

The Gathering of the Community

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 8.12

Leader Let us remember before God our selfish ways, the things we have done wrong, the sorrows we have caused, the love we have not shown.

Silence for reflection is kept.

**All Most merciful Father,
forgive us our sins against you
and against each other.**

**Strengthen us to overcome our weaknesses,
that we may live in love
as you would have us live,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.**

The priest says,

Almighty God have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Amen.

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Come, let us sing to the Lord;

Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving

And raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God,

And a great king above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth,

And the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his for he made it,

And his hands have moulded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,

And kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God,

**And we are the people of his pasture
and the sheep of his hand.**

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

7 The New Jerusalem

Isaiah 60.1–3, 11ab, 14cd, 18–19

Arise, shine, for your light has come; *
the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
Though night still covers the earth *
and darkness covers the nations,
Over you will the Lord arise, *
over you will his glory appear.
Nations will stream to your light *
and kings to your dawning brightness.

Your gates will always be open; *
day or night, they will never be shut.
They will call you, The City of the Lord, *
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.
Violence will no more be heard in your land, *
ruin or destruction within your borders;
you will name your walls, Salvation, *
you will call your gates, Praise.
No longer will the sun be your light by day, *
no longer the moon give you light by night;
the Lord will be your eternal light; *
your God will be your glory.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen.

Reader: A reading from the book of Exodus

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, “Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and

fight against us and escape from the land.” Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, “When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.” But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?” The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.”

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, “This must be one of the Hebrews’ children,” she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?” Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Yes.” So the girl went and called the child’s mother. Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, “because,” she said, “I drew him out of the water.”

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to us now

People: Thanks be to God

Psalm 124

1 If the Lord had not been on our side, *
let Israel now say;

2 If the Lord had not been on our side, *
when enemies rose up against us;

3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive *
in their fierce anger toward us;

4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us *
and the torrent gone over us;
5 Then would the raging waters *
have gone right over us.
6 Blessed be the Lord! *
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.
7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; *
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.
8 Our help is in the name of the Lord, *
the maker of heaven and earth.

Reader: A reading from the letter to the Romans

Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-- what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to us now

People: Thanks be to God

6 Seek the Lord

Isaiah 55.6-11

Seek the Lord while he wills to be found; *
call upon him when he draws near.
Let the wicked forsake their ways *

and the evil ones their thoughts;
And let them turn to the Lord, and he will have compassion, *
and to our God, for he will richly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts, *
nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth, *
so are my ways higher than your ways,
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
For as rain and snow fall from the heavens *
and return not again, but water the earth,
Bringing forth life and giving growth, *
seed for sowing and bread for eating,
So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; *
it will not return to me empty;
But it will accomplish that which I have purposed, *
and prosper in that for which I sent it.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen.

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Matthew 16:13-20

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Reader The Gospel of Christ.

People Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

The Apostles' Creed

Celebrant Let us confess our faith, using the words of the Apostles' Creed

All

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Intercessor Let us pray.

We are the ark of the church, at times storm-tossed and frightened. Let us cry out in faith for our own needs and the needs of the world, saying: Lord, save us.

For those churches who are resisting oppression and enduring persecution in the name of the gospel, let us cry out to the Lord.

People Lord, save us.

Intercessor For the leaders of nations, communities, and households who are faced with terrible choices and whose decisions affect the lives of many, let us cry out to the Lord.

People Lord, save us.

Intercessor For those caught in addictions of mind or body, for those who feel powerless and sink ever deeper into despair, let us cry out to the Lord.

People Lord, save us.

Intercessor For those who rely on themselves, for those who struggle to trust in God's beckoning word, for those who know fear before the actions of grace, let us cry out to the Lord.

People Lord, save us.

Intercessor For the homeless, the hungry, and the sick especially ***[name silently or aloud...]*** and for those known only to you, that they may find comfort and healing in the one who shelters them with holy presence, guides them to springs of living water, and wipes away every tear from their eyes, let us cry out to the Lord.

People Lord, save us.

Intercessor Today in our Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for St. Monica, and its food bank and neighbourhood advocacy; for St. Nicholas, Birch Cliff, its weekly

community lunch, its men's cooking and support group, its participation in a community Christmas dinner program, and the Churches by the Bluffs Food Bank; and for St. Ninian, Scarborough, and its Food Bank, let us cry out to the Lord.

People Lord, save us.

O true and faithful God, you are the hope of those who cry out to you. Hear our petitions. Where there is no faith, awaken it; where there is little faith, enlarge it, that one day we may all come to acknowledge Jesus as your Son and the saviour of the world. We ask this in his name, who is one with you and the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.

The Collect

Almighty God,
we are taught by your word
that all our doings without love are worth nothing.
Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts
that most excellent gift of love,
the true bond of peace and of all virtue;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us,
we are bold to pray,
**All 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

COVID Prayer

Dismissal

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Closing Music