

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.

In today's gospel there is the most beautiful line telling of Jesus' inner reaction on seeing a crowd who had raced around the lake to meet him and his disciples "he had compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd and he began to teach them many things" I wonder if we are a bit like that crowd when we come to God in confession – drawn to the one who will show us compassion and guidance for all the times we go astray. Trusting in the deep compassion of God let us bring those times to mind as we confess:

Father, you come to meet us when we return to you:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, you died on the cross for our sins:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Spirit, you give us life and peace:

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:

Lord of all power and might,
the author and giver of all good things:
graft in our hearts the love of your name,
increase in us true religion,
nourish us with all goodness,
and of your great mercy keep us in the same;
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 Mark 6: 30-34,53-end

Sermon (see attached text)

Let us pray:

For the unity of the Church in witness and proclamation of the Gospel,
For our Bishops: Robert, Jackie and Nick: for wisdom as they guide the
church in Devon, and for Bishop Sarah and the national recovery group
as they frame guidance for our life together in the coming weeks

For Revd Verena Breed as she prepares to move to join us as our
Archdeacon,

For the parishes across our deanery – especially those in vacancy.

For our Mission Community, that we can model the spirit of loving our
neighbour as ourselves as we put such guidance into practice.

For our ecumenical friends in their several ministries in our region

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

For the peace and stability and wellbeing of all peoples

For the leaders of the nations that they may seek peace and pursue it in all
their policy decisions always in service of the common good.

In our own nation we continue to pray for our government and all who
advise. We ask that a sense of shared responsibility will guide us all as
legal restrictions around our behaviour are removed. We pray especially
for all who are anxious at this time, that the moderation of those around
them will bring a sense of greater confidence.

For the nations of the world whose battle with Covid 19 is less well
resourced that they may be supported by the affluent world

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

For a blessing on our homes and all those with whom we share our lives;
for our relations and friends and all whom we love ...;

for our wider community: especially this coming week we pray for the

West Exmoor Federation, and for all schools bringing a challenging
academic year to an end. We give thanks for all staff and governors at
our schools, and pray for a blessing on all our children – especially those
who are leaving to go to secondary school in the autumn.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

For the sick and suffering and all who minister to their needs ...;

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

For those we love and see no longer, all who have died recently or whose
anniversaries fall at this time, and for those who mourn

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

Let us commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God.

For the coming of God's kingdom 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.

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love,
defend you on every side,
and guide you in truth and peace;

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

All Amen.