died in the flood of 1952, for all who have died in recent natural disasters, and for all those we love and see no longer and for those who have no one to remember them.

Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.

Holy is your name.

Almighty and everlasting God,
your handmaid Mary magnified your name
and rejoiced in your saving love:
trusting in that same love,
we ask all these our prayers
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

We gather all these prayers as we pray in the words Jesus gave us:
Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory. Forever and ever, Amen.

Giving thanks for the communion we share through baptism with one another and with God in Christ Jesus our Lord we make an act of spiritual communion in the words of this prayer:

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. As I cannot receive you sacramentally today, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

May the Father,
who has loved the eternal Son
from before the foundation of the world,
shed that love upon you his children.

May Christ,
who by his incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with joy and peace.

May the Holy Spirit,
by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer,
give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.