

# THE BOURNE VALLEY BENEFICE

## A SERVICE OF NIGHT PRAYER

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY – 29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024

ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS

### *WELCOME AND OPENING RESPONSES*

#### *Opening Acclamation*

To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb  
be blessing and honour and glory and might  
for ever and ever!

**Amen**

#### *Opening Responses*

Be swift, O God, to save us.

**Come quickly, Lord, to help us.**

From the rising of the sun to its setting  
**may the Lord's name be praised.**

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights.

**Praise him, all you his angels; praise him, all his host.**

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.**

#### *Opening Hymn – O praise ye the Lord!*

*[Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877)]*

O praise ye the Lord! Praise him in the height;  
rejoice in his word, ye angels of light;  
ye heavens adore him by whom ye were made,  
and worship before him, in brightness arrayed.

O praise ye the Lord! Praise him upon earth,  
in tuneful accord, ye sons of new birth;  
praise him who hath brought you his grace from above,  
praise him who hath taught you to sing of his love.

O praise ye the Lord, all things that give sound;  
each jubilant chord re-echo around;  
loud organs, his glory forth tell in deep tone,  
and, sweet harp, the story of what he hath done.

O praise ye the Lord! Thanksgiving and song  
to him be outpoured all ages along:  
for love in creation, for heaven restored,  
for grace of salvation, O praise ye the Lord! Amen, Amen

*REFLECTION, CONFESSION and RECONCILIATION*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess to you before the whole company of heaven  
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed,  
and in what we have failed to do.**

**Forgive us our sins,  
heal us by your Spirit  
and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.**

God is merciful and just:  
If we say sorry for our mistakes, He will forgive us;  
If we acknowledge our failings, He will heal our weaknesses;  
If we turn our lives to Him, we will find the kingdom of heaven.  
**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

*GLORIA*

*Calypso Gloria (O'Hara)*

Glory, sing glory to God!  
Sing glory to God in the highest!  
And peace to all people on the earth.

**Glory, sing glory to God!  
Sing glory to God in the highest!  
And peace to all people on the earth.**

Lord God, ruler of all, your love renews creation;  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

**Glory, sing glory to God!**  
**Sing glory to God in the highest!**  
**And peace to all people on the earth.**

Lord Jesus Christ, only child of the Creator,  
Lord God, lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.

**Glory, sing glory to God!**  
**Sing glory to God in the highest!**  
**And peace to all people on the earth.**

You are seated in your kingdom, in your kingdom of glory,  
receive our prayer, receive our prayer, receive our prayer.

**Glory, sing glory to God!**  
**Sing glory to God in the highest!**  
**And peace to all people on the earth.**

For you alone are the Holy One;  
for you alone, you alone are the Lord;  
for you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory, the glory, the glory of God;  
in the glory, the glory, the glory of God;  
Creator, Amen;  
Creator, Amen.

**Glory, sing glory to God!**  
**Sing glory to God in the highest!**  
**And peace to all people on the earth.**  
**And peace to all people on the earth.**  
**And peace to all people on the earth.**

## *PSALMS*

*Psalm 103 v19-end*

The Lord has established his throne in heaven,  
and his kingdom has dominion over all.

**Bless the Lord, you angels of his,  
you mighty ones who do his bidding  
and hearken to the voice of his word.**

Bless the Lord, all you his hosts,  
you ministers of his who do his will.

**Bless the Lord, all you works of his,  
in all places of his dominion;  
bless the Lord, O my soul.**

### *Psalm 148*

Alleluia.

Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
praise him in the heights.

**Praise him, all you his angels;  
praise him, all his host.**

Praise him, sun and moon;  
praise him, all you stars of light.

**Praise him, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.**

Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
for he commanded and they were created.

**He made them fast for ever and ever;  
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.**

Praise the Lord from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps;

**Fire and hail, snow and mist,  
tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word;**

Mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars;

**Wild beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and birds on the wing;**

Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the world;

**Young men and women,  
old and young together;**

**let them praise the name of the Lord.**

For his name only is exalted,  
his splendour above earth and heaven.

**He has raised up the horn of his people  
and praise for all his faithful servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near him.  
Alleluia.**

**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.**

## *READINGS*

### *Excerpt from a sermon of Gregory the Great<sup>1</sup>*

You should be aware that the word 'angel' denotes a function rather than a nature. Those holy spirits of heaven have indeed always been spirits, but they are only called angels when they deliver some divine message. Moreover, in scripture those who deliver messages of lesser importance are called angels; whereas those who proclaim messages of supreme importance are called archangels.

Thus it was that not merely an angel but the archangel Gabriel was sent to the Virgin Mary. It was only fitting that the highest angel should come to announce the greatest of all messages.

Some angels are given proper names to denote the service they are empowered to perform. In that holy city, where perfect knowledge flows from the vision of almighty God, those who have no names may easily be known. But personal names are assigned to some, not because they could not be known without them, but rather to denote their ministry when they came among us. Thus, Michael means 'Who is like God?'; Gabriel is 'The Strength of God'; and Raphael is 'The Healing of God'.

