



PARISH OF CIRENCESTER
St John Baptist | Holy Trinity | St Lawrence

The Third Sunday of Lent
8th March 2026

Collect

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.

or Eternal God,
give us insight
to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection we are
promised
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Exodus 17.1-7

17 From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?' ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' ⁴So Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' ⁵The Lord said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

Romans 5.1-11

⁵ Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. ⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

.../

⁹ Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

John 4.5-42

⁵ Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' ¹¹ The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?' ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' ¹³ Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' ¹⁵ The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' ¹⁷ The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' ¹⁹ The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' ²¹ Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' ²⁵ The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' ²⁶ Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.'

²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' ²⁸ Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' ³² But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' ³³ So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?' ³⁴ Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵ Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest"? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.

.../

³⁷ For here the saying holds true, “One sows and another reaps.” ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.’ ³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, ‘He told me everything I have ever done.’ ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² They said to the woman, ‘It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.’

Post Communion

Merciful Lord,
grant your people grace to withstand the temptations
of the world, the flesh and the devil,
and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sunday 8th March - The Third Sunday in Lent

BCP Collect and Readings beginning on Page 89

This Week’s Sunday Services more information: www.cirenparish.co.uk

**St John Baptist: 8a.m. BCP and 10a.m. Eucharist; 1p.m. Baptism
4p.m. Evening Prayer**

Holy Trinity: 8a.m. Eucharist; 10a.m. Eucharist

St Lawrence: 10.30a.m. Service of the Word

Next week’s CW readings for Sunday 15th March - The Fourth Sunday in Lent [Mothering Sunday]

1 Samuel 1.20-28; Colossians 3.12-17; John 19.25b-27

**BCP Sunday 15th March - The Fourth Sunday in Lent [Mothering Sunday -
Laetare Sunday - Refreshment Sunday]**

BCP Collect and Readings beginning on Page 91

Next Week’s Sunday Services more information: www.cirenparish.co.uk

St John Baptist: 8a.m. BCP and 10a.m. Eucharist; 4p.m. Choral Evensong

**Holy Trinity: 8a.m. Eucharist; 10a.m. Eucharist;
4p.m. Mother's Day Run Away Service**

St Lawrence: 10.30a.m. Eucharist; 4p.m. Restore@4

**Parish Forum open for enquiries Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri...10a.m. – Midday
Canon Graham’s Open Office is NOT available this Monday 9th March 2026**

NOTICES FOR THE PARISH

Mothers’ Union members will be making **posies** for distribution on **Mothering Sunday** in the **Parish Hall**, Watermoor on **Saturday March 14th** from **9.30am**. Refreshments will be available. Donations of Greenery would be most welcome.

Contributions to pewleaflet@cirenparish.co.uk by Tuesday evening please!

This week's **Thursday Lent Lunches** at **St John Baptist** at 12.30pm continues to focus on **Leaders in Education** with **Jenny Laird** (Head Teacher at Paternoster School) The simple Lent lunch provided by the **Mothers' Union** with surplus funds going to their ongoing projects. All are welcome to attend the Midday Eucharist

Additional Lent Course. Revd Karen will be leading a Lent Course in the choir of the **Parish Church** on the following **Thursday** afternoons **March 12th, 19th** and in **The Forum** on **26th March**. Each session will be from **2pm - 3pm**. We shall be looking at the readings for the following Sunday Eucharist and thinking about how they are connected and their relevance for Lent. It would be helpful if you could read the readings in advance of each session which you will find in the pewsheets.

On **Saturday March 21st** at **7pm**, **Treorchy Male Choir** will be coming to **St John Baptist** to perform a truly wonderful concert. Join us for an evening of fun and song! Tickets are available via the What's On section of the Parish website.

Thank you to everyone for your prayers, messages, cards, flowers during my recent stay in hospital. It meant so much to me. I am now recovering well. *Janet Bowler*

The next **Prayer Meeting** to pray for Cirencester will be on **Wednesday 18th March** at **2.30pm** in the **Parish Forum**. This month we will be praying for our neighbours & our neighbourhoods. Please come along and join us, everyone is welcome."

On **April 17th**, the **Illuminated Orchestra** are coming to **St John Baptist** to give two concerts (**6.15pm and 8.45pm**) of music by Hans Zimmer and other film favourites. Tickets can be found at illuminatedorchestra.co.uk

From the Parish Calendar:

- Sun 8 Mar 5pm: Visiting Bell Ringers – St John Baptist
- Mon 9 Mar 10.30am: Prayers for the Persecuted Church – Parish Hall
- Thu 12 Mar 9.15am: Seedlings – St Lawrence

Contact Details:

Canon Graham 01285 239655 / 07871 571147; email: vicar@cirenparish.co.uk

Rev'd Luke 07850 270719; email: revlukefalvey@cirenparish.co.uk

Parish Office 01285 659317; email: office@cirenparish.co.uk

Monday to Saturday:

St John Baptist: Morning Prayer: Daily at 9.15am (not Saturday)

Midday Eucharist: Daily at noon (Saturday at 10am)

Evening Prayer: Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 5pm

Little Angels: Mondays at 9.30am

Holy Trinity: Stations of the Cross (during Lent): Wednesdays at 6.30pm

St Lawrence: Drop In: Wednesdays at 9am

Parish Forum: Coffee & Chat: Thursdays at 10am

Contributions to pewleaflet@cirenparish.co.uk by Tuesday evening please!