

Welcome to a short time of prayer and reflection for the third Sunday of Epiphany. Let us be still and recognise we are in the presence of God: Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen

The Lord be with you

In today's gospel Jesus calls his first disciples to bring their skills and use them in a new way and they follow him gladly. :

As we begin this time of prayer, in full assurance that God calls us just as we are, let's seek healing and forgiveness for all the times we fail to recognise how what we can bring to the world has value, or the times we resist God's call to be instruments of love:

God be gracious to us and bless us, and make your face shine upon us: Lord have mercy

May your ways be known on earth, your saving power among the nations, Christ have mercy

You, Lord, have made known your salvation, and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations, Lord have mercy

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in life eternal. Amen.

Let us pray:

Almighty God,  
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles  
the wonder of your saving presence:  
renew your people with your heavenly grace,  
and in all our weakness  
sustain us by your mighty power;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew  
The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you O Christ

Sermon : see additional attachment

In this week of Prayer for Christian Unity we bring to God our prayers for  
the church in the world:

In faith let us pray to God our Father,  
his Son Jesus Christ,  
and the Holy Spirit.

For the Church of God throughout the world,  
let us invoke the Spirit.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

For the leaders of the nations,  
that they may establish and defend justice and peace,  
let us pray for the wisdom of God.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

For those who suffer oppression or violence,  
let us invoke the power of the Deliverer.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

That the churches may discover again their visible unity  
in the one baptism which incorporates them in Christ,  
let us pray for the love of Christ.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

That the churches may attain communion  
in the Eucharist around one table,

let us pray for the strength of Christ.  
Lord in your mercy hear our prayer  
That the churches may recognize each other's ministries  
in the service of their one Lord,  
let us pray for the peace of Christ.  
Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

You have called us to be members of your body,  
so that when one suffers, all suffer together.  
We ask for your comfort and healing power  
to bring hope to those in distress.  
At this time we hold before you all who are suffering as a result of the  
pandemic and we name in our hearts those who have asked for our  
prayers

**Jesus, Lord of the Church,** in your mercy hear us.

You have called us to be the Bride,  
where you, Lord, are the Bridegroom.  
Prepare us for the wedding feast,  
where we will be united with you for ever and with all those we now love  
and see no longer for whom we now pray...

**Jesus, Lord of the Church,** in your mercy hear us.

Jesus, Lord of the Church,  
you have called us into fellowship with all your saints.  
We unite our prayers with theirs  
and ask for grace to serve you with joy  
where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for all eternity.

For the coming of your kingdom we pray in the words Jesus gave us

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. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory. Forever and ever, Amen.

Giving thanks for the communion we share through baptism with one another and with God in Christ Jesus our Lord we make an act of spiritual communion in the words of this prayer:

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. As I cannot receive you sacramentally today, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

And we pray for God's blessing on each other and all who we love and pray for:

The Lord Jesus Christ,  
Son of the living God,  
teach you to walk in his way more trustfully,  
to accept his truth more faithfully,  
and to share his life more lovingly;  
that by the power of the Holy Spirit  
you may come as one family to the kingdom of the Father.

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

*All* Amen.

