



# Service Sheet

24<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2023 10.30am, St Mary's

The Book of Romans

**Sin: What's wrong with the world?**

**Welcome to St Mary's Church!** We are so glad you are here – whether you are in the church building or watching online. If you are here for the first time or visiting, please say hello (in the chat feature online, or to the service leader or a member of the welcome team in church). You can find out more about our church on our website ([www.denhamparish.church](http://www.denhamparish.church)) or Facebook page ([facebook.com/denhamparish.church](https://facebook.com/denhamparish.church)).

*Christoph Lindner, Rector*

## WELCOME

### HYMN

Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost but now I'm found  
Was blind but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed

*My chains are gone I've been set free  
My God my Saviour has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy rains  
Unending love amazing grace*

Through many dangers toils and snares  
I have already come  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far  
And grace will lead me home

When we've been there  
ten thousand years  
Bright shining as the sun  
We've no less days  
to sing God's praise  
Than when we've first begun

### SUMMARY OF THE LAW

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: The first commandment is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no

other commandment greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

### CONFESSION

God of mercy, we acknowledge that we are all sinners. We turn from the wrong that we have thought and said and done, and are mindful of all that we have failed to do. For the sake of Jesus, who died for us, forgive us for all that is past, and help us to live each day in the light of Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.**

### COLLECT

Lord of creation, whose glory is around and within us: open our eyes to your wonders, that we may serve you with reverence and know your peace at our lives' end, through Jesus Christ our Lord.. Amen

### SONG

Who is this man who was born as a child though he was God? (JESUS!)  
Who is this man who loved the small, the sick, the poor? (JESUS!)  
Who said that God wants us all to be like little children? (JESUS!)  
Who gave his life so that I could be a child of God?

*Jesus, Son of God and Saviour  
He is Jesus, Son of God and Lord!  
Jesus, Son of God and Saviour  
He is Jesus, Son of God and Lord!*

Who can I turn to when I need a friend and helper? (JESUS!)

Who can I talk to when I feel so weak and small? (JESUS!)

Who is this man who will keep all the good things he has promised? (JESUS!)

Who's got the power to make me a child of the greatest King?

*(Children leave for Sunday Club)*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FIRST READING:

**Romans 1.18-23; 2.1-3; 3.19-20, 23**

<sup>18</sup>For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of those who by their wickedness suppress the truth. <sup>19</sup>For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup>Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made. So they are without excuse; <sup>21</sup>for though they knew God, they did not honour him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their senseless minds were darkened. <sup>22</sup>Claiming to be wise, they became fools; <sup>23</sup>and they exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling a mortal human being or birds or four-footed animals or reptiles.

**2** Therefore you have no excuse, whoever you are, when you judge others; for in passing judgement on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, are doing the very same things. <sup>2</sup>You say, 'We know that God's judgement on those who do such things is in accordance with truth.' <sup>3</sup>Do you imagine, whoever you are, that when you judge those who do such things and yet do them yourself, you will escape the judgement of God?

**3**<sup>19</sup> Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup>For 'no human being will be justified in his sight' by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin (...) <sup>23</sup>since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL READING: Mark 7. 14-23

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.*

**All: Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>14</sup> Then he called the crowd again and said to them, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup>there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.'

<sup>17</sup> When he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about the parable. <sup>18</sup>He said to them, 'Then do you also fail to understand? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile, <sup>19</sup>since it enters, not the heart but the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?' (Thus he declared all foods clean.) <sup>20</sup>And he said, 'It is what comes out of a person that defiles. <sup>21</sup>For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup>adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.'

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**All: Praise to you, O Christ**

## SERMON

## THE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## PRAYERS

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you**

## OFFERTORY HYMN

I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'come unto me and rest; lay down, thou weary one, lay down thy head upon my breast': I came to Jesus as I was, weary and worn and sad; I found in him a resting-place, and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'Behold, I freely give the living water, thirsty one; stoop down and drink and live': I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream; my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'I am this dark world's light; look unto me, thy morn shall rise, and all thy day be bright': I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun; and in that light of life I'll walk till travelling days are done

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. **All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.**

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For he is your living Word; through him you have created all things from the beginning, and formed us in your own image.

Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin, giving him to be born of a woman and to die upon the cross; you raised him from the dead and exalted him to your right hand on high.

