

Holy Communion Service
3rd Sunday of Epiphany – Jesus’ vision for mission

Welcome & Notices
Opening responses

Let us worship God:
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Opening prayer

Let us pray

**Faithful one, whose word is life:
come with saving power to free our praise,
inspire our prayer and shape our lives
for the kingdom of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Opening song: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

**When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.**

**See from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all**

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Prayer of Approach

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit
that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen**

Confession

God so loved the world
that he gave His only Son, Jesus Christ,
to save us from our sins,
to be our advocate in heaven
and to bring us to eternal life

Time of silence.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments
and to live in love and peace with all.

**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**

Almighty God,
who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
forgive *us our* sins,
open *our* eyes to God's truth,
strengthen *us* to do God's will
and give *us* the joy of his kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

First Reading: Nehemiah 8.1-3, 5-6, 8-10 (Diane)

¹ all the people came together as one in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the teacher of the Law to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded for Israel.

² So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. ³ He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

⁵ Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. ⁶ Ezra praised the Lord, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

⁸ They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read.

⁹ Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, "This day is holy to the Lord your God. Do not mourn or weep." For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.

¹⁰ Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

**Holy words long preserved
For our walk in this world,
They resound with God's own heart
Oh, let the ancient words impart.**

**Words of life, words of hope
Give us strength, help us cope
In this world, where e'er we roam
Ancient words will guide us home.**

***Ancient words ever true
Changing me, and changing you.
We have come with open hearts
Oh let the ancient words impart.***

**Holy words of our faith
Handed down to this age.
Came to us through sacrifice
Oh heed the faithful words of Christ.**

**Holy words long preserved
For our walk in this world.
They resound with God's own heart
Oh let the ancient words impart.**

***Ancient words ever true
Changing me, and changing you.
We have come with open hearts
Oh let the ancient words impart.*** (x4)

**We have come with open hearts
Oh let the ancient words impart**

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Second Reading: Luke 4.14-21 (Tammy)

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Response Song: Lord, I need You

**Lord I come, I confess
Bowling here, I find my rest
Without you, I fall apart
You're the one, that guides my heart**

***Lord, I need you, Oh I need you
Every hour I need you
My one defence, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need you***

**Where sin runs deep, your grace is more
Where grace is found, is where you are
And where you are, Lord I am free,
Holiness is Christ in me**

***Lord, I need you, oh I need you
Every hour I need you
My one defence, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need you***

**So teach my song, to rise to you
When temptation comes my way
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on you
Jesus you're my hope and stay**

***Lord, I need you, oh I need you
Every hour I need you
My one defence, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need you***

Christy Nockels, Daniel Carson, Jesse Reeves, Kristian Stanfill, Matt Maher © 2011 sixsteps Music

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.**

Intercessions (Joyce)

Responses

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

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

**God of all mercy,
your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,
release to the captives,
and freedom to the oppressed:
anoint us with your Spirit,
and set all your people free
to praise you in Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Holy Communion

The Lord is here
His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, we give you thanks and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
because you are God almighty,
creator of the world and all that is in it.

Through him you made the whole human race
and in him you show us the mystery of your purpose.
In him you will bring all things together under him as head,
all things in heaven, all things on earth.

Through him we have heard the word of truth,
the good news of salvation,
and you have marked us with the seal of your promised Spirit.
We who were once far off
have been brought near by the blood of Christ,
for he is the peace between us
and has broken down the barrier of hostility.

He has made of us one new humanity
and reconciled us to you by the cross.
Through him with angels and archangels
and all the company of heaven,

we come before you, Father, by the Holy Spirit,
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.

Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:

Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Breaking of Bread

We break this bread

to share in the body of Christ

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Giving of Communion

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,

and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Song during Communion: Behold the Lamb

**Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away,
Slain for us: and we remember:
The promise made that all who come in faith
Find forgiveness at the cross.**

***So we share in this Bread of life,
And we drink of his sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of peace
Around the table of the King.***

**The body of our Saviour, Jesus Christ,
Torn for you: eat and remember
The wounds that heal, the death that brings us life,
Paid the price to make us one.**

***So we share in this Bread of life,
And we drink of his sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of love
Around the table of the King.***

**The blood that cleanses every stain of sin,
Shed for you: drink and remember
He drained death's cup that all may enter in
To receive the life of God.**

***So we share in this Bread of life,
And we drink of his sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of grace
Around the table of the King.***

**And so with thankfulness and faith
We rise to respond: and to remember
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ
As his body here on earth.**

**As we share in his suffering,
We proclaim: Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heaven
Around the table of the King.**

Prayer after Communion

**Almighty God,
We thank you for feeding us
With the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
To be a living sacrifice.
Send us out, in the power of your Spirit
To live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

Final song: To God be the glory

**To God be the glory, great things he hath done,
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
Who yielded his life, an atonement for sin,
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.**

***Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear his voice;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice;
Oh, come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give him the glory; great things he hath done.***

**Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.**

***Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear his voice;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice;
Oh, come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give him the glory; great things he hath done.***

**Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport when Jesus we see.**

***Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear his voice;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice;
Oh, come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give him the glory; great things he hath done.***

Fanny Jane Crosby (1820-1915)

The Peace

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there shall be no end.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace

Sharing Time

Blessing

May God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
three persons in one God,
inspire you to live as one,
that you may witness to the perfect unity of his love;

The blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.