

A Service of the Word for Ordinary Time

Welcome

Preparation

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey...Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Zechariah 9: 9, 12.

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

Silence is kept

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 forever. **Amen.**

Hymn

*Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
To his feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who like me his praise should sing?
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise the everlasting King.*

*Praise him for his grace and favour
To our fathers in distress;
Praise him still the same for ever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Glorious in his faithfulness.*

*Father-like, he tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame he knows;
In his hands he gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Widely as his mercy flows.*

*Angels, help us to adore him;
Ye behold him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before him;
Dwellers all in time and space.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise with us the God of grace.*

Confession

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart God will not despise. Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion, and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

Psalm 51.17

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
You bring pardon and peace to the broken in heart.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
You make one by your Spirit the torn and divided.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive *you your* sins and make *you* holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect

Gracious Father, by the obedience of Jesus you brought salvation to our wayward world: draw us into harmony with your will, that we may find all things restored in him, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Words of Commitment

There are varieties of gifts: **but the same Spirit.**

There are varieties of service: **but the same Lord.**

There are different kinds of workings:

but the same God is at work in all.

There is one body, one Spirit, one hope in God's call:

one Lord, one faith, one baptism.

There is one God, Father of all, over all and in all:

to whom Christ ascended on high.

And through His Spirit he gives us gifts:

so that we can minister together to build up His body,

to be mature in the fullness of Christ.

Miriam, God has called you to serve in this parish. Are you ready and willing to accept this responsibility, with both its duties and its joys?

Miriam: *With the help of God, I am.*

Sisters and brothers in Christ, are you ready and willing to welcome Miriam among us to share in the cure of souls in this parish? **We are.**

Will you uphold and support Miriam in her new ministry among us? **We will.**

Commissioning and Blessing

Miriam, be among us as a minister who studies the scriptures and proclaims the faith; be among us as a minister of prayer as we lament and rejoice together; be among us as one who looks for signs of God's kingdom, seeking justice and reconciliation.

Miriam: *Together may we walk in the way of Christ, in the power of the Spirit, witnessing to God's love in the world.*

Together, by God's grace, we will work to nurture God's kingdom in the world.

Miriam, may the Lord bless you and watch over you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord look kindly upon you and give you peace. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and upon all that you undertake in his name, now and for evermore.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

A reading from the Paul's letter to the Romans:

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.

Romans 7:15-25a

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

Hymn

*I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down
Thy head upon my breast:'
I came to Jesus as I was,
Weary and worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting-place,
And he has made me glad.*

*I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Behold, I freely give
The living water, thirsty one;
Stoop down, and drink, and live:'
I came to Jesus, and I drank
Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul
revived,
And now I live in him.*

*I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'I am this dark world's Light;
Look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
And all thy day be bright:'
I looked to Jesus, and I found
In him my Star, my Sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk
Till travelling days are done.*

Alleluia, alleluia.

The word of the Lord endures for ever.

The word of the Lord is the good news announced to you.

Alleluia.

1 Peter 1.25

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.

At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11:16-19,25-end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

Music

Reflection

Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith:

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.

With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.

He 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.**

The Peace

The mind of sinful nature is death; the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

cf Romans 8.6

The peace of the Lord be always with you:
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Prayers

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

The following response may be used: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

At the end, the following may be said: Merciful Father, **accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**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.

Anthem

Praise Response

Cast your burden upon the Lord:
he will sustain you.

Create in us clean hearts, O God;
renew a right spirit within us.

Cast us not away from your presence;
take not your Holy Spirit from us.

Give us the joy of your saving help;
sustain us with your life-giving Spirit.

Blessed be the Lord day by day:
the God of our salvation, who bears our burdens.

Blessing

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing; and the blessing of God Almighty the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.