

Sunday 15th February 2026

Sunday next before Lent

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

Collect

Holy God,
you know the disorder of our sinful lives:
set straight our crooked hearts,
and bend our wills to love your goodness
and your glory
in Jesus Christ our Lord.



Exodus 24:12-18

¹²The Lord said to Moses, 'Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.' ¹³So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. ¹⁴To the elders he had said, 'Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.'

¹⁵Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. ¹⁷Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. ¹⁸Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Psalm 99

- 1 The Lord is king: let the peoples tremble;
he is enthroned above the cherubim: let the
earth shake.
- 2 **The Lord is great in Zion
and high above all peoples.**
- 3 Let them praise your name, which is great and
awesome;
the Lord our God is holy.
- 4 **Mighty king, who loves justice,
you have established equity;
you have executed justice and righteousness in
Jacob.**
- 5 *Exalt the Lord our God;
bow down before his footstool, for he is holy.*

- 6 **Moses and Aaron among his priests
and Samuel among those who call upon his
name;
they called upon the Lord and he answered
them.**
- 7 He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud;
they kept his testimonies and the law that he
gave them.
- 8 **You answered them, O Lord our God;
you were a God who forgave them
and pardoned them for their offences.**
- 9 *Exalt the Lord our God
and worship him upon his holy hill,
for the Lord our God is holy.*

2 Corinthians 9

⁹ Now it is not necessary for me to write to you about the ministry to the saints, ²for I know your eagerness, which is the subject of my boasting about you to the people of Macedonia, saying that Achaia has been ready since last year; and your zeal has stirred up most of them. ³ But I am sending the brothers in order that our boasting about you may not prove to have been empty in this case, so that you may be ready, as I said you would be; ⁴ otherwise, if some Macedonians come with me and find that you are not ready, we would be humiliated—to say nothing of you—in this undertaking. ⁵ So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you, and arrange in advance for this bountiful gift that you have promised, so that it may be ready as a voluntary gift and not as an extortion.

⁶ The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. ⁹ As it is written,

'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor;
his righteousness endures for ever.'

¹⁰ He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; ¹² for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. ¹³ Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, ¹⁴ while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Matthew 17:1-9

17 Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³ Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' ⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' ⁸ And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'

We are one church gathered from and sent to our villages.
We've been united under one umbrella name "Well Springs"
to reflect the physical fact of spring fed wells in our villages,
the spiritual reality of the life of God bubbling up,
and God's promise to us of the flourishing of our villages.

We are:
a church brought to life in Christ,
made alive by the Spirit
and growing closer to God.
We each respond to God:
with our hearts, minds and strength,
giving him honour and worship, both in our gathering
and by our decisions, our actions,
and our words every day, which show our love of God.
So that everyone can know how great is our God.

And so we will:
Declare
Speak about God,
talk about what he is like
and what knowing him means to us.

Demonstrate
Live Christ-like lives.
Invite people to come and see,
show people by the way we talk and walk
what a life with God at the centre is like.

Dwell
Spend time with God in prayer, worship, bible study,
and in his beautiful creation.