

A Service of the Word Sunday 17th January - Epiphany

Greeting

At that time I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech, **that all of them may call upon the name of the Lord and serve him with one accord.** From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia my worshippers, the daughter of my dispersed ones, **shall bring my offering.**

Zeph 3:9-10

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;

bow down before him, his glory proclaim; with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness, kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.

Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness: high on his heart he will bear it for thee,

comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,

guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.

Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness

of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:

truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,

these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.

These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,

he will accept for the name that is dear; mornings of joy give for evenings of

tearfulness, trust for our trembling and hope for our

fear.

John S. B. Monsell (1811-1875) - CCLI no. 1049935. Music performed by St Martin Voices, courtesy of achurchnearyou resource hub.

Saying sorry to God

Jesus said to his disciples, "Teach all nations to observe all things that I have commanded you." Therefore, since we have received our Lord's teaching, but have not kept his commandments, let us confess our sins.

cf Matthew 28:20

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.

Collect

Almighty 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 heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Hearing from God

Acts 8:1b-8

On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. 2 Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. 3 But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison.

4 Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. 5 Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there. 6 When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said. 7 For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralysed or lame were healed. 8 So there was great joy in that city.

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

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Talk

Affirming our faith

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.

Speaking to God

Lord, hear us. Lord, graciously hear us.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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.

Sent out for God

Heavenly Father, we embrace Your call for us to make disciples, to be witnesses, to grow leaders and inspire children and young people. Give us eyes to see Your vision, ears to hear the prompting of Your Spirit and courage to follow in the footsteps of your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

Christ the Son of God perfect in us the image of his glory and gladden our hearts with the good news of his kingdom; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. In the name of Christ. Amen.