

Sunday Prayers

Sunday 23rd January 2022

Epiphany 3

Coming into God's Presence

In the name of the Father
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit **Amen**

Hymn: O for a thousand tongues to sing

Introduction to Confession

The grace of God has dawned upon the world
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who sacrificed himself for us
to purify a people as his own.
Let us confess our sins.

Being Self-Aware

Christ the light of the world has come to
dispel the darkness of our hearts.
*In his light let us examine ourselves
and confess our sins.*

Confession

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you and against our
neighbour in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.**

**We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us, forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in
newness of life to the glory of your name.
Amen**

Absolution

Comfortable Words

For God so loved the world that He gave His
only begotten Son, that whoever believes in
Him should not perish but have everlasting
life. *John 3:16*

Bible Reading **Luke 4.14-21**

The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ *'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me*

to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

Reflection

It's all going well so far – Jesus is getting a 'Good Press' and everyone seems pretty OK about it all.

Then Jesus heads for home territory, and as is His custom, and as a faithful Jew, He heads for the Synagogue on the Sabbath. He stands up and reads the words from the prophet Isaiah.

This is not a random act but an important element in bringing about the 'Epiphany' that God intends for the World. The revelation that Jesus IS the Good News, through whom God intends to rescue and save His Creation.

So far, so good.

But as the sub-heading of our Gospel reading makes us aware of, it's all about to change.

For whatever reason, those who determined the Lectionary Gospel Reading for this Sunday, for the Worldwide Anglican Church, decided to end the passage before the people Jesus grew up with reject Him.

The reality is the Good News that we have been celebrating over Christmas, is rejected or ignored by huge swathes of people around us, and we need to align ourselves daily with Jesus so His Spirit sustains and keeps us through the good times and challenging times, of our individual and corporate Christian journey.

Immanuel, He is with us.

Hymn: What a friend we have in Jesus

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**

Intercessions

We pray that Christ may be seen
in the life of the Church.
You have called us into the family
of those who are the children of God.
May our love for our brothers and sisters in
Christ be strengthened by your grace.

Jesus, Lord of the Church,
in your mercy hear us.

You have called us to be a temple
where the Holy Spirit can dwell.
Give us clean hands and pure hearts
so that our lives will reflect your holiness.

Jesus, Lord of the Church,
in your mercy hear us.

You have called us to be a light to the world,
so that those in darkness come to you.
May our lives shine as a witness
to the saving grace you have given for all.

Jesus, Lord of the Church,
in your mercy hear us.

You have called us to be
members of your body,
so that when one suffers, all suffer together.
We ask for your comfort and healing power
to bring hope to those in distress.

Jesus, Lord of the Church,
in your mercy hear us.

You have called us to be the Bride,
where you, Lord, are the Bridegroom.
Prepare us for the wedding feast,
where we will be united with you for ever.

Jesus, Lord of the Church,
in your mercy hear us.

Jesus, Lord of the Church,
you have called us into fellowship
with all your saints.
We unite our prayers with theirs
and ask for grace to serve you with joy
where you live and reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for all eternity.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.**

Hymn: The church's one foundation

The Grace (or Blessing)