

Sunday 13th December 2020

Prayer and worship at home



Preparation

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

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

The Act of Penitence

*As we pray, we reflect on the week that has passed
and ask the Lord for his forgiveness and healing.*

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations
into the peace of your kingdom:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

You come in word and sacrament
to strengthen us in holiness:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

You will come in glory
with salvation for your people:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Words of Forgiveness

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Special Prayer for this week

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent
John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Word of the Lord

First Reading *1. Thessalonians 5. 16-24*

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in
all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ
Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not
despise the words of prophets, but test everything;
hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of
evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely;
and may your spirit and soul and body be kept
sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus
Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will
do this.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel | *John 1, 6-8, 19-28*

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.....

Glory to you, O Lord

There was a man sent from God, whose name was
John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so
that all might believe through him. He himself was
not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This
is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent
priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who
are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but
confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him,
'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are
you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said
to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for
those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?'
He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the
wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord,"' as
the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from
the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you
baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor
the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with
water. Among you stands one whom you do not
know, the one who is coming after me; I am not
worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took
place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was
baptizing.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

Affirmation of faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

*You may wish to offer prayer in your own words,
or be prompted by the words here*

*We pray for our world, especially at this time of anxiety
and fear...*

We pray for our nation and its well-being...

*We pray for neighbours, family and friends and we
remember all those self-isolating at the moment...*

*We pray for all who are sick, worried or anxious, and for
those who feel cut off from friends and family...*

*We pray for those who have died in recent days, and all
whom we remember with love and affection*

The Lord's Prayer

Joining with Christians throughout the world,
we pray:

Our Father....

Or

Our Father in heaven....

The Grace

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the fellowship of the
Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore. Amen**

Readings for the coming week:

Monday	Psalm 40	Matthew 21.23-27
Tuesday	Psalm 48	Matthew 21.28-32
Wednesday	Psalm 75	Luke 7. 18b-23
Thursday	Psalm 76	Matthew 1.1-17
Friday	Psalm 98	Matthew 1.18-24
Saturday	Psalm 146	Matthew Luke 1.5-25

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate
us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

