

Sunday 22nd January 2023

Third Sunday of Epiphany

Reading 1: 1 Corinthians 1: 10 - 18

Gospel: **Matthew 4: 12 - 23**

Proclamation:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
for he has come to his people and set them free.

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with us all.

This is the day that the Lord has made;
Let us be glad in it.

Psalm: 27

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

²When evildoers assail me
to devour my flesh—
my adversaries and foes—
they shall stumble and fall.

³Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me,
yet I will be confident.

⁴One thing I asked of the LORD,
that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the LORD,
and to inquire in his temple.

⁵For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will set me high on a rock.

⁶Now my head is lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent

sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

⁷ Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud,
be gracious to me and answer me!

⁸ 'Come,' my heart says, 'seek his face!'
Your face, LORD, do I seek.

⁹ Do not hide your face from me.

Do not turn your servant away in anger,
you who have been my help.

Do not cast me off, do not forsake me,
O God of my salvation!

¹⁰ If my father and mother forsake me,
the LORD will take me up.

¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD,
and lead me on a level path
because of my enemies.

¹² Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries,
for false witnesses have risen against me,
and they are breathing out violence.

¹³ I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living.

¹⁴ Wait for the LORD;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the LORD!

Song: (*click link*) O Come to the Altar https://youtu.be/OpfuKKH_SCE

Invitation to Confession

Our Lord Jesus Christ says,
'A new commandment I give you,
that you love one another as I have loved you.'

Let us confess to almighty God
our failure to accept his love
and to share it with others.

Confession:

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
and against one another,
in thought, and word, and deed.
We are truly sorry for our pride,
and for our lack of faith, of understanding and of love.
We repent of our narrow-mindedness,
of our bitterness and our prejudices.
Pardon and forgive us,
save us and renew us,

that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Absolution:

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

Reading1: 1 Corinthians 1 : 10 - 18 Divisions in the Church

¹⁰Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you should be in agreement and that there should be no divisions among you, but that you should be united in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, 'I belong to Paul', or 'I belong to Apollos', or 'I belong to Cephas', or 'I belong to Christ.' ¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. ¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

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

Gospel: Matthew 4 : 12 - 23 *Jesus Begins His Ministry in Galilee*

¹²Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵'Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— ¹⁶the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.' ¹⁷From that time Jesus began to proclaim, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' ¹⁸As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus Ministers to Crowds of People

²³ Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

Talk: (*click link*) Jenny Pratt <https://youtu.be/39gHT2hKQTA>

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 as followers of Jesus may we renew our commitment to Him today, may we remember the day He called us to follow Him and help us to follow Him with our whole heart in the certain knowledge that You will give us the strength and grace to do so through Your Holy Spirit.

We bring to your love Lord the daily work of each member of Christ's body, that in constant prayer we may learn Your will and Your way of doing things so that we work exclusively for your Glory. Let us not compare ourselves to another but to use the unique gift you have given us and to encourage each other in our service to you and to others.

Father God, we remember today with grateful thanks, the gifts of money that John Hackblock and his son Peter left to be used to help towards the education of the children in the Village. Thankyou Father that the interest from the money invested is still being used today to help so many young people reach their full potential. Thankyou Father for all the good people in the world who give unselfishly of their time and money for your works.

Lord in Your Mercy..... Hear our prayer

Father God we bring to You our relationships with each other and in the wider community that we may learn to act and react in all our relationships with the character and Spirit of Jesus. We bring to you our mistakes, our relationships with others that may have gone wrong through misunderstandings or even our own or their deliberate fault. Thankyou that you never put us down, make us feel bad or worthless, this is something we are good at doing for ourselves at times. Please bring healing through your wonderful grace and mercy dear Lord to our minds and bodies and any relationships today that need mending and forgiveness offered.

Lord in your mercyHear our prayer

Father God please guide us that we may be more sensitive to our neighbours needs be they immediate to us or anywhere in your world. We pray for awareness of those needs, the need of the old to know they are wanted, the need of the young to know they are listened to, the need of all people to know they are of value. Keep us also aware of people's physical needs for warmth, food and clothing and for us to share where and what we can.

Lord in Your mercy.....Hear our prayer

Holy God you keep us in life and death. We remember those we know or are aware of who are sick and troubled today and those whose earthly life is over and the grieving process their family and friends are going through. Bless them Father and surround them with Your precious love.

Holy God in trials and joys your love reaches out to us. You never leave us or forsake us even when we feel alone and in darkness. Let your light shine with hope and strength. Please help us to follow in the footsteps of Jesus when we are tempted to follow our own desires or the desires of the world. Help us to stay on the right path as we journey on our way back home to You.

Almighty Father, hear the prayers we offer and use our bodies, minds and spirits in establishing your kingdom for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

Collect:

God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in 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) *In Christ Alone* <https://youtu.be/zErPFRMqnu0>

Blessing:

Christ the Son of God, perfect in us the image of His glory
and gladden our hearts with the good news of His kingdom.....

.....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.