

He humbled himself and was obedient to death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God has raised him on high, and given him the name above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

### Intercessions

*Sit for a time of reflection. We pray the Lenten collect*  
**Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; 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.**

*As a response between intercessions, we use:*

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

*And at the end:*

Merciful father,  
**Accept these prayers, for the sake of your son, our saviour Jesus Christ.**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray  
**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.**

*HYMN: Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us (AM 224)  
(during which the collection is taken)*

### Prayer and Blessing

Creator of the wilderness, go with us.  
Jesus, who overcame temptation, go with us.  
Spirit, strengthener of those who call, go with us.  
Three in one, drawing all strands of life together, go with us, and....  
**Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Material from Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England (London, 2000), Daily Prayer (London, 2001) and New Patterns for Worship (London, 2002) is included in this service, and is © The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England 2000-2. Some other material is © Roots for Churches Ltd 2004*

☞ **FEEL FREE TO TAKE THIS SHEET AWAY**

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR COFFEE OR TEA IN THE HALL AFTER THE SERVICE**



## St Ursula's Church, Berne Service of the Word

13 February 2005  
1st Sunday of Lent

*NEWS and NOTICES*

### Welcome and Greeting

God is good  
**all the time.**

All the time

**God is good.**

O Lord, open our lips

**and our mouth shall proclaim your praise**

*SONG: Morning has broken (WT 297)*

### Prayers of Penitence

God of the garden, you spoke clearly to Adam and Eve, yet they did not listen.

If we open our ears to your call, you will show us how to live. Help us to open our ears.

Jesus of the wilderness, you listened to God's word and chose the best. If we open our minds to your example, you will enable us to choose well. Help us to open our minds.

Spirit of humility, you bring God's gifts to us. If we open our will to your grace, you will help us to grow in spirit. Help us to open our will.

Three in One, you fill all space and each place. If we open our hearts to you, you will increase our love for you, for ourselves and for your world. Help us to open our hearts.

Let us ask God's mercy, by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Wash away all my iniquity  
**and cleanse me from my sin.**

Lord have mercy.

**Lord have mercy.**

Against you, you only, have I sinned  
**and done what is evil in your sight.**

Christ have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
**and renew a right spirit in me.**

Lord have mercy.

**Lord have mercy.**

Jesus, when we are tempted to do something wrong, help us to stop.

Jesus, when we are tempted to do something wrong, help us to ask what would Jesus do?

Jesus, when people are trying to tempt us to make a wrong choice, help us to say no.

Jesus, help us to remember your example and to stand firm.

May almighty God, who sent his Son into the world to save sinners, bring you his pardon and peace, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## Drama – The Hungry Gardener

*based on Gen 2:15-17, 3:1-7*

### Reading

*Matt 4:1-11 (NRSV)*

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

*SONG with the children: Abba, Father (WT 2)*

### Prayer with the Children

**Jesus, you were tempted too,  
you know what we are going through.  
You were strong, we know it's true,  
help us to keep on following you. Amen.**

*HYMN: Forty days and forty nights (AM 56)*

### Paul Explains

*Rom 5:12-19 (The Message)*

You know the story of how Adam landed us in the dilemma we're in—first sin, then death, and no one exempt from either sin or death. That sin disturbed relations with God in everything and everyone, but the extent of the disturbance was not clear until God spelled it out in detail to Moses. So death, this huge abyss separating us from God, dominated the landscape from Adam to Moses. Even those who didn't sin precisely as Adam did by disobeying a specific command of God still had to experience this termination of life, this separation from God. But Adam, who got us into this, also points ahead to the One who will get us out of it.

Yet the rescuing gift is not exactly parallel to the death-dealing sin. If one man's sin put crowds of people at the deadend abyss of separation from God, just think what God's gift poured through one man, Jesus Christ, will do! There's no comparison between that death-dealing sin and this generous, life-giving gift. The verdict on that one sin was the death sentence; the verdict on the many sins that followed was this wonderful life sentence. If death got the upper hand through one man's wrongdoing, can you imagine the breathtaking recovery life makes, sovereign life, in those who grasp with both hands this wildly

extravagant life-gift, this grand setting-everything-right, that the one man Jesus Christ provides?

