

Sunday 18th January 2025

2nd Sunday of Epiphany

St Andrew's church, Billingborough
South Lafford and Billingborough Group of Parishes



Collect

Eternal Lord,
our beginning and our end:
bring us with the whole creation
to your glory, hidden through past ages
and made known
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Isaiah 49.1-7

49 Listen to me, O coastlands,
pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The Lord called me before I was born,
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.
2 He made my mouth like a sharp sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow,
in his quiver he hid me away.
3 And he said to me, 'You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.'
4 But I said, 'I have laboured in vain,
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the Lord,
and my reward with my God.'
5 And now the Lord says,
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honoured in the sight of the Lord,

and my God has become my strength—
6 he says,
'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the
earth.'

7 Thus says the Lord,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,
the slave of rulers,
'Kings shall see and stand up,
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the Lord, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.'

Psalm 40.1-12

1 I waited patiently for the Lord;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.
2 **He brought me out of the roaring pit,
out of the mire and clay;
he set my feet upon a rock and made my footing
sure.**
3 He has put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God;
many shall see and fear
and put their trust in the Lord.
4 **Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,
who does not turn to the proud that follow a lie.**
5 Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my
God.
How great your designs for us!
There is none that can be compared with you.
6 **If I were to proclaim them and tell of them
they would be more than I am able to express.**
7 Sacrifice and offering you do not desire
but my ears you have opened;
8 **Burnt offering and sacrifice for sin you have not
required;
then said I: 'Lo, I come.**

9 'In the scroll of the book it is written of me
that I should do your will, O my God;
I delight to do it: your law is within my heart.'

10 **I have declared your righteousness in the great
congregation;
behold, I did not restrain my lips,
and that, O Lord, you know.**

11 Your righteousness I have not hidden in my
heart;
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your
salvation;
I have not concealed your loving-kindness and
truth
from the great congregation.

12 **Do not withhold your compassion from me, O
Lord;
let your love and your faithfulness always
preserve me,**

1 Corinthians 1.1-9

1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the
will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,
2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those
who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints,
together with all those who in every place call on the
name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and
ours:
3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and
the Lord Jesus Christ.
4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of
the grace of God that has been given you in Christ
Jesus,**5** for in every way you have been enriched in
him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—**6** just
as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened
among you—**7** so that you are not lacking in any
spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord
Jesus Christ.**8** He will also strengthen you to the end,
so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord
Jesus Christ.**9** God is faithful; by him you were called
into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

John 1

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being **4** in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. **8** He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. **9** The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. **11** He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. **12** But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. **15** (John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."') **16** From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. **17** The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. **18** No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Testimony of John the Baptist

19 This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' **20** He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' **21** And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered,

'No.' **22** Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' **23** He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said.

24 Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. **25** They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' **26** John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, **27** the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' **28** This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The Lamb of God

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!' **30** This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." **31** I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.' **32** And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. **33** I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." **34** And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.'

The First Disciples of Jesus

35 The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, **36** and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' **37** The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. **38** When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' **39** He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It

was about four o'clock in the afternoon. **40** One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. **41** He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). **42** He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter^[1]).

Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

43 The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' **44** Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. **45** Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' **46** Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' **47** When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' **48** Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' **49** Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' **50** Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' **51** And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

Pew Sheet News with details of services, news & events can be found on the websites of: - South Lafford parish. Billingham Group benefice.