

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

**The Second Sunday of Lent**

**Reading 1:** Romans 4: 13 - end

**Gospel:** Mark 8: 31 - 38

Lord, direct our thoughts, and teach us to pray.  
Lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Psalm: 22: 23 - 31**

You who fear the LORD, praise him!

All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;  
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

<sup>24</sup> For he did not despise or abhor  
the affliction of the afflicted;  
he did not hide his face from me,  
but heard when I cried to him.

<sup>25</sup> From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

<sup>26</sup> The poor shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek him shall praise the LORD.  
May your hearts live for ever!

<sup>27</sup> All the ends of the earth shall remember  
and turn to the LORD;  
and all the families of the nations  
shall worship before him.

<sup>28</sup> For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
and he rules over the nations.

<sup>29</sup> To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,  
and I shall live for him.

<sup>30</sup> Posterity will serve him;  
future generations will be told about the Lord,

<sup>31</sup> and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying that he has done it.

**Song:** (*click link*) All to Jesus, I surrender <https://youtu.be/H7FhoxqX2Dk>

**Invitation to Confession**

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.

*A moment of quiet reflection...*

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit,  
returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,  
where for forty days he was tempted by the devil.  
Let us confess our sins remembering before God the times  
when we have fallen from temptation into sin.

### **Confession:**

Almighty God,  
long-suffering and of great goodness:  
I confess to you,  
I confess with my whole heart  
my neglect and forgetfulness of your  
commandments,  
my wrong doing, thinking, and speaking;  
the hurts I have done to others,  
and the good I have left undone.  
O God, forgive me, for I have sinned against you;  
and raise me to newness of life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### **Absolution:**

May the God of love  
bring us back to Himself,  
forgive us our sins  
and assure us of His eternal love  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Reading 1: Romans 4: 13 – end      God’s Promise Realized through Faith**

<sup>13</sup> For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup> If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup> For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share

the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup> as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. <sup>18</sup> Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations', according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' <sup>19</sup> He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already<sup>[b]</sup> as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. <sup>20</sup> No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup> being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup> Therefore his faith<sup>[c]</sup> 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' <sup>23</sup> Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him', were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup> but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup> who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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

### **Gospel:      Mark 8: 31 – 38**

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup> But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

<sup>34</sup> He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup> For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup> Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup> Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

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

**Talk: Brenda**      (click link)      <https://youtu.be/NnFTi09pOyc>

*We say together in faith.*

### **The Creed**

Holy, holy, holy  
is the Lord God almighty,  
who was, and is, and is to come.  
We believe in God the Father,  
who created all things:  
for by his will they were created  
and have their being.  
We believe in God the Son,  
who was slain:  
for with his blood,

he purchased us for God,  
from every tribe and language,  
from every people and nation.  
We believe in God the Holy Spirit:  
the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'  
Even so come, Lord Jesus!  
Amen.

### **Prayers of Intercession:**

*(Please add in names and circumstances known to you in the appropriate place)*

We pray to the Lord for the courage to give ourselves to Him this Lent  
Lord, meet us in the silence, give us strength and hear our prayer.

Give us courage to look beyond ourselves to mission in your world.  
We pray for our Archbishops and Bishops.....  
May the blood and water flowing from the side of Jesus  
bring forgiveness to your people  
and help us to face the cost of proclaiming salvation.  
Lord, meet us in the silence, give us strength and hear our prayer.

Give us courage to give up war, bitterness and hatred, and to seek peace.  
Lord we pray for.....  
May the shoulders of the risen Jesus,  
once scourged by soldiers,  
bear the burden of political and military conflict in our world.  
Lord, meet us in the silence, give us strength and hear our prayer.

Give us the courage to give up quarrels, strife and jealousy  
in our families, neighbourhoods and communities.  
Lord, we pray for.....  
May the presence of the risen Jesus,  
his body once broken and now made whole,  
bring peace and direction as we live with one another.  
Lord, meet us in the silence, give us strength and hear our prayer.

Give us courage to live for others, giving time, care and comfort to the sick and those in need.  
Lord, we pray for.....  
May the wounded hands of Jesus bring His healing,  
and the light of His presence fill their lives.  
Lord, meet us in the silence, give us strength and hear our prayer.

May the risen Lord Jesus, whose feet were once nailed to the cross,  
walk alongside us all our days,  
and lead us, and all your church to the gates of glory, and into eternity.  
Lord, meet us in the silence, give us strength and hear our prayer.

Merciful Father,

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

**Collect:**

Almighty God,  
by the prayer and discipline of Lent  
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,  
and by following in his Way  
come to share in his glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.     Amen.

**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.

*Usually, at this point in the service, we take up our offering;  
let us pause for a moment to bring ourselves and all that we offer to God  
and give Him thanks.*

**Song:** (click link)     *Trust and Obey*     <https://youtu.be/Fiw9lKa8SbY>

**Prayer.**

God of compassion,  
through your Son Jesus Christ  
you have reconciled your people to yourself.  
As we follow His example of prayer and fasting,  
may we obey you with willing hearts  
and serve one another in Holy love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.     Amen.

**Blessing:**

God the Father, who has given to his Son the name above every name,

strengthen us to proclaim Christ as Lord.....

.....and the blessing of God almighty  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
be with us, and all those whom we love,  
this day and always.        Amen

*As we come to the end of this service we can fellowship with each other in Spirit, with tea, coffee  
and biscuits, and continuing to pray for each other.*

*Post something on the Facebook page to bless others.*