

Sunday 3rd April 2022

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Reading 1: Philippians 3: 4b - 14

Gospel: John 12: 1 - 8

Let us pause for a moment to bring ourselves and all that we offer to God and give Him thanks.

In the name of the Father
And of the Son
And of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Grace mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Psalm: 126

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
² Then our mouth was filled with laughter
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
'The LORD has done great things for them.'
³ The LORD has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.

Song: (Click Link) Living Hope <https://youtu.be/9f2FXxDVO6w>

Invitation to Confession:

God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Let us then show our love for Him by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Confession:

Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought,
in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love
and marred your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed
and repent of all our sins.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us, forgive us all that is past
and lead us out from darkness
to walk as children of light.
Amen.

Absolution:

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Blessed be the Lord
for he has heard the voice of our prayer;

Therefore shall our hearts dance for joy
and in our song will we praise our God.

Song: (*click link & listen*) One thing I ask <https://youtu.be/P--btaCO7pk>

Reading 1: Philippians 3: 4b - 14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Pressing towards the Goal

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel: John 12: 1 - 8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

This is the gospel of the Lord. Praise be to you, O Christ.

Talk: (click link) <https://youtu.be/1IBk1xXx2DE>

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

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 of Intercession.

Let us pray for the Church and for the World and let us thank God for His goodness.

Father God your Word asks "Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in His Holy Place? and the reply is: The one who has clean hands and a pure heart"

Thankyou Father that we can come to you directly today having confessed our sins and received your forgiveness. Thank you so much for your loving goodness toward us and for this wonderful part of your world in which we live. Thankyou that it is through the work of Your Holy Spirit that has brought us here today, it is Your power that makes us new and able to share in the way of Jesus' life. Help us to follow Him, the Way, the Truth and the Life all the way to the promised resurrection. Help us to let go of the past and any mistakes we've made and be made new.

Father your word says that when Jesus had fasted for 40 days and nights in the wilderness, He was hungry. Lord, please accept our small offerings of self denial this Lententide. Father your word says "Blessed are those who hunger for thirst and righteousness" We, too, are hungry, we hunger for your presence in our lives and thirst for your love," and we read the words of St. Paul who so passionately wanted to know Jesus, he hungered to know him and to know the power of his resurrection and to become like him. Help us Lord in your mercy to give us that desire too.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

Father God, we see so much trouble and heart ache in your world, a world which seems to be constantly at war. We ask you to confront all those who sit in positions of power. To confront all who sit in parliaments and councils with the call for honesty and integrity. We weep for the mutilation and death of millions through neglect and war, we weep for the contempt and abuse of others, especially from those seeking power. We weep for the mistreatment of your creation, for pollution, neglect and greed. Father God, please bless all those whose work is overlooked and unrewarded, those who work hard to help others, those who are selfless and put others needs before their own. Open our ears that we may hear the weeping of the world, open our mouths that we may be a voice for the voiceless, open our eyes that we may discern your just ways. Give us the courage and faith to help here we can.

We ask you Father to please bless the forthcoming concert next Saturday to raise much needed aid for Ukraine and to keep each band member safe and well. We pray for many to come and to not only enjoy the concert but to know that every little helps to alleviate the plight of those in great need.

Lord in your mercyHear our prayer

Father God please be among the tired and broken families, families struggling to make ends meet, please be with the lonely and the sick, the disillusioned and those who live in crime infested neighbourhoods. Father, we know you created this world through Jesus, a world of beauty, a world of peace and harmony but sin has spoiled so much, help us to see in this sin sick world the beauty that is still there in the flowers with all their beautiful colours, the magnificent animals, the birds of the air and the fish in the sea. Help us never to lose sight of your goodness and gifts to us.

Father your word tells us to rejoice with those who rejoice, to weep with those who weep and mourn with those who mourn and to live in harmony with one another. Let us in the quietness of our hearts bring to you those who need your touch today whether it is a touch of thankfulness for answered prayer or a touch of your divine healing needed or any specific needs. Father God, our God of love, be present in every heart and home, to cherish, to challenge, to reassure and to comfort.

Lord in your mercy.....Hear our prayer

Father God remind us constantly as we go out from this sanctuary today to remember to pray:

In our world: Your Kingdom come, your will be done

In our leaders: Your Kingdom come, your will be done

In our gatherings here and elsewhere and in our daily walk with you, may our constant cry be:

Your kingdom come, Your will be done.

Merciful Father,
Accept these prayers
for the sake of your only son
our saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Collect:

Gracious Father,
You gave up your Son out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of His passion,
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding of the saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Silence is kept.

Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name
Your kingdom come
Your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread
and forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us

Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil
For the kingdom the power and the glory
are yours now and forever. Amen.

Song: (*click link*) Great is Thy Faithfulness <https://youtu.be/r4ox4es1jo8>

Blessing:

May God the Father,
by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,
strengthen us to walk with Him in his risen life.....

.....and the blessing of God almighty;
Father Son and Holy Spirit,
be with us, and remain with us
and all those whom we love,
now and forever.
Amen.

Post something on the Facebook page to bless others.