**Early Communion | 30 January 2022 | 8:30 am**

**Greeting**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all: **and also with you.**

**Collect for Purity**

**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.**

**Confession**

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned in thought and word and deed,  
and in what we have left undone.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us,  
that we may walk in newness of life  
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

**Absolution**

**Glory to God *page 203***

**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.**

**Collect of Epiphany 4**

**Epistle Hebrews 2: 14–18**

A Reading from Hebrews chapter 2 beginning at verse 14  
Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil – and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

This is the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Luke 2: 22–40**

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to Luke chapter 2 beginning at verse 22 **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord’), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: ‘a pair of doves or two young pigeons’.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

‘Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,  
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.  
For my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and the glory of your people Israel.’

The child’s father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: ‘This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

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

**Sermon**

**Nicene Creed *page 205***

**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 by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man**   
**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.**

**Prayers of the People**

**Form 3 page 239**

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church  
**that we all may be one.**  
Grant that every member of your Church may truly and humbly serve you:  
**that your name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for all bishops, priests and deacons  
**that they may be faithful ministers of your word and sacraments.**  
We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world  
**that there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake  
**that your glory may be proclaimed through our lives.**  
Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble  
**that they may be delivered from their distress.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered their eternal joy  
**may we also come to share in the fulness of your kingdom.**  
We pray for our own needs and for those of others:  
*Silence.*

Gracious God, grant that the desires of your people’s hearts may find favour in your sight, through the intercession of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The Peace**

The Peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you**

**Taking the Bread & Wine**

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us  
**therefore let us celebrate the feast.**

**Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord is here  
**His Spirit is with us.**  
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.**

. . 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!**

. . . with this bread and this cup we do as Christ your Son commanded:  
**we remember his passion and death,  
we celebrate his resurrection and ascension,  
and we look for the coming of his kingdom.**

. . in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
**all honour and glory are yours, Almighty Father, for ever & ever. Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Breaking Bread**

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.  
**We being many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

**Prayer after Communion**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us  
with the spiritual food of 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.**

**Blessing & Dismissal**

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