Through him you have sent upon us your holy and life-giving Spirit, and made us a people for your own possession. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made

once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died:**  
**Christ is risen:**  
**Christ will come again.**

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

**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 those who 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.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

**GIVING OF COMMUNION**

*Please follow the directions of our sidesteam. Please return to your seat*

*through the middle aisle.*

*We take communion in both bread and wine. Please feel under no compulsion to receive the wine, though. If you require a gluten-free wafer, please make this known to the minister distributing communion.*

*If you'd like to receive a blessing, please keep your hands at your sides as you come forward.*

*If you'd like to receive Holy Communion seated in the pew, please let a member of our sidesteam know.*

**DURING HOLY COMMUNION**

**CHOIR**

Turn thy face from my sins,  
and put out all my misdeeds.  
Make me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence  
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

**HYMN**

Be still, my soul: the Lord is at your side;  
bear patiently the cross of grief and pain;  
leave to your God to order and provide;  
in ev'ry change he faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul:  
your best, your heav'nly friend,  
through thorny ways, leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: your God will undertake  
to guide the future as he has the past.  
Your hope, your confidence  
let nothing shake,

all now mysterious shall be clear at last.  
Be still, my soul: the tempests still obey  
his voice, who ruled them once on Galilee.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on  
when we shall be for ever with the Lord,  
when disappointment,  
grief and fear are gone,  
sorrow forgotten, love's pure joy restored.

Be still, my soul:  
when change and tears are past,  
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

**Almighty God, we thank you for**

**feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

**HYMN**

To God be the glory!  
Great things he hath done;  
so loved he the world  
that he gave us his Son;  
who yielded his life  
an atonement for sin,  
and opened the life-gate  
that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord!  
Let the earth hear his voice;  
praise the Lord, praise the Lord!  
Let the people rejoice:  
O come to the Father,  
through Jesus the Son,  
and give him the glory,  
Great things he hath done.*

O perfect redemption,  
the purchase of blood!  
To ev'ry believer  
the promise of God;  
the vilest offender  
who truly believes,  
that moment from Jesus  
a pardon receives.

Great things he hath taught us,  
great things he hath done,  
and great our rejoicing  
through Jesus the Son;  
but purer, and higher,  
and greater will be  
our wonder, our rapture,  
when Jesus we see.

**BLESSING**

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

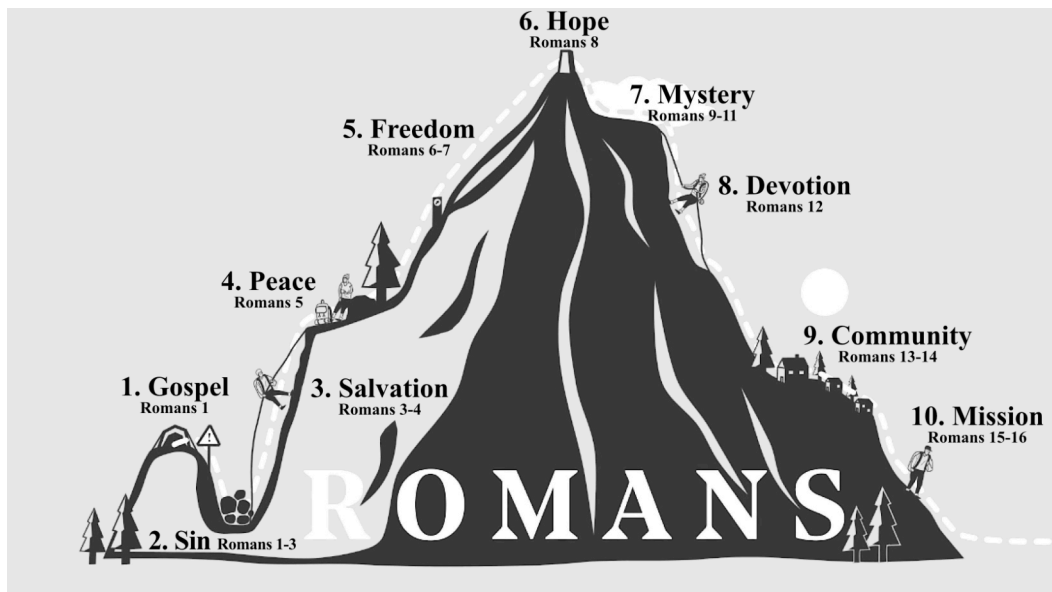
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**KEY VERSE FOR TODAY:** 'For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God ...'  
ROMANS 3.22-23

**READING SUGGESTIONS:**

*Romans 1-7 For You* by Timothy Keller  
*Counterfeit Gods* by Timothy Keller  
'*Slow to Anger*' video by The Bible Project, and episodes 6 to 11 of '*The Character of God*' series on The Bible Project podcast.



Lord Jesus, thank you that you are merciful and forgiving to your people, even though we have rebelled against you. We have turned away from you to try and rule over our own lives. Many times, we have made ourselves judge and ruler over others. Forgive us for condemning others silently or audibly, while ignoring our own prejudices, unhealthy attitudes and sinful behaviours. Lord, we have no hope, except for your love and forgiveness to heal and restore us. Forgive us Lord, and guide our words, thoughts and deeds today so that we may live in ways that honour you. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.