

Sunday 14th February 2021

Sunday next before Lent

Reading 1: **2 Kings 2: 1- 12**

Gospel: **Mark 9: 2 - 9**

Loving God,
We have come to worship you.
Help us to pray to you in faith,
to sing your praise with gratitude,
and to listen to your word with eagerness;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalm: 50: 1 - 6

The mighty one, God the LORD,
speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting.

² Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,
God shines forth.

³ Our God comes and does not keep silence,
before him is a devouring fire,
and a mighty tempest all around him.

⁴ He calls to the heavens above
and to the earth, that he may judge his people:

⁵ "Gather to me my faithful ones,
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"

⁶ The heavens declare his righteousness,
for God himself is judge.

Song: (*click link*) Behold Our God <https://youtu.be/Qx9-0v9m2Sg>

Invitation to Confession

Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'
So let us turn away from sin and turn to the Lord,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

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 Christ who died for us, forgive us all that is past,
and help us to live each day in the light of Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution:

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from all our sins,
and strengthen us by His Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading1: 2 Kings 2: 1 – 12

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ² Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they went down to Bethel. ³ The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?' And he said, 'Yes, I know; keep silent.'

⁴ Elijah said to him, 'Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.' But he said, 'As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they came to Jericho. ⁵ The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?' And he answered, 'Yes, I know; be silent.'

⁶ Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.' But he said, 'As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So the two of them went on. ⁷ Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸ Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹ When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.' Elisha said, 'Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.' ¹⁰ He responded, 'You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.' ¹¹ As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹² Elisha kept watching and crying out, 'Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

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

Gospel: Mark 9: 2 – 9

² Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³ and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴ And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵ Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' ⁶ He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷ Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, listen to him!' ⁸ Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. ⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

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

Talk: (click link) <https://youtu.be/C6G6irWriLc>

Let us declare our faith in God.s

The Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Prayers of Intercession:

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

Gracious God, fountain of all wisdom,
we pray for all Christian people;
for Bishop Guli, Peter, Roger, John, for all Christian leaders,
and for those who teach and guard the faith.....
May the word of Christ dwell richly in our hearts,
and knit us together in the bond of your love.
Hear us, good Lord.

We pray for the leaders of the nations,
and for those in authority under them.....
Give them the gift of your wisdom,
and a right discernment in all things.
Hear us, good Lord.

We pray for our villages and community;
for those who live and work here,
and for those who visit this place.....
Speak your word of peace in our midst,
and help us to serve one another as Christ has served us.
Hear us, good Lord.

We pray for those who do not believe,
and yet who long to know you, the very word of life.....
Open their ears to hear your voice,
and open their hearts to the knowledge of your love in Christ.
Hear us, good Lord.

We pray for those bowed down with grief, fear of sickness, especially.....
May your living word bring comfort and healing to all those in need.
Hear us, good Lord.

We give thanks for our brothers and sisters in Christ
who bring good news to our ears and joy to our hearts.
We trust in the promise of your word fulfilled
and submit to your will in our lives.
Lord of life, hear our prayer and make us one in heart and mind
to serve you with joy forever.
Amen.

Collect:

Holy God. You know the disorder of our sinful lives: set straight our crooked hearts, and bend our wills to love your goodness and your glory in 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) Worth It All <https://youtu.be/Yi3v0KKqmu4>

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.