

## 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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God's love has been poured into our hearts.

**We dwell in him and he in us.**

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name;

**Make known his deeds among the peoples.**

Sing to him, sing praises to him,

**And speak of all his marvellousworks.**

Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord Godalmighty

**Who was and is and is to come!**

**Jubilate**

*Psalm 100*

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \*  
serve the Lord with gladness  
and come before his presence with a song.  
Know this: The Lord himself is God; \*  
he himself has made us, and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.  
Enter his gates with thanksgiving;  
go into his courts with praise; \*  
give thanks to him and call upon his name.  
For the Lord is good;  
his mercy is everlasting; \*  
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.  
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 Genesis**

*Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67*

The servant said to Laban, "I am Abraham's servant. The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also" —let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. Now

then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.”

And they called Rebekah, and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will.” So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, “May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes.” Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, “Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to us now

**People: Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 45:10-18**

*10 Kings’ daughters stand among the ladies of the court; \*  
on your right hand is the queen,  
adorned with the gold of Ophir.*

*11 “Hear, O daughter; consider and listen closely; \*  
forget your people and your father’s house.*

*12 The king will have pleasure in your beauty; \*  
he is your master; therefore do him honour.*

*13 The people of Tyre are here with a gift; \*  
the rich among the people seek your favour.”*

*14 All glorious is the princess as she enters; \*  
her gown is cloth-of-gold.*

*15 In embroidered apparel she is brought to the king; \*  
after her the bridesmaids follow in procession.*

*16 With joy and gladness they are brought, \*  
and enter into the palace of the king.*

*17 “In place of fathers, O king, you shall have sons; \*  
you shall make them princes over all the earth.*

18 I will make your name to be remembered  
from one generation to another; \*  
therefore nations will praise you for ever and ever."

**Reader: A reading from the letter to the Romans**

*Romans 7:15-25a*

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

**Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to us now**

**People: Thanks be to God**

## **18a The Song of Mary**

*Luke 1.46-55*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; \*  
for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.  
He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*

for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
the promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.  
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 11:16-19, 25-30*

Jesus said to the crowd, “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;  
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

*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 Fatheralmighty,**

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.

**The Prayers of the People BAS p. 691**

*Leader* Let us pray together to the Lord, saying, "Lord,  
hear our prayer."

*All* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Loving God, we thank you for your many gifts to  
us, for the love which brings us together, for the  
earth which provides for our needs, for the new life  
you have given us in Jesus Christ, (for . . . ).

*All* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* We pray to you for our Christian family (especially  
for . . . ) and for grace to grow in your love.

*All* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* We pray to you for our world, for all its cares and needs, and for all who lead us and care for us, (especially . . . )

*All* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* We pray to you for those in need, for the sick and the lonely, for the hurt and the frightened, and for those who live without hope (especially . . . ).

*All* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* We pray for those we love who have died, that you will surround them with your care and love (especially . . . )

*All* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* We pray for one another, asking you to bless us, our friends, and relatives. Bless the places where we work, and bless our home and our life together.

*All* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications to you, and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together you will hear their requests. Fulfil now our desires and petitions, as may be best for us, granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come eternal life; for you, Father, are good and loving, and we glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, in the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

## **The Collect**

Almighty God,

Your Son Jesus has taught us  
That what we do for the least of your children  
We do also for him.  
Give us the will to serve others  
As he was servant of all,  
Who gave up his life and died for us,  
But 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

##### Dismissal

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

*Officiant* The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us. The Lord look upon us with favour and grant us peace. Amen.