

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

January 31st, 2021

A candle may be lit, to set apart this time of prayer.

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Hymn #577 *God of Grace and God of Glory*

1 God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your power;
now fulfil your church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour.

2 Lo, the hosts of evil round us scorn your Christ, assail his ways.
Fears and doubts too long have bound us; free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days.

3 Cure your children's warring madness. Bend our pride to your control.
Shame our wanton selfish gladness, rich in goods and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

4 Set our feet on lofty places; gird our lives that they may be
armoured with all Christ-like graces in the fight for liberty.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we fail ourselves and thee.

Celebrant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Celebrant: I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,

All: in the company of the upright and in the congregation.

Celebrant: Great are the works of the Lord,

All: studied by all who delight in them.

Celebrant: The Lord is known for wonderful deeds;

All: the Lord is gracious and merciful.

Celebrant: The Lord provides for those who fear him;

All: the Lord is ever mindful of the covenant.

Celebrant: The works of the Lord's hands are faithful and just;

All: all the Lord's deeds are trustworthy.

Celebrant: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;

All: all those who practice it have a good understanding.

All: The Lord's praise endures forever.

Children's Talk

The Proclamation of the Word

Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the

words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak - that prophet shall die.”

Stand or sit for the Gospel reading, as seems appropriate for your setting.

Gradual Hymn: *The Kingdom of God is Justice and Joy (vs. 1-3)*

1 The kingdom of God is justice and joy;
For Jesus restores what sin would destroy.
God’s power and glory in Jesus we know;
And here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.

2 The kingdom of God is mercy and grace;
The captives are freed, the sinners find place,
The outcast are welcomed God’s banquet to share;
And hope is awakened in place of despair.

3 The kingdom of God is challenge and choice:
Believe the good news, repent and rejoice!
God’s love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross:
Our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Mark (1:21-28).

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, Jesus entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching - with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The Gospel of Christ. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Gradual Hymn: *The Kingdom of God is Justice and Joy (vs. 4)*

4 God’s kingdom is come, the gift and the goal;
In Jesus begun, in heaven made whole.
The heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call;
And all things cry “Glory!” to God all in all.

Sermon

Rev. Canon Susan Oliver

The Apostle’s Creed

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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 and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

Prayers for Healing

Hymn #292 *We Cannot Measure How You Heal*

1 We cannot measure how you heal or answer every sufferer's prayer,
yet we believe your grace respond where faith and doubt unite to care.
Your hands, though bloodied on the cross, survive to hold and heal and warn,
to carry all through death to life and cradle children yet unborn.

2 The pain that will not go away, the guilt that clings from things long past,
the fear of what the future holds, are present as if meant to last.
But present too is love which tends the hurt we never hoped to find,
the private agonies inside, the memories that haunt the mind.

3 So some have come who need your help and some have come to make amends,
as hands which shaped and saved the world are present in the touch of friends.
Lord, let your Spirit meet us here to mend the body, mind and soul,
to disentangle peace from pain and make your broken people whole.

Collect

Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

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.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil,
for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen, forever, Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Blessing

Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God, who made us, who loves us, and who travels with us be with you now and forever. And may the love of God, the Light of Christ, and the power and communion of that Spirit be with us all. Go in peace. **Amen**

Closing Hymn #397 *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*

1 Praise the one who breaks the darkness with a liberating light.
Praise the one who frees the prisoners, turning blindness into sight.
Praise the one who preached the gospel, healing every dread disease,
calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.

2 Praise the one who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word.
Praise the one who drove out demons with a piercing two-edged sword.
Praise the one who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand.
From this well comes living water quenching thirst in every land.

3 Praise the one true love incarnate: Christ who suffered in our place.
Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory; praise the One who makes us one.

Postlude

This service is assembled from resources found in the Book of Alternative Services, Published by the Anglican Church of Canada.

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