

## **Bible Readings & Prayers – 20th March, 2022**

### **Words as we present a symbol of the cross: a crown of thorns**

Our God is a king of love, by living in compassion, by living in truth, by living in justice, God restores us:

ALL: Saviour, we offer you love and worship.

### **The Collect for the Third Sunday of Lent**

Almighty God,  
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,  
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:  
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,  
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;  
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.

### **2 Thessalonians 1:3-4, 11-12**

We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. Therefore we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith during all your persecutions and the afflictions that you are enduring.

To this end we always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfil by his power every good resolve and work of faith, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Matthew 6:5-15**

‘And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

‘When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

‘Pray then in this way:

Our Father in heaven,  
    hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
    Your will be done,  
        on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
    as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
And do not bring us to the time of trial,  
    but rescue us from the evil one.

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you;  
but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.