Here it is in a nutshell: Just as one person did it wrong and got us in all this trouble with sin and death, another person did it right and got us out of it. But more than just getting us out of trouble, he got us into life! One man said no to God and put many people in the wrong; one man said yes to God and put many in the right.

### Interlude and Commentary

#### Psalm 32

*The happiness of the penitent and forgiven*

**You upright rejoice, be glad in the Lord,  
Shout for joy all you honest of heart.**

Happy are those whose offence is forgiven,  
whose sin is blotted out.

Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

While I said not a word, my bones wasted away  
I groaned all day long.

Day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried as by the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,  
I did not hide my iniquity;

I said, "I will confess my offence to the Lord,"  
and you forgave all my guilt and my sin.

**You upright rejoice, be glad in the Lord,  
Shout for joy all you honest of heart.**

Therefore let all the faithful pray to you ;  
at times of distress,

Then the flooding of mighty waters  
shall not reach them.

You are my hiding place;  
you preserve me from trouble;

you surround me

with songs of deliverance.

**You upright rejoice, be glad in the Lord,  
Shout for joy all you honest of heart.**

I, the Lord, will teach you and show you the way;  
I will not take my eyes off you.

Do not be like a horse or a mule,  
without understanding,

whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,  
or it will not stay near you.

Many are the torments of the wicked,  
but faithful love enfolds those who trust in the Lord.

**You upright rejoice, be glad in the Lord,  
Shout for joy all you honest of heart.**

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save;

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. **Amen.**

### Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine, he did not cling to  
equality with God, but made himself nothing.  
Taking the form of a slave, he was born in  
human likeness.**

## **Reference Material**

Hessian??

### **SPARE MUSIC:**

Jesu lover of my soul

You are my hiding place

Will you come and follow me

Father, hear the prayer we offer

## Drama

*(Eve enters the garden, humming.)*

**Eve:** I love living in the Garden of Eden. Everything is so beautiful. It makes you feel good to be alive!

**Snake:** So it looksss beautiful, but isn't there a lot of work to do looking after all the animalsss and birdsss?

**Eve:** Not at all. God has provided us all with plenty of food. It grows all around us. It's perfect.

**Snake:** *(Aside)* I hate perfection....and I hate God. I'm the Sssnake, the ssspoiler, the one who messssses everything up. **Hissssss.** *(Pause for everyone to hiss.)*

**Eve:** Did you say something?

**Snake:** I wasss jusst thinking to myssself how wonderful it mussst be to be able to eat anything you like in the garden.

**Eve:** Not quite anything. God said we should avoid a fruit tree.

**Snake:** Ssso God told you not to eat any fruit?

**Eve:** Oh no! It's only that tree over there that's banned.

**Snake:** What a sssilly rule!

**Eve:** Oh no! It's not a silly rule. If we eat it, we'll die!

**Snake:** Sso God told you you'd die from eating that fine-looking fruit? What sssort of tree isss it?

**Eve:** It's the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

**Snake:** Sso God doesn't want you to know much. He'sss frightened that if you eat the fruit, you will know more than he wantsss you to.

**Eve:** It's God's world. He can make the rules. We have to keep them.

**Snake:** How do you know he'sss telling the truth?

**Eve:** How do I know you're telling the truth?

**Snake:** Trussssssst me. **Hissssss.** *(Pause.)* If you eat that fruit you'll know what'sss good and what'sss bad. You can make your own decissions and needn't bother God. You can choosse what to do.

**Eve:** But God said...

**Snake:** It'sss your decision. Take control of your own life.

**Eve:** It does smell good.

**Snake:** How could something bad smell do good?

**Eve:** Here goes... *(Bites into the fruit.)*

**Snake:** Misssssion accomplished! **Hissssss.** *(Pause.)*

**Eve:** Here, Adam, try this!

**Snake:** There! From thisss moment on there will be warsss, ssstealing, greed and sselfisshness – evil, hard and painful things happening all over the world. **Hissssss.**