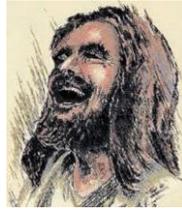


Our Service Together

January 16th 2021



An Acclamation for the Season

All: Alleluia, alleluia, Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations and believed in throughout the world. alleluia!

Preparation

All: This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Through the brokenness of Christ, we become one body
as one body we now gather in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to receive God's holy word, to pray for the needs of the world,
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

Our Confession

The sun of righteousness has dawned with healing in his wings. Let us come to the light of Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

All: Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of your resurrection.
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing.
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven.
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

Be still for a moment in confession and in receiving God's Grace in Christ

All: May Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive us our sins, open our eyes to God's truth, strengthen us to do God's will and give us the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Risen Lord. **Amen.**

The opening prayer

All: The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

All: As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever. Amen.

The Psalmody 36.5-10

Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens and your faithfulness to the clouds.

Your righteousness stands like the strong mountains, your justice like the great deep;
you, Lord, shall save both man and beast.

How precious is your loving mercy, O God!

All mortal flesh shall take refuge under the shadow of your wings.

They shall be satisfied with the abundance of your house; they shall drink from the river of your delights.

For with you is the well of life and in your light shall we see light.

O continue your loving-kindness to those who know you and your righteousness to those who are true of heart.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen

Scripture Reading 1 Corinthians 12.1-11

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. ³Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says 'Let Jesus be cursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

At the end of the reading we say:

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

Gloria

All: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Gospel John 2.1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' ⁴ And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' ⁵ His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' ⁶ Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. ⁹ When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' ¹¹ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

At the end of the reading we say:

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

A Reflection for the day *Revd. John Webb writes:*

St John is quite clear that the Wedding Feast at Cana was in dire danger of deteriorating into a 'bring your own booze party' until Jesus was asked to help. Then it must have developed into one of the best parties of all time. Just think about it. They had already had what the host thought would be an adequate supply of wine then this. Just do the sums – six containers of at least twenty gallons of water became 120 gallons of the best wine! That must have made it some celebration!

St John also tells us that this is the first miracle that Jesus did so it is particularly significant and sets the scene for the whole of his ministry. If we really believe that the gospel is good news and that we now live surrounded by the abundant love of God we have every reason to celebrate, just as in the parables there were parties when the lost were found or the prodigal returned home.

But how often we forget this. The church always seems to be so serious and we seem to be condemned to live under the spell of the ten commandments, the 'protestant work ethic', and the puritans who ruined Sundays.

Artists show us the suffering and death of Jesus and the fires of hell but I have never seen a picture of a smiling, let alone a laughing, Jesus, or of feasting in heaven!

The papers have recently been full of pictures of Desmond Tutu to mark his death. But have you noticed that he is laughing and smiling. The obituaries all stress that he had a great sense of humour. He lived in difficult times and saw and shared terrible experiences and yet the memory of him is dancing and waving his arms in delight. His infectious joy which came from his profound faith is what he will be remembered for. That should be true of all of us.

May this year be one of joyful celebration. Keep smiling. Forget Covid. Enjoy your platinum pudding.

The Creed

All: 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 *We make our intercessions*

O God of peace, who has taught us that in quietness and confidence shall be our strength; help us, as we come into your presence, to be still and know that you are God.

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ let us pray to the Father.

As we mark the visit of the wise men let us open our hearts and minds once more to celebrate the coming of Jesus.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

Strengthen Bishop Ruth and those who seek to serve you in this diocese May they be filled with the Spirit and serve you as the first disciples.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

We Pray for Our Queen, Prime Minister, and all World leaders, that they may have the Spirit of wisdom and optimism to lead us through this difficult time.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

We pray for the homeless, hungry and starving, that families may have food to celebrate.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

Let us pray for our families, friends, and neighbours that we may bring light and hope in the darkest places.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

We give thanks for all those combatting Covid throughout the world.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

We pray for the sick, suffering and dying and we give thanks and pray for those who use their skill and risk their lives to care for them.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

Hear us as we remember those who have died..... According to your promises grant them joy in your eternal kingdom.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all your saints, we commend ourselves and the whole creation to your unfailing love. Amen.

The Collect

All: 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 your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Conclusion

All: Christ, as a light illumine and guide me this day.
Christ, as a shield overshadow me.
Christ under me, Christ over me;
Christ beside me on my left and my right.
This day be within and without me. Amen.