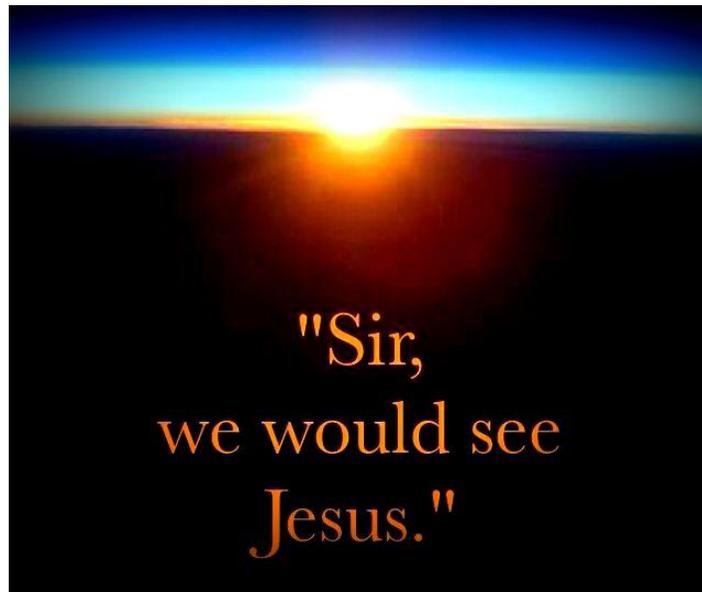


## 21 March 2021 Fifth Sunday of Lent Service of the Word



### Opening Prayer

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.

**To you be glory and praise for ever.**

From the rising of the sun to its setting your name is proclaimed in all the world.

**To you be glory and praise for ever.**

When the time had fully come you sent the Sun of Righteousness.

**In him the fullness of your glory dwells. To you be glory and praise for ever.**

### Invitation to confession

Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

God shows his love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Let us then show our love for him by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

*cf Romans 5.8*

**Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on us according to your love.**

**Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.**

**Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May God our Father forgive us our sins, and bring us to the eternal joy of his kingdom where dust and ashes have no dominion. **Amen.**

### **Introductory sentence for the Peace**

As God's forgiven people we celebrate that once we were far off, but now in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near through the shedding of Christ's blood, for he is our peace.

*cf Ephesians 2.13*

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**And also with you.**

### **Collect**

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, Amen.

### **Psalm 51.1-13**

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness; ♦  
according to the abundance of your compassion blot out my offences.
- 2 Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness ♦  
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I acknowledge my faults ♦ and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you only have I sinned ♦ and done what is evil in your sight,
- 5 So that you are justified in your sentence ♦  
and righteous in your judgement.
- 6 I have been wicked even from my birth, ♦  
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
- 7 Behold, you desire truth deep within me ♦  
and shall make me understand wisdom in the depths of my heart.
- 8 Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean; ♦  
wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.
- 9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, ♦  
that the bones you have broken may rejoice.
- 10 Turn your face from my sins ♦ and blot out all my misdeeds.

11 Make me a clean heart, O God, ♦ and renew a right spirit within me.  
12 Cast me not away from your presence ♦  
and take not your holy spirit from me.  
13 Give me again the joy of your salvation ♦  
and sustain me with your gracious spirit;  
**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit**  
**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.**  
**Amen.**

### **Gospel John 12.20-33**

<sup>20</sup>Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

<sup>27</sup>'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say – "Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

### **The Creed**

Let us declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures;**  
**he was buried; he was raised to life on the third day in accordance with the**  
**Scriptures; afterwards he appeared to his followers, and to all the apostles:**  
**this we have received, and this we believe. Amen.**

*cf 1 Corinthians 15.3-7*

## Prayers of Intercession concluding with:

**Our Father, Which 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.  
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, For thine is the  
kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever Amen.**

## Final Prayer and Blessing

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

Christ crucified draw you to himself, to find in him a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sins forgiven; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Lord God almighty is our Father:  
**he loves us and tenderly cares for us.**

The Lord Jesus Christ is our Saviour:  
**he has redeemed us and will defend us to the end.**

The Lord, the Holy Spirit, is among us:  
**he will lead us in God's holy way. To God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
be praise and glory today and for ever. Amen.**

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