

Virtual Church Service 210228

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

**Amen**

The Lord be with you.

**and also with you.**

*Words of welcome*

At the name of Jesus  
every knee shall bow,  
every tongue confess him  
King of glory now;  
'tis the Father's pleasure  
we should call him Lord,  
who from the beginning  
was the mighty Word.

Mighty and mysterious  
in the highest height  
God from everlasting  
Very light of light  
In the Father's bosom  
With the spirits blest  
Love in love eternal  
Rest in perfect rest

Humbled for a season,  
to receive a name  
from the lips of sinners  
unto whom he came;  
faithfully he bore it  
spotless to the last,  
brought it back victorious,  
when from death he passed.

Bore it up triumphant  
with its human light,  
through all ranks of creatures  
to the central height,  
to the throne of Godhead,  
to the Father's breast,  
filled it with the glory  
of that perfect rest.

In your hearts enthrone him;  
there let him subdue  
all that is not holy,  
all that is not true;  
crown him as your Captain  
in temptation's hour,

let his will enfold you  
in its light and power.

Brothers, this Lord Jesus  
shall return again,  
with his Father's glory,  
with his angel-train;  
for all wreaths of empire  
meet upon his brow,  
and our hearts confess him  
King of glory now.

*Gathering words*

*The prayer during the pandemic:*

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.**

*Confession and Absolution:*

The gospel calls us to turn away from sin  
and be faithful to Christ.  
As we offer ourselves to him in penitence and faith,  
we renew our confidence and trust in his mercy.

We are often slow to follow the example of Christ.  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We often fail to be known as Christ's disciples.  
Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

We often fail to walk the way of the cross.  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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.**

*Readings*

Genesis 17.1-7,15,16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

Romans 4.13-25

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations', according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him', were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Mark 8.31-38

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

**Glory to you, O Lord**

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit

their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

This is the gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ**

*Homily*

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

**We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith.**

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

**Amen.**

*Intercessions*

*Agape*

Though we are separated we are still one in Christ, the one who loves us and calls us family, therefore with our brothers and sisters all over the world we say:

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**And also with you**

Nothing can be quite the same as sharing one bread and one cup together. What we are about to do takes the form of an agape meal, where we remember that what Jesus did for us continues to unite us even in the hardest of times. We are using the form of service recommended to us by our bishops. If you'd like to take part please raise your food and your drink at the same time that I raise mine.

The Lord be with you

**And also with you**

Gracious God we give you thanks  
for all the many blessings in our lives  
and ask that you would bless us now  
as we share your good gifts  
in Jesus' name.

Loving God, you provide enough for everyone:  
this earth is fertile, fruitful and abundant,  
but we are sometimes greedy, wasteful and selfish.

Many go hungry despite our plenty,  
many are left outside while we enjoy a feast.  
But on the hillside, in the wilderness,  
with five thousand and more hungry people,  
Jesus took the bread that they had,  
broke it and gave thanks to you.

He shared the bread,  
so that no one should be left out,  
and they all ate and were satisfied.

**Blessed be God forever!**

Hurting God, you hurt with our pains,  
you weep with our tears;  
when you see how we struggle and suffer.  
You long for our peace, yet we so often make war.  
You long for our healing and wholeness,  
yet we so often turn away from you.

But at a wedding in Cana when the wine ran out,  
Jesus asked them to fill the empty jars with water,  
and by your grace, water became wine,  
sadness was turned to joy,  
and all were able to share in the best wine of all.

**Blessed be God forever!**

Dreaming God,  
you long for us to dream your dream,  
of a world at peace, a people made one,  
a feast for all;  
where bread is broken and shared with  
companions on the road,  
where wine is blessed  
and shared with all who are hurting,  
and all are caught up together  
in the Kingdom of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

*We all receive*

*Collect:*

Almighty God,  
by the prayer and discipline of Lent  
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,  
and by following in his Way  
come to share in his glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

The God of all grace,  
who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus,  
establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred let me bring your love;  
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;  
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console;  
To be understood as to understand;  
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope;  
Where there is darkness, only light;  
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console;  
To be understood as to understand;  
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
in giving of ourselves that we receive,  
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console;  
To be understood as to understand;  
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred let me bring your love;  
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;  
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

*Reflection*