

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Second Sunday before Lent

07 February 2021

GREETING

This is the day that the Lord has made.

We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Lord, direct our thoughts,
help us to pray,
and lift our hearts to worship you
in Spirit and in truth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

HYMN

CONFESSION

If we say we have no sin,
we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins,
God is faithful and just
and will forgive our sins and cleanse us
from all unrighteousness.

1John1.8,9

**O God, our loving Father in heaven,
we confess that we have sinned against you;
we have broken your commandments;
we have often been selfish,
and we have not loved you as we should.**

**For these, and all our sins,
forgive us, we pray;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

ABSOLUTION

In the name of Jesus

I declare to you:

you are forgiven;

your sins are gone.

Be strong in the Holy Spirit,

and live for God.

Amen.

COLLECT

Almighty God,
give us reverence for all creation
and respect for every person,
that we may mirror your likeness
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING Proverbs 8.1,22-31

Does not wisdom call,
and does not understanding raise her voice?

The LORD created me at the beginning of his work,
the first of his acts of long ago.

Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the
beginning of the earth.

When there were no depths I was brought forth,
when there were no springs abounding with water.

Before the mountains had been shaped,
before the hills,
I was brought forth –
when he had not yet made earth and fields,
or the world's first bits of soil.

When he established the heavens, I was there,
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,
when he made firm the skies above,
when he established the fountains of the deep,
when he assigned to the sea its limit,

so that the waters
might not transgress his command,
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,
then I was beside him, like a master worker;
and I was daily his delight,
rejoicing before him always,
rejoicing in his inhabited world
and delighting in the human race.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING Colossians 1.15-20

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers – all things have been created through him and for him.

He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

GOSPEL READING John 1.1-14

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ
the Son of God.

**Though he was divine
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.**

**He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of a cross.**

**Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

INTERCESSIONS

Let us pray to the Lord.

At the end this response may be included:

Merciful Father,

accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

HYMN

BLESSING

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith;
and may you be rooted and grounded in love,
and comprehend, with the saints,
what is the breadth and length and height and depth
of the love of Christ, so that you may be filled
with all the fullness of God;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Stay with us for tea, coffee and chat.

Some material in this service is copyright:

© 2004 Celebrating the Word, Canterbury Press

© The Archbishops' Council 2004