Whenever some act of wondrous power must be performed, Michael is sent, so that action and name may make it clear that no one can do what God does by his own superior power. [...] So too Gabriel, who is called God's strength, was sent to Mary. Gabriel came to announce the One who appeared in humility to quell the cosmic powers. Thus God's strength announced the coming of the Lord of the heavenly powers, mighty in battle. Raphael means, as I have said, the healing of God, for when the angel touched Tobit's eyes in order to cure him, Raphael banished the darkness of his blindness. Thus, since this angel is to heal, Raphael is rightly called the healing of God.

**A short silence** is kept for reflection.

## *Revelation 5*

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<sup>1</sup> As given in *Celebrating the Saints – Daily Spiritual Reading to accompany the Calendars of The Church of England, The Church of Ireland, The Scottish Episcopal Church and The Church in Wales*. Compiled by Robert Atwell.

Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?' And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.'

Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sing a new song:

'You are worthy to take the scroll  
and to open its seals,  
for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God  
saints from every tribe and language and people and nation;  
you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God,  
and they will reign on earth.'

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice,

'Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might  
and honour and glory and blessing!'

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

'To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb  
be blessing and honour and glory and might for ever and ever!'

And the four living creatures said, 'Amen!' And the elders fell down and worshipped.

***A longer silence is kept for reflection.*** You may want to reflect on the archangels: Michael (who is like God), Gabriel (God's strength) and Raphael (God's healing). Or you may wish to follow the example of the psalms, and the heavenly host in Revelation, and praise God. Or you may choose to focus on the vulnerability of the slaughtered Lamb of God and what that might mean for your own life. Or you may wish to attend on the presence of God without words and wait for his voice in your hearts.

Father,  
We thank you for touching our lives  
during our time of silence. **Amen**

### **OFFERTORY**

*Please support your local church through the Parish Giving Scheme or with a one-off donation – your church treasurer will be able to help you to do this.*

### **Offertory Hymn – Angel voices ever singing round Thy throne of light**

*[Francis Pott (1832-1909)]*

Angel voices ever singing  
round thy throne of light,  
angel harps, for ever ringing,  
rest not day or night;  
thousands only live to bless thee  
and confess thee, Lord of might.

For we know that thou rejoicest  
o'er each work of thine;  
thou didst ears and hands and voices  
for thy praise design;  
craftsman's art and music's measure  
for thy pleasure all combine.

In thy house, great God, we offer  
of thine own to thee;  
and for thine acceptance proffer,  
all unworthily,  
hearts and minds and hands and voices  
in our choicest psalmody.

Honour, glory, might, and merit  
thine shall ever be,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
blessed Trinity:

of the best that thou hast given  
earth and heaven render thee.

### ***Offertory blessing***

Generous Creator,  
you have given us riches beyond measure.  
We ask that you will bless our offerings and service  
that they may be used to build your kingdom  
and for your glory. **Amen.**

### ***PRAYERS***

#### ***Collect***

Everlasting God,  
you have ordained and constituted  
the ministries of angels and mortals in a wonderful order:  
grant that as your holy angels always serve you in heaven,  
so, at your command, they may help and defend us on earth;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### ***A Prayer offered by Bishop Andrew***

**Gracious God, we thank you for calling us into the fellowship of your Son;  
Empower us by your Spirit to seek your Kingdom, here and now,  
that we might make Jesus known in every place, for your name's sake, Amen**

#### ***Intercessions***

#### ***Lord's Prayer***

**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;  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive them that trespass against us;  
And lead us not into temptation,**



**But deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,**

**For ever and ever. Amen**

## **CONCLUSION**

### ***Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)***

**Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:  
your word has been fulfilled.**

**My own eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared in the sight of every people:  
a light to reveal you to the nations  
and the glory of your people Israel.**

**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.**

### ***Closing Hymn – Crown him with many crowns***

*[Matthew Bridges (1800-1894)]*

Crown him with many crowns,  
the Lamb upon his throne;  
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns  
all music but its own!  
Awake, my soul and sing  
of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless King  
through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of love!  
Behold his hands and side,  
whose wounds, yet visible above,  
in beauty glorified.  
No angel in the sky  
can fully bear that sight,  
but downward bends his burning eye  
at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of peace,  
whose power a sceptre sways  
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,

and all be prayer and praise:  
his reign shall know no end,  
and round his pierced feet  
fair flowers of paradise extend  
their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of years,  
the potentate of time,  
creator of the rolling spheres,  
ineffably sublime.

All hail, Redeemer, hail!  
For thou hast died for me;  
thy praise shall never, never fail  
throughout eternity.

### ***Closing Prayers and Responses***

To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb  
be blessing and honour and glory and might  
for ever and ever!

**Amen.**

Lord our God,  
at the ending of this day,  
and in the darkness and silence of this night,  
cover us with healing and forgiveness,  
that we may take our rest in peace  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**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**