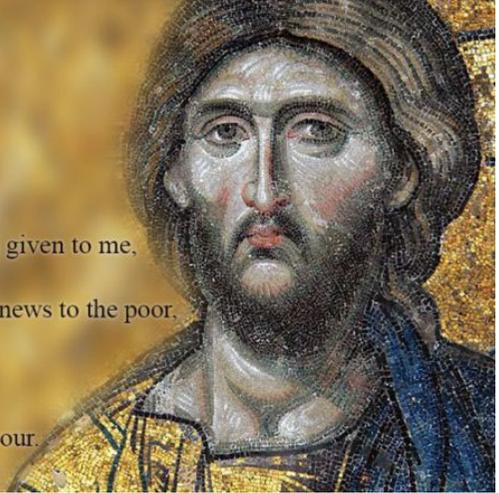


**The Holy Communion**  
**Third Sunday of Epiphany**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> January 2022**

**Luke 4:16-30**

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,  
for he has anointed me.  
He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor,  
to proclaim liberty to captives  
and to the blind new sight,  
to set the downtrodden free,  
to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.



**GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME**

*Hymn* Come down, O Love divine

1. Come down, O Love divine,  
seek now this soul of mine,  
and visit it with your own ardour  
glowing;

O Comforter, draw near,  
within my heart appear  
and kindle it, your holy flame  
bestowing.

2. There let it freely burn,  
till earthly passions turn  
to dust and ashes, in its heat  
consuming;  
and let your glorious light  
shine ever on my sight  
and clothe me round, the while  
my path illuming.

3. Let holy charity  
my outer garment be,  
and lowliness become my inner  
clothing:

true lowliness of heart,  
which takes the humbler part  
and for its own shortcomings  
weeps with loathing.

4. And so the yearning strong  
with which the soul will long  
shall far outpass the power of  
human telling;  
for none can guess its grace  
till we become the place  
in which the Holy Spirit makes  
his dwelling.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*Sentence* Jesus read from the prophet Isaiah: 'The Spirit of the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives.' *Luke 4.18*

**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.**

**Invitation to Confession**

Christ the Son of God has been revealed as a light to the nations

*Silence may be kept.*

Let us bring our darkness to his light, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Merciful God, our maker and our judge,  
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,  
and in what we have failed to do:  
we have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;  
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.  
Father, forgive us.  
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Absolution*

**Lord, have mercy  
Christ, have mercy  
Lord, have mercy**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### *Prayer of the Day*

Life-giving God,  
who sent your Son Jesus to proclaim your kingdom  
and to teach with authority:  
anoint us with your Spirit,  
that we too may bring good news to the poor,  
bind up the broken-hearted,  
and proclaim liberty to the captive;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

*First Reading* **Nehemiah** (8.1-3, 5-6, 8-10)

<sup>1</sup> All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. <sup>2</sup> Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on

the first day of the seventh month. <sup>3</sup> He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. <sup>5</sup> And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. <sup>6</sup> Then Ezra blessed the Lord , the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen', lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. <sup>8</sup> So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. <sup>9</sup> And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. <sup>10</sup> Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord ; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.'

Hear the Word of the Lord

### **Thanks be to God**

*Responsorial Psalm*

**Psalm 19**(*ref APBA p236.*)

<sup>1</sup> The heavens declare the glory of God:  
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork;

<sup>2</sup> **One day tells it to another:  
and night to night communicates knowledge.**

<sup>3</sup> There is no speech or language:  
nor are their voices heard;

<sup>4</sup> **Yet their sound has gone out through all the world:  
and their words to the ends of the earth.**

<sup>5</sup> There he has pitched a tent for the sun:  
which comes out as a bridegroom from his chamber,  
and rejoices like a strong man to run his course.

<sup>6</sup> **Its rising is at one end of the heavens,**

**and its circuit to their farthest bound:  
and nothing is hidden from its heat.**

<sup>7</sup> The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul:  
the command of the Lord is true,  
and makes wise the simple.

**<sup>8</sup> The precepts of the Lord are right,  
and rejoice the heart:  
the commandment of the Lord is pure,  
and gives light to the eyes.**

<sup>9</sup> The fear of the Lord is clean, and endures for ever:  
the judgements of the Lord are unchanging,  
and righteous every one.

