

Sunday 24 January, 2021

The Third Sunday of Epiphany



*If a household are praying together,
one person may act as leader and the
others as the congregation and they
join in the words in bold type.*

If alone, read all the words aloud.

*You may want to light a candle before you begin, and
have a Bible,
cross or crucifix to look at.*

*You might prepare for this act of worship by listening to
some music, or by being still.*

Preparation

Jesus' call is to be radical – from catching fish to catching people – but the fishermen's response is immediate. Paul in his letter to the Corinthians urges to respond to God's call now, because by doing so God's purpose will be fulfilled, and our lives will be changed.

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

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 reconcile us
to one another and to the Father:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and
division:
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

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

The Word of the Lord

First Reading | 1 Corinthians 7. 29-31

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Holy Gospel | Mark 1. 14 -20

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Mark*

Glory to you, O Lord

After John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.' As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.' And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets.

Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

Affirmation of faith

With our Christian brothers and sisters, we 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 the 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.**

cf Philippians 2.6-11

Prayers of intercession

*(Here 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

We conclude our prayers

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

**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.**

