

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT  
FEBRUARY 18<sup>TH</sup> 2024  
THE GATHERING**

**Miriam welcomes people to worship**

*INTROIT HYMN*

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

*All* **Amen.**

**The Greeting**

*The president greets the people.*

*All* The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

*Words of welcome are said and the theme introduced.*

**Prayer of Preparation**

**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 your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Prayers of Penitence**

**Miriam – let's confess our sins to God**

*Minister* The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;  
*of* a broken and contrite heart  
*the Word* God will not despise.  
Let us come to the Lord,  
who is full of compassion,  
and acknowledge our transgressions

in penitence and faith.

We confess to you our selfishness  
and lack of love: fill us with your Spirit.  
Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Minister  
of  
the Word* We confess to you our fear and failure  
in sharing our faith: fill us with your  
Spirit.  
Christ, have mercy.

*All* **Christ, have mercy.**

*Minister  
of  
the Word  
All* We confess to you our stubbornness and  
lack of trust: fill us with your Spirit.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Kyrie kyrie, kyrie eleison.  
Christe eleison, Christe eleison.  
Kyrie kyrie, kyrie eleison.

*We keep a period of silence.*

*President* 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;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

*There is no Gloria in Lent.*

## **The Collect**

*The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray' or a more specific bidding. The Collect is said, and all respond **Amen***

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### **Old Testament Reading – read by Miriam**

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

*at the end of the reading ...*

*Reader* This is the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

## **New Testament Reading**

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God.

He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water.

And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

*at the end of the reading ...*

*Reader* This is the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

*GRADUAL HYMN*

**Gospel Reading – read by Liz**

*Gospel reader* Praise to you, O Christ,  
King of eternal glory.  
The Lord is a great God:  
O that today you would listen to his  
voice.  
Harden not your hearts.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Mark  
*All* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now 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.'

*at the end of the reading ...*

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

### **Sermon – Revd Liz**

*After the sermon, there is a period of silence.*

### **Affirmation of Faith**

*Please stand.*

*President* Do you believe and trust in God the  
Father,  
source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

*All* **We believe and trust in him.**

*President* Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

*All* **We believe and trust in him.**

*President* Do you believe and trust in God  
the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

*All* **We believe and trust in him.**

*President* This is the faith of the Church.

*All* **This is our faith.  
We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Intercessions – led by Jim

*President* *Let us pray for the church and for the  
world  
and let us be thankful for God's goodness*

*Prayers are offered for the Church of Christ, Creation, human society, the Sovereign and  
those in authority, the local community, those who suffer, and the communion of saints.*

*After each prayer ...*

*Intercessor* Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

*(or)* Lord, hear us.  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

*After the final prayer ...*

*Intercessor* God of mercy,  
**hear our prayer.  
and make us one in heart and mind  
to serve you with joy forever.  
Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

### The Peace

*Please stand.*

*President* Since we are justified by faith,  
we have peace with God  
through our Lord Jesus Christ,

who has given us access to his grace.

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

*President* Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

## OFFERTORY HYMN

### Preparation of the Table

*President* God of our journey, as we walk with you  
on your path of obedience, sustain us  
on our way and lead us to your glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

### The Eucharistic Prayer

*President* The Lord is here.

*All* **His Spirit is with us.**

*President* Lift up your hearts.

*All* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*President* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All* **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*President* Almighty God, good Father to us all,  
your face is turned towards your world.  
In love you gave us Jesus your Son  
to rescue us from sin and death.  
Your Word goes out to call us home  
to the city where angels sing your praise.  
We join with them in heaven's song:

*All* **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.**

*President* Father of all, we give you thanks  
for every gift that comes from heaven.  
To the darkness Jesus came as your light.

With signs of faith and words of hope  
he touched untouchables with love and  
washed the guilty clean.

This is his story.

*All* **This is our song:**  
**Hosanna in the highest.**

*President* The crowds came out to see your Son,  
yet at the end they turned on him.  
On the night he was betrayed  
he came to table with his friends  
to celebrate the freedom of your people.  
This is his story.

*All* **This is our song:**  
**Hosanna in the highest.**

*President* Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food;  
he took bread, gave thanks,  
broke it and said:

This is my body, given for you all.

Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;  
he took the cup, gave it and said:

This is my blood, shed for you all  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this in remembrance of me.

This is our story.

*All* **This is our song:**  
**Hosanna in the highest.**

Therefore, Father, with this bread  
and this cup we celebrate the cross  
on which he died to set us free.  
Defying death he rose again, and is alive  
with you to plead for us and all the world.  
This is our story.

**This is our song:**  
**Hosanna in the highest.**

*President* Send your Spirit on us now  
that by these gifts we may feed on Christ

with opened eyes and hearts on fire.  
May we and all who share this food  
offer ourselves to live for you  
and be welcomed at your feast in heaven  
where all creation worships you,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

*All*      **Blessing and honour  
and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*Please sit or kneel.*

*President*    As our Saviour taught us, so we pray.  
*All*            **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 the Bread**

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

*President*    We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.  
*All*            **Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

## **Agnus Dei**

*All*            **Lamb of God, you take away the sin  
of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin**



of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin  
of the world, grant us peace.

*(or)*

Jesus, Lamb of God,  
have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins,  
have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
grant us peace.

### Invitation to Communion

*President* Jesus is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those  
who are called to his supper.

*All* **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word,  
and I shall be healed.**

*(or)*

*President* God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

*All* **Jesus Christ is holy,  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

### Prayer before Distribution

*All* **Most merciful Lord,  
your love compels us to come in.  
Our hands were unclean,  
our hearts were unprepared;  
we were not fit even to eat the crumbs  
from under your table.  
But you, Lord,  
are the God of our salvation,  
and share your bread with sinners.  
So cleanse and feed us with the  
precious body and blood of your Son,  
that he may live in us and we in him;  
and that we, with the whole company of  
Christ, may sit and eat in your kingdom.  
Amen.**

## COMMUNION HYMN

### Prayer after Communion

*Silence is kept. The Post Communion or other suitable prayer is said.*

### Notices

### Final Prayer

*MIRIAM*     **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.**

### THE BLESSING AND SENDING OUT

*President*     **The Lord be with you  
and also with you.**

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,  
to deny yourselves, take up your cross,  
and follow him;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
come down upon you  
and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

*Our worship is over: our service begins*