**<sup>10</sup> More to be desired are they than gold,  
even much fine gold:  
sweeter also than honey,  
than the honey that drips from the comb.**

<sup>11</sup> Moreover, by them is your servant taught:  
and in keeping them there is great reward.

**<sup>12</sup> Who can know their own unwitting sins?:  
O cleanse me from my secret faults.**

<sup>13</sup> Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins,  
lest they get the mastery over me:  
so I shall be clean, and innocent of great offence.

**<sup>14</sup> May the words of my mouth and the meditation  
of my heart be acceptable in your sight:  
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**

*Second Reading*      **1 Corinthians (12.12-31)**

<sup>12</sup> For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. <sup>14</sup> Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup> If the foot were to say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear were to say, 'Because I am

not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup> But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup> If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many members, yet one body. <sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' <sup>22</sup> On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; <sup>24</sup> whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, <sup>25</sup> that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup> If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it. <sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. <sup>28</sup> And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup> Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup> Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31</sup> But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

Hear the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**The Gospel Reading**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (4.14-21)

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>14</sup> Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country.

<sup>15</sup> He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

<sup>16</sup> When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read,<sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

<sup>18</sup> 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,

<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

<sup>20</sup> And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.

<sup>21</sup> Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord,  
**praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

*The Sermon*

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:

**We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge  
the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the  
forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

*After each prayer*

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

*To Conclude:* Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

**Grant that what we have asked in faith  
we may by your grace receive,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **THE GREETING OF PEACE**

We are the body of Christ.

**His Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

## THE OFFERTORY

*Hymn* Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour

Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,  
first-begotten from the dead,  
you alone our strong defender,  
lifting up your people's head:  
alleluia, alleluia,  
Jesus, true and living bread.

Here our humble homage pay we,  
here in loving reverence bow;  
here for faith's discernment pray we,  
lest we fail to know you now:  
alleluia, alleluia,  
you are here, we ask not how.

Though the lowliest form now veils you  
as of old in Bethlehem,  
here as there your angels hail you,  
branch and flower of Jesse's stem;  
alleluia, alleluia,  
we in worship join with them.

Paschal Lamb, your offering, finished  
once for all when you were slain,  
in its fullness undiminished  
shall for evermore remain,  
alleluia, alleluia,  
cleansing souls from every stain.

Life-imparting heavenly manna,  
stricken rock with streaming side,  
heaven and earth with loud hosanna  
worship you, the Lamb who died  
alleluia, alleluia,  
ris'n, ascended, glorified

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.  
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.  
Accept and use our offerings for your glory  
and for the service of your kingdom.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ,

who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary  
and lived as one of us.

You anointed him as Messiah,

the light of the nations,

and revealed him as the hope

of all who thirst for righteousness and peace.

By his death on the cross

and rising to new life,

he offered the one true sacrifice for sin

and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

Therefore with angels and archangels,

and with all the company of heaven,

we proclaim your great and glorious name,

for ever praising you and saying:

**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.**

Merciful God, we thank you

for these gifts of your creation,  
this bread and wine,  
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,  
we who eat and drink them  
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;  
and when he had given you thanks  
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,  
and again giving you thanks  
he gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Drink from this, all of you.

This is my blood of the new covenant  
shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and this cup,  
we remember the saving death of your Son,  
his resurrection and ascension,  
and his promise to be with us for ever.

In the power of the Holy Spirit,  
bring us to eternal life with Christ,  
as we look for his coming in glory,  
and for the heavenly banquet  
prepared for all your people.

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,

**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.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.  
We who are many are one body,  
**for we all share in the one bread.**

**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 your peace.**

*Invitation to Communion*

The body of Christ keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

*Prayer after Communion*

## **THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

Most loving God,  
**You send us into the world you love.  
Give us grace to go faithfully and with courage  
In the power of your Spirit.**

### ***Blessing***

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

*Hymn* God gives us a future

God gives us a future, daring us  
to go  
into dreams and dangers on a  
path unknown.

We will face tomorrow in the  
Spirit's power,  
we will let God change us,  
for new life starts now.

We must leave behind us sins of  
yesterday,  
for God's new beginning is a  
better way.

Fear and doubt and habit must  
not hold us back:  
God gives hope, and insight,  
and the strength we lack.

Holy Spirit, teach us how to read the signs,  
how to meet the challenge of our troubled times.  
Love us into action, stir us into prayer,  
till we choose God's life,  
and find our future there.