

Morning Worship Sunday 29th January 2023

Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

Reading 1: Hebrews 2: 14 - end

Gospel: Luke 2: 22 - 40

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 rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm: 24: 1 - 6

The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it;
² for he has founded it on the seas,
and established it on the rivers.
³ Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?
And who shall stand in his holy place?
⁴ Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,
who do not lift up their souls to what is false,
and do not swear deceitfully.
⁵ They will receive blessing from the LORD,
and vindication from the God of their salvation.
⁶ Such is the company of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Song: (*click link*) Light of the world. <https://youtu.be/fqhHapr9awc>

Invitation to Confession

We have come together as God's family
to pray for the recovery of the unity of Christ's Church
and for the renewal of our common life.

The Lord is full of gentleness and compassion.
In penitence and faith let us ask His forgiveness of our sins

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:

May Almighty God cleanse us from sin
and make us worthy of the kingdom of His glory.
Amen.

Reading 1: Hebrews 2: 14 - end

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel: Luke 2: 22 – 40

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,
³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.'

³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

The Return to Nazareth

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

This is the gospel of the lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

Talk: (*click link*) <https://youtu.be/Ks6QglrRFdU>

Song: (*click link*) Great is the Lord. <https://youtu.be/H561IFJ7pUw>

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

The Creed

Though He was divine,
He did not cling to equality with God,
But made Himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
He was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
And was obedient to death,
Even the death of a cross.
Therefore God has raised Him on high,
And given Him the name above every name:
That at the name of Jesus
Every knee should bow,

And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
To the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession:

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

We pray for the coming of God's kingdom.
You sent your Son to bring good news to the poor,
sight to the blind,
freedom to captives
and salvation to your people:
anoint us with your Spirit;
rouse us to work in his name.
Father, by your Spirit
bring in your kingdom.

Send us to bring help to the poor
and freedom to the oppressed.
Father, by your Spirit
bring in your kingdom.

Send us to tell the world
the good news of your healing love.
Father, by your Spirit
bring in your kingdom.

Send us to those who mourn,
to bring joy and gladness instead of grief.
Father, by your Spirit
bring in your kingdom.

Send us to proclaim that the time is here
for you to save your people.
Father, by your Spirit
bring in your kingdom.

Lord of the Church,
**hear our prayer,
and make us one in mind and heart
to serve you in Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Collect:

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of Israel:
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father,

your God, and our God. 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) What a Faithful God. <https://youtu.be/cVR6YB01nDk>

Blessing:

The Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,
teach you to walk in His way more trustfully,
to accept His truth more faithfully,
and to share His life more lovingly;
that by the power of His Holy Spirit
you may come as one family to the kingdom of the Father.....

...and the blessing of God almighty
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be with us, and all and 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.